



“De Oppresso Liber”

SPECIAL FORCES

“A Special Breed of Man”

VOLUME I ISSUE 2

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Jeremy Bessa was born 11 May 1982, at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Growing up, Jeremy spent time in Arizona, Washington State, Georgia and Illinois; graduating from Downer’s Grove South High School near Chicago, Illinois (his mother’s alma mater) in the year 2000.

Jeremy volunteered for military service as a combat medic in April 2002 following the world trade center terrorist attacks. After basic and advanced individual training and Airborne School, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in January 2003. He deployed to Fallujah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, September 2003. Jeremy attended the Special Forces Assessment and Selection prior to being assigned to John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in May 2005, for Special Forces training. He earned the coveted “Green Beret” in March 2007 and was assigned to 1st Bn., 3rd SFG(A) at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, as a Special Forces Communications Sergeant.

Jeremy deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2009 as a Special Forces Operational Detachment - Alpha Team Communications Sergeant assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). While as a member of the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force – Afghanistan, Jeremy was killed by an IED during a mounted combat reconnaissance patrol. It was his second deployment to Afghanistan and his third in support of the Global War on Terror.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge, Combat Medics Badge and Special Forces Tab.

Jeremy is survived by his wife, Lindsey, and their son, Carson; parents, Ted and Julie Bessa; brothers, Christopher and Joel Bessa; and sister, Bryana Bessa. Jeremy was deeply loved by family and friends and will be remembered always for his fun-loving and easy-going approach to life. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, son, grandson, nephew, uncle, cousin and friend. He will be greatly missed.



Billy M Smith
Chapter

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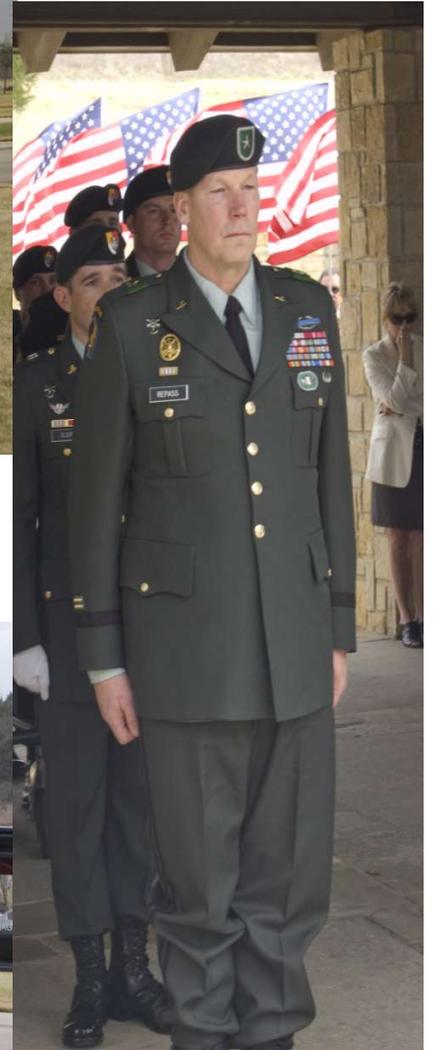
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SSG Bessa Continued



Brig. General Repass
USASFC



3rd SFG Honor Guard

SSG Bessa Continued



Present were Brigadier General Repass and CSM Vigil from The United States Army Special Forces Command, Commander of the 3rd Special Forces Group Colonel Hager and his CSM, **and SSG Bessa's** Company Commander. Chris and Ted Bessa 3rd SFG and Delta SGM respectively.

Chapter 31 was represented by 21 members.

PRESENT MILITARY



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10th SFG(A) linguist receives Bronze Star with Valor

By Staff Sgt. Michael R. Noggle

10th SFG(A) Public Affairs

FORT CARSON, Colo. (USASOC News Service Feb. 25, 2009) – In front of Soldiers from his unit, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Moe spoke briefly about the night of June 3, 2007.

"I just thank God we made it out of there alive," said the 2nd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) linguist.

