



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION



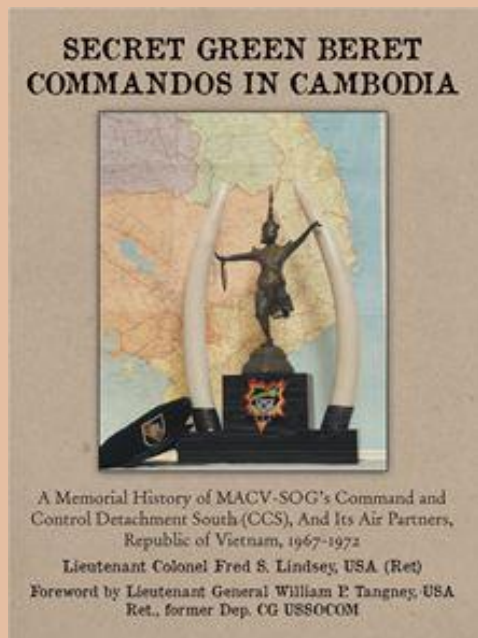
**SOAR XXXIX
OCTOBER 19-23, 2015
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

AFTER ACTION REPORT

SECRET GREEN BERET COMMANDOS IN CAMBODIA

A Memorial History of MACV-SOG Command and Control Detachment South (CCS), And Its Air Partners, Republic of Vietnam, 1967-1972

LTC Fred S. Lindsey, USA (Ret)



About the Book

We could call this book "special operations Recon Mission Impossible." A small group of highly trained, resourceful US Special Forces (SF) men is asked to go in teams behind the enemy lines to gather intelligence on the North Vietnamese Army units that had infiltrated through Laos and Cambodia down the Ho Chi Minh trails to their secret bases inside the Cambodian border west of South Vietnam. The covert reconnaissance teams, of only two or three SF men with four or five experienced indigenous mercenaries each, were tasked to go into enemy target areas by foot or helicopter insertion. They could be 15 kilometers beyond any other friendly forces, with no artillery support. In sterile uniforms - with no insignia or identification, if they were killed or captured, their government would deny their military connection. The enemy had placed a price on their heads and had spies in their Top Secret headquarters known as SOG.

SOG had three identical recon ground units along the border areas. This book tells the history of Command and Control Detachment South (CCS). The CCS volunteer warriors and its Air Partners- the Army and Air Force helicopter transport and gunship crews who lived and fought together and sometimes died together. This is the first published history of CCS as compiled by its last living commander some forty years after they were

disbanded. It tells of the struggles and intrigue involved in SOG's development as the modern- day legacy of our modern Special Operations Commands. Forbidden to tell of their experiences for over twenty years; their After Action Reports destroyed even before they were declassified surviving veterans team together to tell how Recon men wounded averaged 100 percent; and SOG became the most highly decorated unit in Vietnam and all were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

About the Author

Lieutenant Colonel Lindsey enlisted in the Army in 1948, attaining the rank of Corporal. He was accepted in to and graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1954 as a 2nd LT of Infantry. After Infantry School, he qualified as a Master Parachutist and as a Ranger. He served in various leadership and staff positions in the 11th Abn Div, the 82nd Abn Div and the 101st Abn Div. In his first Vietnam combat tour he was MACV G-3 Air Liaison Officer for the 35th Tactical Fighter Wing and flew 50 backseat missions, primarily in F-100s. Then he went to 1st Brigade of 101st Abn Div as Asst Ops Officer and then Ops and Exec Officer of the 2/327Abn Inf Bn. On his second Vietnam tour, he was Cmdr of 2/8th Cav Bn of 1st Cav Div. Next he was Deputy Cmdr of OP-35 in MACV-SOG and then was Cmdr of Command and Control Detachment South (CCS) from January-July 1970. He is the last living Cmdr of CCS. His advance schooling included the USMA Preparatory School, a Masters degree at Indiana University, and the Command and General Staff College. He retired after 20 years from the Army in August 1972. His civilian career positions included Exec VP of an architectural and engineering firm; and president of an "Alternative Energy" firm building a Gasohol plant. He served for 12 years in the Indiana Department of Commerce as Program Manager for High Technology Development. His military awards include two Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, six Air Medals and the Combat Infantry Badge. Civilian awards are as a Kentucky Colonel and a Sagamore of the Wabash. He is active in local service and veterans' organizations in Carmel, IN, where he has lived with his family since 1973.

