



**Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the United States Army Special Forces
and the 50th Anniversary of the Green Beret**

“a symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom.”

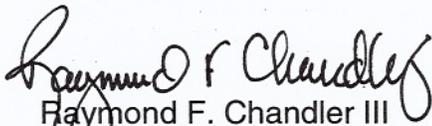
-- President John F. Kennedy, describing the green beret in
a memorandum, April 11, 1962

On June 20, 1952 the 10th Special Forces Group, was activated at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. President John F. Kennedy saw the value of maintaining Special Forces as an important capability in the Army. As a result, on April 11, 1962, President Kennedy authorized the green beret for wear by Army Special Forces. From these humble beginnings, the United States Army Special Forces have joined the ranks of the most respected, professional and capable organizations in our Army. Today, we celebrate the generations of Special Forces Soldiers who have served our Nation with honor, loyalty and bravery in peace and war for 60 years.

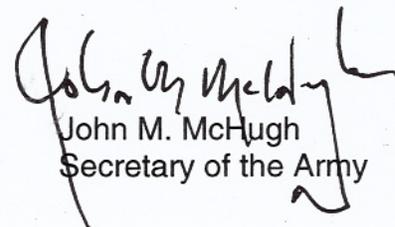
The United States Army Special Forces have been involved in every major Army operation over the last 60 years. From the jungles of Vietnam, to Grenada, Panama, Haiti, the Balkans, on horseback in Afghanistan, and across the sands of Iraq, the United States Army Special Forces have served with distinction and courage.

Today, in an increasingly complex and uncertain security environment, these “quiet professionals” serve as a vital component to our Army Team. They are deployed around the globe conducting missions across the spectrum of conflict – from providing humanitarian aid and advising indigenous forces, to reconnaissance missions and participating in combat operations. Their contributions to our Army’s efforts have been critical to our success.

On this 60th Anniversary of the founding of the Special Forces and the 50th Anniversary of the institution of the Green Berets, we thank every Soldier, past and present, who has volunteered to serve and sacrifice in the Army’s Special Forces and the Families who have stood with them. You all have truly earned your motto: “De Oppresso Liber: to Free the Oppressed.” Army Strong!


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
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John M. McHugh
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