SSGT Jeffrey Moe Continued

More than 17 months later, Moe received the Bronze Star with Valor Device from Col. William H. Shaw III, 10th SFG(A) deputy commanding officer, at the McMahon Theater on Feb. 20.

Moe served as an assistant team sergeant supporting a Special Forces Operational Detachment–Alpha and members from the 8th Iraqi Army. Their mission was to capture or kill a targeted individual in Diwaniyah, Iraq.

While conducting the mission, the entire element was engaged in a firefight with more than 100 members of an insurgent force who massed during the night.

“We started taking fire in all directions when these insurgents showed up,” Moe said.

“It threw me back; one of the Iraqi soldiers was killed. It got scary really quick.”

**“I didn’t think
too much
about it, I just
reacted”**

After completing his task, Moe began assisting in securing the area and preventing the enemy from maneuvering on the ODA.

During the firefight, a sniper team moved out in advance of the forward line of troops in order to engage enemy rocket-propelled grenade and machine gun positions. After engaging the target, the sniper team was trapped while one member of their team was severely wounded. The team attempted to evacuate themselves back to the friendly troops but was unable due to accurate and persistent enemy fire.

In order to provide covering fire for the movement of the trapped team, Moe voluntarily stepped directly in to the line of enemy

fire and began suppressive fire on the enemy position.

“I just wanted to do the right thing and help my fellow Soldiers out,” Moe explained. “I didn’t think too much about it, I just reacted. I knew things were getting pretty thick and they needed help to get out.”

Despite rounds of small arms fire impacting inches from his head and being shot in the right leg, Moe continued to place effective fire on the enemy until the sniper team was safely under cover.

His courage and selflessness allowed the sniper team to move to a secured position where the wounded sniper could receive immediate medical treatment and be evacuated out of the area.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey D. Moe, 2nd Bn., 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is awarded the Bronze Star with Valor Device on Feb. 20. Moe heroically distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous conduct in the face of the enemy June 3, 2007 in Diwaniyah, Iraq. (Photo by Staff

SSGT Jeffrey Moe Continued

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about that day," said the emotional staff sergeant. "I thank God that he prevented more people from getting killed or hurt. I hope I did the right thing, and I'm happy all those guys made it out alive."

--usasoc--

HISTORICAL MILITARY

What is George Washington's present military rank?

Answer before continuing.

American Revolutionary War era



George Washington

During the American Revolutionary War the Continental Congress appointed General Officers to lead the Continental Army. They were normally distinguished community leaders and statesmen, with several having served as provincial officers in the British Army. While there were some General Officers who were promoted to the grade from the Colonel ranks, most held their ranks by initial appointment and then with such appointment at the pleasure of the Congress, to be expired or revoked at the end of a particular campaign.

With the exception of George Washington, the General Officers at that point were Brigadier Generals or Major Generals. Their insignia was one or two stars worn on a golden epaulet.

During the American Revolutionary War George Washington was the highest ranking officer of the Continental Army, and he held the title of "General and Commander in Chief" of the Continental Army. He wore three stars on his epaulets.

Washington Continued

A year prior to his death, Washington was appointed by President John Adams to the rank of Lieutenant General in the United States Army during the Quasi-War with France. Washington never exercised active authority under his new rank, however, and Adams made the appointment to frighten the French, with whom war seemed certain.

In an Act of the United States Congress on March 3, 1799, Congress provided "that a Commander of the United States shall be appointed and commissioned by the style of General of the Armies of the United States and the present office and title of Lieutenant General shall thereafter be abolished." The proposed senior general officer rank was not bestowed, however. When George Washington died, he was listed as a lieutenant general on the rolls of the United States Army. After World War II, which saw the introduction of U.S. "5-star" officers, Washington's rank was readdressed (see below).

After the Revolutionary War, the tiny United States Army at first had no active duty general officers. When general officer ranks were recreated, the highest rank was Major General. The senior Major General on the Army rolls was referred to as the [Commanding General of the United States Army](#). The position was abolished at the start of the 20th century and replaced with that of Chief of Staff of the United States Army.