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

The SOA, established in December 1977, is a fraternal veteran's organization of past and present American and Allied military personnel who have conducted special operations in a combat environment. The group includes veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia as well as those from our most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Membership is limited to Free World forces who supported, or personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider, and Force Recon personnel and veterans of other elite military organizations who were an integral part of Special Operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

To unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations and, To perpetuate the Special Operations "esprit de corps"; and To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA through the management of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$556,500 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 152 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veterans organization, 501 (c) (19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Annual membership dues are \$30 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$505 U.S. For those 70-years or over, the Lifetime membership fee is \$305 U.S. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report, (SOAR AAR).

The SOA will conduct its 40th annual reunion (SOAR XL) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Hotel and Casino during the period 17-21 October 2016. We anticipate in excess of 650 members and guests.

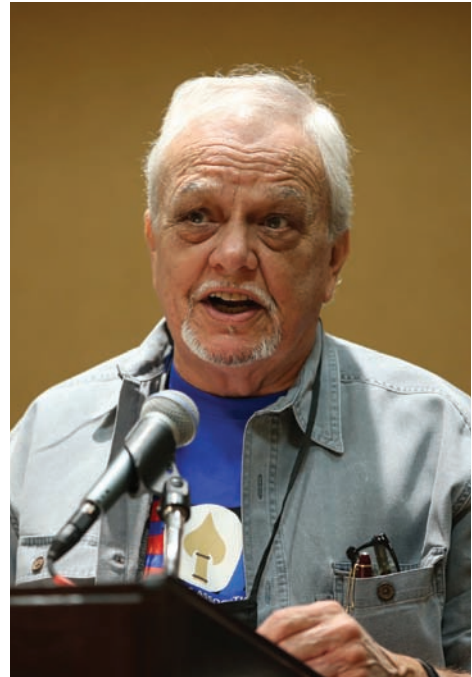
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Scenes from SOAR XXXIX





We had an enthusiastic and large turnout this year at SOAR XXXIX! All of our Programs were well attended, especially the trips to Nevada's Valley of Fire State Park, and the Ron Decar's Event Center patriotic "USO for the SOA" show in downtown Las Vegas. Banquet attendance was the highest in years, and was topped off by the colorful and beautiful Traditional Vietnamese Dancers who traveled from Southern California to provide entertainment. Our SOAR volunteers make these events possible, so my first order of business is to thank them all for making our yearly convention such a huge success. Attendance, donations, and voting participation were all up this year and certainly indicates a healthy trend for

the future of our great Association.

While in Las Vegas, the SOA Board of Directors signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) to further our efforts to locate missing personnel in Southeast Asia. The SOA also received financial pledges of assistance to help with costs associated with travel to Southeast Asia for possible location assistance. The POW/MIA Committee had the pleasure of hearing the National League of POW/MIA Families representative, Ms Ann Mills Griffiths address the Committee at its general meeting.

The two (2) SOA raffles raised a lot of money for the Scholarship, and Video Program Funds this year. Our membership bought a ton of raffle tickets for both the Gold Coin set, donated by SOA member Joe Conlon, and the KEL-TEC shotgun donated by KEL-TEC manufacturing, making this an exceptionally good year for these two (2) important causes. The SOA Personal Video History Project received an additional boost this year with large individual donations from some of our current members. The video project is picking up steam each year with all available interview slots filled during this SOAR.

The Beam Suntory Scotch Tasting program made possible by SOA member Tony Bandiera was a great success this year, and enjoyed by all. We are looking forward to another great program next year.

The SOA Website is being reorganized, and updated at this time, so please take a look. Our "You tube" channel was created last year with obsolete videos reformatted to make them accessible to our members. We have begun the process of adding videos, and will continue to do so under the watchful eye of our Archivist Dennis Cummings. Facebook was successfully added this year to increase our ability to communicate with our members. Our response has been great, and we intend to continue to build this program aggressively next year as well.

We “stood up” the Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF), a 501 (c) (3) tax deductible foundation at SOAR, and commenced accepting donations. Our website is “up and running”, and is accepting donations, and at the same time, is focusing on supporting worthy programs of benefit to the Special Operations Community. The Foundation will continue developing methods to support our existing Special Operations programs, such as Education, through the SOA Scholarship program, the video program and Wellness Clinics for our membership.

