



Chapter XXVIII  
 Special Forces Association  
 "Devils Brigade Chapter"  
*In Honor Of The First Special Service Force*

# V-42 Order Form

**CUSTOMER**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIPPING**

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E.Mail \_\_\_\_\_



**SHARED PROCEEDS**

**Green Beret Foundation** 10%  
**Special Forces Association** 20%  
**SFA 28 Activities and programs**  
 for the Active Duty families  
 and our members 70%

No salaries, bricks & mortar, leases  
 nor fixed overhead.

**Tax Deduction** \$ 219  
 Net of Goods & Services

#91994 V-42 & Sheath

#21943 Display Box Only

**BOTH**

PRICE \$549.00

\$119.00

\$668.00

SHIPPING \$15.00

\$35.00

\$35.00

TOTAL \$564.00

\$154.00

\$703.00

**Make check payable to:** SFA 28 V-42,  
**Address:** 25685 Nine Mile Road, Huson, MT 59846

Or order on our WEB page  
 V-42 Song & Video

[wwwhttp://www.sfa28.org/donations/v-42-order/w.sfa28.o](http://www.sfa28.org/donations/v-42-order/w.sfa28.o)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqtRy8wHDag> or Google the V-42

**Questions contact:** Bob Brugh [rgb@montana.com](mailto:rgb@montana.com) 406.240.7368



## Chapter XXVIII Special Forces Association "Devils Brigade Chapter" *In Honor Of The First Special Service Force*

### V-42 HISTORY

U.S. Army Special Forces units today trace their lineage and honors directly to the First Special Service Force (FSSF), the joint Canadian-American organization formed in July 1942 at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana. This regiment was an all-volunteer outfit with exceptionally high standards known for its extensive and rigorous military and physical training.

The FSSF fought under Allied command with great bravery and success in the Aleutians, Italy, and Southern France. The unit got its nickname, "The Devil's Brigade," during the Italian campaign from a passage in the captured diary of a dead German officer who had written: "The black devils are all around us every time we come into line and we never hear them."

The knife envisioned by its commander, LTC (later MG) Robert T. Frederick, was actually a group effort among his staff for the perfect fighting knife. FSSF close quarters combat instructor, Dermot Michael "Pat" O'Neil, a former sergeant in the Shanghai Municipal Police Force, suggested the blade profile. O'Neill gave great thought to the needs of these special troops as it related to close quarters combat.

COL Orval J. Baldwin, FSSF supply officer, is credited with the skull crusher pointed pommel idea. The final rough sketch was sent to three knife companies for bids: Camillus, Cattaraugus and Case. The Case model was personally selected by Frederick himself. The W.R. Case & Sons Cutlery Company of Bradford, Pennsylvania, was selected to produce the knife which was designated in Ordnance Department documents as "Knife, Fighting, Commando Type, V-42."

So unique was the V-42 knife that it was incorporated into the first design for the coat of arms of the First Special Service Force flag manufactured in 1943. It is the only heraldic item to appear on the shield and a set of crossed arrows that make up the coat of arms. In 1960, when the First Special Service Force was reconstituted as the 1st Special Forces, the parent regiment for all Special Forces groups, the original coat of arms used by the FSSF was adopted by the 1st Special Forces. The shield of the coat of arms has never been changed. The distinctive unit insignia (better known as unit crest) of the 1st Special Forces still has the V-42 prominently displayed in the center of the design between two crossed arrows. It has been worn by Special Forces soldiers since 1960 when it was originally approved for wear.

The First Special Service Force was officially inactivated on 5 December 1944 in Villeneuve-Lobet, France. But the Case V-42 lives on to this day. Numerous other patches and crests use this knife for their central character as a symbol of stealth and courage.

The V-42 is a legendary knife that today is an enduring symbol of the most elite of the U.S. Army. No article of equipment is as synonymous with the First Special Service as their V-42 Fighting Knife.

V-42 song & Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqtRy8wHDag> or goggle the V-42