General John Pershing

World War I era

Three star Lieutenant Generals and four star Generals were reauthorized temporarily during World War I. Tasker H. Bliss and John J. Pershing were promoted to General in October 1917, and Peyton C. March was promoted in May 1918. [Hunter Liggett](#) and Robert Lee Bullard were promoted to Lieutenant General on October 16, 1918. On September 3, 1919 Pub.L. 66-45 granted Pershing the rank of "General of the Armies" in recognition of his performance as the commander of the American Expeditionary Force. After the war, in 1920, the Lieutenant Generals and Generals reverted to their permanent ranks of Major General, except for Pershing. Pershing retired from the United States Army on September 13, 1924, and retained his rank of General of the Armies of the United States until his death in 1948. Pershing wore four gold stars during his tenure as General of the Armies. Four star Generals were reauthorized in 1929, starting with Charles Pelot Summerall, and five star Generals of the Army were created in 1944. Pershing was deemed senior to both of

Washington Continued

those ranks, but it remains unclear whether General of the Armies was considered a five or six star rank.

Six Star Rank

A General of the Armies outranks the modern day five star general. A six star rank has been discussed but has never been formalized nor awarded.

Insignia



Pershing's insignia

General Pershing was offered the option to create his own insignia for the position General of the Armies. He chose to continue to wear the four stars of a General, but in gold, instead of the four silver stars used by a regular general. Army Regulations 600-35, Personnel: The Prescribed Uniform, October 12, 1921, and all subsequent editions during General Pershing's lifetime, made no mention of insignia for General of the Armies but prescribed that generals would wear four stars. On December 14, 1944, when the rank of General of the Army was established, Army Regulations 600-35 were changed to prescribe that Generals of the Army would wear five silver stars. General Pershing continued to wear only four gold stars, but he remained preeminent among all Army personnel until his death in 1948.



Conjectural Design for General of the Armies

In 1945, the Institute of Heraldry prepared a conjectural insignia which would have incorporated a sixth star into the five-star design of General of the Army. As no proposal to appoint a new General of the Armies was ever firmly developed, the United States Army has never officially approved a six-star general insignia.

Seniority

During World War II the United States Army established the five-star rank of General of the Army. By order of seniority, it was decided that General Pershing (still living when the rank of General of the Army was created in 1944) would be senior to all the newly appointed General of the Army

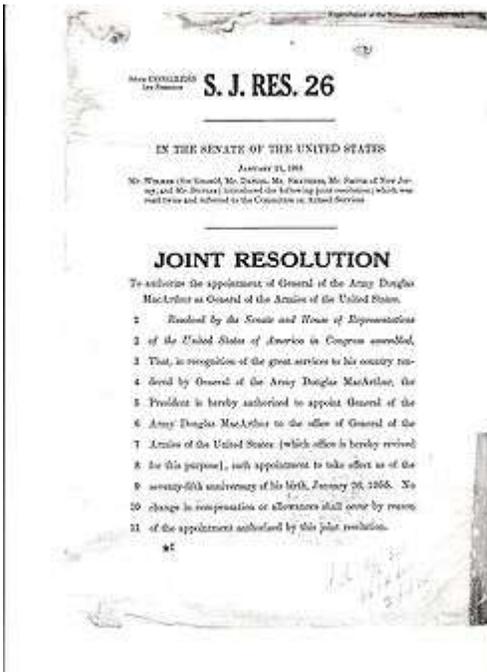
Washington Continued

officers. The then Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson was asked whether Pershing was therefore a six-star general. Stimson stated:

It appears the intent of the Army was to make the General of the Armies senior in grade to the General of the Army. I have advised Congress that the War Department concurs in such proposed action.

Official Army regulations do not presently declare General of the Armies as a six star rank; however, some military historians and enthusiasts alike have interpreted General Pershing's seniority to five-star generals to mean that General of the Armies is a six-star rank. However, it could alternatively be said that General of the Armies is a five-star rank, and Pershing's seniority is merely a result of the fact that he achieved his rank earlier than the other five-star generals. However, it has been speculated that if the United States ever created a six-star rank, it might be called General of the Armies. This almost occurred with Douglas MacArthur.