Next year is our 40th Anniversary. Be assured, your Officers, Directors, Special Staff, and SOAR volunteers will do their utmost to provide you, the Member, the very best 40th Anniversary reunion possible. I look forward to seeing all of you on October 16, 2016.



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CCS Breakfast



CCS Breakfast



20 Year Pins

Recognition, SOA 20-Year Pin Members:

President, SOA

During the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX General Membership Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 21 October 2015, Ray Calafell, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee requested the following personnel having achieved 20-Year status as members of the SOA come forward and receive their 20-Year SOA pins from Rick Estes, President, SOA. All individuals who attended or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR XX (1977-1996) were eligible. Those present at SOAR XXXIX were:

GL 602 Marcus Whitt
GL 812 Jesse Simmons
AA 884 Charles Woodson
GL 955 William Gow
GL 1016 Donald Augustin
GL 1025 Robert Woodham
GL 1041 Joseph Parnar
GL 1089 Robert Garcia

GL 1090 George Pointon
GA 1098 Harry Pugh
GL 1115 George Crawford
GL 1161 Norman Taitano
GA 1205 Eugene Pugh
GA 1224 Jerry Estenson
GA 1233 Khanh V. Doan
GA 1235 Bryon Loucks

GA 1304 Robert Strange
GL 1313 Rick Grabianowski
AL 1317 Eugene Leonard
GL 1319 Richard Mallowney
GA 1346 Minh Le
GL 1347 Anh H Nguyen

- a. FYI, basically that reflected those members whose SOA number fell between 001 and 1347. If a member had not previously been presented with their 20-year SOA pin they were eligible to receive the award at this meeting.
- b. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XL, all personnel who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR XXI (1977-1997) will be eligible to receive their 20-Year SOA pin. If their SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 1347, and they have not previously been presented with their 20-Year SOA pin they will be eligible to receive this award.



25 Year Pins

Recognition, SOA 25-Year Pin Members:

President, SOA

During the conduct of the SOAR XXXVIII General Membership Meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, 21 October 2015, Ray Calafell, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee requested the following personnel having achieved 25-Year status as members of the SOA come forward and receive their 25-Year SOA pins from Rick Estes, President, SOA. All individuals who attended or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR XIV (1977-1991) were eligible. Those present at SOAR XXXIX were:

GL 602 Marcus Whitt
GL 812 Jesse Simmons
GL 840 Howard Sugar
AA 884 Charles Woodson
GL 886 Jon Ross
AL 897 Conrad Baker
GL 899 Don Benjamin

GL 918 Paul M Duffy
GL 923 Skip Ettinger
GL 929 Ronald C Davidson
GL 937 Leonard Moreau
GL 947 Chieu Lam
AL 952 Al Newman
GL 955 William Gow

a. FYI, basically that reflected those members whose SOA number fell between 001 and 971. If a member had not previously been presented with their 25-year SOA pin they were eligible to receive the award at this meeting.

b. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XL, all personnel who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR XVI (1977-1992) will be eligible to receive their 25-Year SOA pin. If their SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 971, and they have not previously been presented with their 25-Year SOA pin they will be eligible to receive this award.



30 Year Pins

Recognition, SOA 30-Year Pin Members:

President, SOA

During the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX General Membership Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 21 October 2015, Ray Calafell, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee requested the following SOA members having achieved 30-Year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 30-Year SOA pins from Rick Estes, President, SOA. All individuals who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR IX (1977-1986) were eligible. Those present at SOAR XXXIX were:

GL 602 Marcus Whitt
GL 622 John Trantanella
GL 629 Carl Franquet
AL 632 Carl Fronabarger
GL 653 Roger Cherry
GL 659 Bobby Evans
GL 686 Arthur Wilbur

a. FYI, basically that reflected those members whose SOA number fell between 001 and 651. If a member had not previously been presented with their 30-year SOA pin they were eligible to receive this award at this meeting.

b. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XL, all personnel who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR IX (1977-1987) will be eligible to receive their 30-Year SOA pin. If their SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 689, and they have not previously been presented with their 30-Year SOA pin they will be eligible to receive this award.



35 Year Pins

Recognition, SOA 35-Year Pin Members:

President, SOA

During the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX General Membership Meeting on Wednesday afternoon, 21 October 2015, Ray Calafell, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee requested the following SOA members having achieved 35-Year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 35-Year SOA pins from Rick Estes, President, SOA. All individuals who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR IX (1977-1986) were eligible. Those present at SOAR XXXIX were:

GA 169 Patrick Barrett	GL 329 Stephen Spoerry
GL 177 Sully De Fontaine	GA 339 Charles Cadenbach
GL 180 Roland Meder	GL 350 George Gaspard
GL 240 John Mullins	AL 351 Thomas Ratcliffe
GL 268 Richard Thompson	GL 358 Edward Gleason
GA 271 Kestutis Griskelis	GL 361 Dean Byrne
GL 315 Roy Bahr	GL 365 Jack Abraham

a. FYI, basically that reflected those members whose SOA number fell between 001 and 651. If a member had not previously been presented with their 35-year SOA pin they were eligible to receive this award at this meeting.

b. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XL, all personnel who attended, or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR IX (1977-1987) will be eligible to receive their 35-Year SOA pin. If their SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 689, and they have not previously been presented with their 35-Year SOA pin they will be eligible to receive this award.



SOG / SPAD Symposium

by Don Engebretsen

The Spads of OLAA (Operating Location Alpha Alpha) were honored to lead their 3rd Symposium at SOAR XXXIX this past October. Each of these exchanges tends to take on a life of its own and interest has grown over the years. We may “lead” the discussions to start, but the dialog that follows is always a learning experience for all. The theme this year was oriented around the FAC Rider program. Our unit’s experiences were generally with the Covey FAC’s and their Riders, but thanks to Mike Taylor, several Nail FAC’s and their Riders participated in this event.

I was hoping that the origins of the SOG Rider program might come to light, but it still seems that General Singlaub’s speculation that the program originated with Heinie Aderholt are as specific as we have determined to date. Clearly, the methods employed and the way the Rider program was used varied somewhat throughout the Vietnam War. These variations did not seem to matter in the sense that the adapted programs were very successful and essential whenever they were used.

Unlike our counterparts flying A-1’s at NKP, our OLAA unit never had any pre-mission briefings prior to launching for SOG sorties (or SAR’s for the most part). Therefore, we totally relied on FAC’s and their Riders for SOG team locations and all other details required for safe and successful support missions and PFE’s (Prairie Fire Emergencies). These missions would begin with an immediate alert launch from our base or a diversion from another mission in progress. Time was nearly always critical. The men in our small unit flew a lot of SOG missions, so an “over-the-air” rapport developed and its successes are well documented.

Forty five plus years ago, it all happened airborne as we seldom had face to face contacts with PFE FAC’s/Riders or the team members. Think about that. These SOAR discussions with the FAC’s/Riders and their perspective were a first for us and very enlightening. Several of the best Riders in the business spoke with the authority that only they could offer. We learn as much as anyone in these Symposiums. PRICELESS!

The Nail FAC and Rider contrasts to our experiences were equally interesting to the Spads and seemed to resonate with all attending.

At this point, all I can think of is “better late than never.”



POW / MIA Symposium

Three agencies supported the Special Operations Association POW/MIA Committee in presenting the membership with an opportunity to update their knowledge of and insight into the US Government's ongoing efforts to achieve the maximum possible accounting for our unaccounted-for comrades from all previous conflicts.

The newly-reorganized Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) sent two representatives, Matt Kristoff from Washington, DC, and Steve Thompson from Hawaii. Matt briefed us on DPAA's nearly-completed reorganization, which combined four former disparate DoD agencies into one entity. DPAA is headed by Director Mike Linnington in Washington and Deputy Director BG Mark Spindler in Hawaii. SOA has excellent relations with both of these gentlemen and their impressive staffs. DPAA will soon reach full operational capacity and has nearly finished crafting their "Campaign Plan". Director Linnington recently returned from a four-nation visit to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand where he met with senior host-nation government officials, all four US Ambassadors and DPAA field teams at their operational sites. Steve then briefed us on ongoing field operations. We learned that DPAA has recovered partial remains which enabled the identification of CPT Don Carr, CCS veteran and SOG FAC rider lost in combat flying out of Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. Steve was already an Associate Member of SOA and Matt was surprised and honored at the end of his briefing when President Rick Estes presented him with his Honorary Life Membership.