Douglas MacArthur



Promotion order for Douglas MacArthur to assume the rank of General of the Armies in 1945 as part of the preparation for Operation Downfall (the planned invasion of Japan) a proposal was discussed in the War Department to appoint Douglas MacArthur to the rank of General of the Armies. Following the use of the atomic bomb in August 1945 and the subsequent Japanese surrender, the proposal was dropped.

The matter was raised again in 1955, when the United States Congress considered a bill authorizing President Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote MacArthur to General of the Armies, in recognition of his many years of service. At that time, the Army Judge Advocate General warned that, should MacArthur accept promotion to the new rank, he would lose a large amount of retirement pay and benefits associated with the much more firmly established rank of five-star General of the Army,

Washington Continued

C. Marshall was senior to MacArthur and that, should MacArthur be made a General of the Armies, a similar measure would have to be passed promoting Marshall as well. Because of the various complications, MacArthur declined promotion and the bill to promote him was dropped. But some people continued to push for MacArthur to be promoted. The MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk has numerous letters on file dating from 1962 to 1964 between advocates (former MacArthur aides and others) and government officials attempting to obtain the six-star promotion. In the letters, in a congressional record appendix from February 1962 (pages A864-A865), and in the bill to promote him, this promotion was referred to alternately as "six-star general" and "general of the armies." The proponents even obtained a vote of neutral support from Harry Truman. (He would neither support nor attempt to scuttle the promotion.) The proponents' promotion attempts were ultimately scuttled by the John F. Kennedy assassination and then MacArthur's death in 1964.

George Washington

Main article: Military career of George Washington

After World War II, which saw the introduction of U.S. "5-star" officers who outranked Washington, both Congress and the President revisited the issue of Washington's rank. To maintain George Washington's position as the first **Commanding General of the United States Army**, he was appointed, posthumously, to the grade of **General of the Armies of the United States** by congressional joint resolution Public Law 94-479 January 19, 1976, approved by President Gerald R. Ford on October 11, 1976. The law established the grade as having "rank and precedence over all other grades of the Army, past or present", clearly making it superior to General of the Army. The Department of the Army Order 31-3, issued on March 13, 1978 had an effective appointment date of July 4, 1976. The rank ensures that no United States military officer will ever outrank George Washington.

Equivalent ranks



Admiral George Dewey, scanned from photogravure from 1899 book

The rank of General of the Armies is equivalent to the U.S. Navy's rank of Admiral of the Navy. Admiral of the Navy has only been held by one person in history, George Dewey. The U.S. Air Force and U.S. Marine Corps do not have an equivalent to the rank of General of the Armies.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We got out the first issue of the news letter, and to date have received very few comments...Good or bad... Sam Wylie is doing a fantastic job putting the newsletter together.

As we enter a new and taxing year, we want to move the chapter forward and try and recoup some members that have dropped by the wayside. If you know someone, please invite them to rejoin us. We also want to look at getting younger folks into the association. Because as we all know, the vast majority of us are not getting any younger. We need everyone in the chapter to participate as often as they can. We have several upcoming activities that we could sure use some help with, whether it is helping secure corporate sponsorship for our fundraiser, funds for our Montanyard program or showing up to help out with the vet-2-vet program. If you have contacts in the corporate world, let us know. We can use the all the help we can get.

This month found us very busy presenting a commemorative plaque to the parents of MSG Kelly Hornbeck (story will be in the may issue) KIA 10th SFG. The chapter had a fantastic showing on 10 March for the funeral of SSG Jeremy Bessa, 3rd SFG. KIA.

Our webmaster, Jim Webb, is working hard on getting the website up and running. This will preclude me from having to send out the constant flow of individual emails and we will have a good central location to disseminate information.

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments for me, please contact me, I am home most of **the time. Stay safe out there...**

De Oppresso Liber.....Ron

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