Our second briefing was presented by SOA member, Cliff Newman, who has twice deployed with DPAA field teams to Vietnam, hoping to assist them in their efforts to locate missing members of a CCN reconnaissance team from an operation he had supported on a Bright Light team. Cliff clearly depicted the many challenges the DPAA field teams face, from politics, to logistics, to funding, to terrain and weather, etc. The recon team members remain MIA, but DPAA will continue to work the case.

Ann Mills-Griffiths is Chairman of the Board of the National League of POW/MIA Families. Ann is an



MIA sister who served as the League's Executive Director from 1978 until 2011. With around forty years of experience in the accounting mission, most of it dealing with the highest levels of US and host nation governments, Ann is widely-acknowledged as one of the most knowledgeable Americans in this arena. Her presentations are always unscripted, brutally honest and straight from the heart. This one was no exception. It would be impossible to encapsulate Ann's impassioned remarks here, but the main take-away point was that DPAA seems to be our last best chance to achieve fullest-possible accounting. The Director, Deputy Director and staff are working hard - they deserve



our support, but also our continued scrutiny, and even criticism when and where warranted.

Two POW/MIA-related developments occurred during SOAR, but outside the POW/MIA session.

(1) Following Board of Directors' approval, President Rick Estes signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DPAA under their Strategic Partnerships Initiative. Under terms of the MOU, SOA will spearhead a joint effort between SOA, Special Forces Charitable Trust (SFCT) and Special Forces Association (SFA) to assist DPAA when and where we can. Our three organizations will fund our own activities, largely due to the generosity of the SFCT.

(2) We learned that, based on a request from SOA, DPAA Director Linnington has decided to invite representatives of responsible national Veteran organizations to attend and observe briefings at DPAA-hosted Updates, formerly called Family Updates. SOA deeply appreciates this return to including Veterans in these meetings around the country. Although pretty general in content, the briefings given are firsthand and provided by responsible US officials. Since DPAA is stressing the importance of outreach and transparency, the DPAA-hosted Updates provide an opportunity for both. Mike Taylor, SOA POW/MIA Committee chair, will attend our first Update in Seattle in March.

Note to SOA Membership: The Vietnam War POW/MIA accounting mission is running out of time. That is the cold reality in terms of declining numbers of eye-witness accounts, immediate family members and preservation of skeletal material under very hostile environmental conditions. **NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ENSURE THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MUST BE NO REDUCTION IN BUDGET AND PERSONNEL FOR THE NEW DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY.**

POW/MIA Passing of The Mantle

BrigGen (Retired) James Latham and SSG (Retired) Edward Croaker represented the elder and junior members of the Special Operations Association in the placing of a framed coin carried on the Ho Chi Minh Trail by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command. The Passing of the Mantle Ceremony symbolized the passing of the mantle from the elder members to the younger Service Members to carry on the responsibility to “never forget.”



POW/MIA Table Ceremony



The tradition of setting a separate table in honor of our prisoners of war and missing comrades has been in place since the end of the Vietnam War. The manner in which this table is decorated is full of special symbols to help us remember our brothers and sisters in arms.

The POW/MIA table is smaller than the others, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her oppressors. This table is separate from the others and can be set for one to four place settings to represent each service participating in the event. The Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard executed the ceremony at the banquet with the highest level of dignity and respect.



45 Years Later...Crew Chief Meets SF Medic Who “Saved My Ass!”

On July 20, 1970, while under enemy gunfire, Green Beret Medic John Hanna climbed down an aluminum ladder from a hovering 101st Aviation Battalion Comanchero Huey to treat and help extract wounded troops on a burning LZ atop the dreaded massif Co Roc in Laos.

Among those Hanna treated that day was a young crew chief Jeffrey Joseph “Crash” Makool from the Comancheros who was flying on his first SOG mission with the 101st AVN that day. The mission: to insert a 44-man Hatchet Force atop Co Roc.

A well-placed RPG round fired by an NVA gunner gave Makool and the men aboard that Huey a harsh introduction to the eight-year secret war fought by SOG Green Berets and their indigenous troops while supported by the fearless aviators of that era such as the 101st AVN, the 1st CAV, the Americal Division’s Muskets, and Marine Corps Scarface gunships to name a few.

For Hanna, “It was just another day in the office...another deadly mission in Laos.”

For Makool, “It was my cherry mission, my first into Laos, my first with the elite commandos from Special Forces on a top secret mission...it was a day I’ll never forget.”

And, as so often in the deadly secret war, where the paths of aviators crossed with Green Berets on the ground, the two separate, distinct and unique set of warriors didn’t have time for formal introductions or business cards to exchange during the heated moments of combat with a deadly communist enemy far behind enemy lines. They did their jobs and then went back to base.

On July 20, 1970, following a pre-mission briefing, Makool’s chopper was the first bird to insert Hatchet Force team members lead by Green Beret 1st Lt. James B Weisbrod, from CCN. The aircraft commander was WO Jim Wisecup, with Co-pilot Capt. David Ayers, Crew Chief Jimmy White and Makool, doorgunner. As the helicopter descended toward the LZ, an NVA soldier fired an RPG into the chopper, at such close range the round didn’t detonate, but it wreaked havoc with the engine compartment and triggered an aviation fire on Makool’s side of the aircraft.

The pilot flew the wounded bird off the top of Co Roc and descended down the side of the mountain. As it went down flames licked at Makool, singeing his hair, eye brows and skin. Fearing the flames would cook off the 2000 7.62 mm rounds he carried, Makool kicked them off the aircraft, moments before it crashed, knocking him unconscious, killing co-pilot David Ayers, breaking Weisbrod’s leg in several places.

While Makool was unconscious, the chase Comanchero helicopter went into a high hover as Hanna lowered two ropes and an aluminum ladder from the Huey, before climbing down it to help the wounded on the ground. As the Montagnards climbed the ladder toward the hovering aircraft piloted by WO Mark Goodell, Hanna hooked

Ayers to one rope and helped Weisbrod get connected to the second rope, while the fire around the crashed helicopter ignited elephant grass in the area, as the wind pushed the flames toward them. Then Hanna saw Makool walking, but in shock oblivious and unaware of where he was at the moment.

“I was walking unconscious,” Makool recalled at SOAR XXXIX, 45 years later. “Then the medic gave me smelling salts, and it snapped me out of it. I was walking carrying Lieutenant Weisbrod’s CAR-15. Don’t ask me how I got it, but I was walking with it...then the medic was signaling towards me. At first, I didn’t understand what he was saying, then it dawned on me, he wanted me to climb the ladder to get into the chopper.”

Makool and Hanna climbed the ladder, as did Wisecup, White, the platoon interpreter and three indigenous troops. Once in the Huey, Makool passed out. “I remember my brain was like a bowl full of jelly. I learned many years later that what happens when you’re knocked unconscious.”

As the chopper lifted off, fire had crept up to and ignited the extraction rope that Ayers’ body was attached to. When the helicopter left Co Roc, that rope broke leaving Ayers body behind while everyone else was safely returned to base. “The pilot told me later that day that he had over-torqued to 150 percent torque to get all of us out of there that day. It was an amazing mission.”

For 45 years, Makool wondered who the medic was that found him “walking unconscious” and “saved my ass that day. I never knew who it was.”



Fast forward to SOAR XXXIX.

Continued on page 55



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RT163

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Valley of Fire Trip

On Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. a group of the SOA members & guests – 40 in all – under the coordination of Leslie Nguyen, Entertainment Coordinator, departed from the Orleans Hotel/Casino en route to the Valley of Fire State Park in Overton, NV which is 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas in a comfortable, air-conditioned bus. The park was spectacular with the breathtaking, one-of-a-kind scenery that our members truly enjoyed. Everyone on the bus was awestruck & marveled at the awesome sandstone & limestone rock formations as this is a hidden gem from the Las Vegas’ tourist areas. We stopped briefly at the Visitor’s Center for a break, browsed around their gift shop for some souvenir items & group pictures.

In the afternoon we came back in town and went to the Las Vegas Premium Outlets South for some delicious lunches and shopping. Many of our members found some great bargains and brought back to the Orleans Hotel with suitcases, clothes & other valuable items at discounted prices.

We all had a wonderful time bonding with each other on this beautiful day trip. Our “SOA Explorer Group” (with many returned members who joined us last year for the Hoover Dam & Chinatown trip) cannot wait until our next SOAR for another fun-filled day.

On behalf of the Entertainment Committee, I wish to thank Ms. Leslie Nguyen for her hard work, dedication and coordination to make our day trip this year once again another successful & memorable one!



USO Show



On Wednesday evening of 10/23/15, the USA for the SOA 2nd Annual show took place with a full house of approximately 200 SOA members & guests. We first had a delicious home cook dinner buffet; then the musical program began with Mr. Ron De Car welcoming our group back in his facility. An excellent cast of local entertainers performed non-stop for our group with popular songs from the '60s. During some of the patriotic song numbers, the 2 giant flat screens on the walls were flashing through pictures of some of our SOA members that were taken during their service time in Vietnam. Many of our members & guests' eyes were filled with tears as we were going back the memory lane with our buddies looking so young & full of life. Many of them are now gone to a better place, and the rest of us are aging & living in our golden years. Oh! Those were the days!

Many of our members danced to the tunes of our favorite oldies and goodies. The Chairman of the Reunion & Entertainment Committees, Jimmy Tong Nguyen, even serenaded the SOA's members with songs such as "The Green Green Grass of Home" & "My Girl." We all had a fantastic time that night with great food, good friends and a lot of fond memories to take home with us.

Beam Suntory Scotch

Scotch Tasting 2015 was a huge success, it was sponsored by Beam Suntory. Simon Brooking, Master Ambassador for Laphronig Scotch products put on an excellent demonstration of Scotch products. Wearing his Kilt, Simon went over the history of Scotch and let us sample some of Beams Scotch products.

About 80 attended the Scotch tasting.

Rene Huerta and Tony Bahnick (Beam Suntory representatives) assisted Simon during the Tasting.

Thanks to Tony Bandiera and Beam Suntory for another great tasting.

Respectfully submitted by

Bill Werther



SOAR Banquet





Medal of Honor Recipient SFC (Ret) Melvin Morris Attends First SOAR



Melvin Morris and his wife, Mary, attended their first SOAR. Melvin is, of course, an SOA member by virtue of having served with both CCN and IV Mobile Strike Force. Melvin provided the keynote address at the SOAR XXXIX banquet.

He earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on September 17, 1969 while serving with the IV MSF. President Obama presented him with the Medal of Honor for that same action in a March 18, 2014 ceremony at the White House.

He began his military career in 1959 in the Oklahoma National Guard and quickly found his way to active duty and then finding his way to Special Forces in 1961. “Being in the military was better than being in

trouble” he said. During his assignment to the IV MSF, Melvin led an advance across enemy lines to recover the body of a fallen sergeant. Melvin single-handedly destroyed an enemy force with a bag of grenades in a series of bunkers that was pinning his battalion down. Melvin was shot three times during that engagement. His Medal of Honor Citation can be read at: http://www.army.mil/medalofhonor/valor24/recipients/morris/?f=recipient_list

As Melvin remarked to those attending the banquet, “Special Ops is not for everybody. I love SF. It’s a brotherhood. I’m a proud SF soldier. I never dreamed I would be in Special Ops but somehow I got there. I was told to go to CCN and if you don’t go to CCN, we’re going to send you to Kansas. And there’s a base in Kansas called Leavenworth. So I went to CCN.”

Melvin went on to say, “I just want to let you special operators know that I’m very proud of you, and I’m proud that you let me come and talk to you.”

We are pleased to have had Melvin and Mary Morris at SOAR XXXIX.

“A Melody of Graciousness”

The Reunion & Entertainment Committees organized a special tribute to the SOA’s Vietnam Veterans as this year marks the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. We began the “Special Presentation Program” with the introduction of the Viet Fountain Valley Dance Group by Ms. Leslie Nguyen, Entertainment Coordinator. This dance group was brought to our reunion in Las Vegas from Orange County, California to dedicate their traditional dance “Khuc Hat An Tinh” roughly translated as “A Melody of Graciousness” to all of our SOA’s Vietnam Veterans. The dancers’ beautiful Vietnamese traditional costumes coupled with their wonderful dance were well received by our audience. Next, Jimmy Tong Nguyen performed the emotional & meaningful song “You Are The Heroes” written by his godfather, Mr. Andy Le, just for the American Vietnam Veterans to thank them for their heroic & brave services to the South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Upon conclusion of the song, the Viet Fountain Valley Dancers approached each one of the SOA Vietnam Veterans and draped them with a beautiful silk lei as a token of appreciation from the Vietnamese-Americans for the men’s sacrifices during the Vietnam war.



Financials

Special Operations Association, Inc.

Budget: Combined Restrictive and Non-Restrictive-

PJB2016 - FY16 P&L

January - December 2016

	Budget	% of Budget
Income		
Restrictive Income	\$49,100	23.4%
Non-Restrictive Income	\$161,050	76.6%
Total Combined Income Projections	\$210,150	100.0%

	Budget	% of Budget
Expenses		
Restrictive Expenses	\$45,850	21.3%
Non-Restrictive Expenses	\$169,640	78.7%
Total Combined Expenses Projections	\$215,490	100.0%

Difference +/-	-\$5,340
SOA Reserve Account Requirements	\$15,000

Election Tally Report

To: Rick Estes, President, SOA

10/5/2015

Board of Directors

From: Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2015 ELECTION.

On 10-5-2015, the Tally Committee (comprised of : Mike Keele, John Meyer, Curtis Williams and Rick Estes) met in the home of John Meyer for the purpose of determining the winners of the election for two positions open for new Board Membership.

The ballots were sent to the membership of the SOA with the pre-registration package. They were to be mailed in the envelopes included with the PRP, and instructions were included which directed each voter to seal their ballots in a second envelope, which was in turn, signed by the voting member. The ballots did not, in themselves, contain any reference to who the voter was.

Voter eligibility was proofed during the collection process, by conveying to Membership Chairman Ray Calafell, the names of the voters based on their return addresses. Those respondents who were not eligible to vote were noted and their ballots were set aside. The purpose of this segregation was to comply with the by-laws. Rejections were mainly because "Associate" members are not eligible to vote. Ten ballots were in this category. Those who were not current dues paying members were also ineligible, although Chairman Calafell notified those in arrears, and all but three of them paid their dues. Their votes were counted. The last category of ballot that was disqualified came from a member who passed away before the ballots were mailed out. Upon opening the envelopes, we found that several voters had cast votes for every candidate, so their ballots were also deleted from the count.

When the dust cleared, we had 212 ballots to count. Not everyone voted for each office, with four ballots having no vote for Brian Vines, and no write-in. Thus, Vines had 208 votes.

Tim Schaaf received 160 votes for director.

Doug Godshall received 119 votes for director.

Cork Motsett received 90 votes for director.

David Smith received 57 votes for director.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Keele, Tally Committee chairman

Swearing In

Our most recently elected Secretary and two Board of Directors were sworn in during the general membership meeting on October 21, 2015. Brian Vines, who will now be asked to take on the demanding job of Secretary of the SOA, is fully up to the task and looking forward to getting to work. Doug Godshall, a practicing attorney, who has a long history of selfless service to the to the SOA, was also reelected as Director. Tim Schaaf was elected to fill the second open Director's position.

In a separate swearing in, Rand Binford was sworn in as Director after being appointed by the Board to replace Mr. Vines' now vacant position on the Board.



SOA Nominating Committee & 2016 SOA Board Elections

1. The SOA will elect a Treasurer and two (2) Directors (Place 4 and 5) for a three (3) year term effective during the SOAR XL General Membership Meeting.
2. SOA Members competing for an open position must also agree to serve as a Director on the Special Operations Association Foundation.
- 3 - In order to “compete” for any Board position, a member must be either an Annual, or Life (General) member in “good standing”, and have attended a least one (1) of the last three (3) SOAR’s, including the day before the General Membership Meeting, the General Membership Meeting (GMM), and the Banquet prior to competing for office.
4. Interested candidates should submit a digital picture and a short bio (no more than 150 words) to any member of the Membership Committee NLT 30 April 2016. The Committee consists of Chairman Brian R. Vines, SOA # 3120-GL at brian.vines@aol.com; Clyde J. Sincere, Jr, SOA # 010-GL at sincere@skyviewmail.com; and Jay Massey, SOA # 442-GL at jaymassey@jaymasseyco.com.
- 5 - The SOAR XL Pre-Registration Packet (PRP) will contain the bio/photo data and the Official SOA Election Ballot (with spaces under each category position for any write-in candidates) to mail to the Chairman of the SOA Tally Committee, NLT 30 September 2016 for tabulation and presentation at the SOAR XL General Membership Meeting.
- 6 - Queries may be addressed to any member of the Nominating Committee.



SOAR XXXIX Donations

The following individuals, organizations, and firms donated silent auction items, door prizes, SOA archival items, and/or cash in support of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program, the SOA Operation Brightlight Program, the SOA Warrior's Family Program, the SOA Personal Video History Project, and the Special Operations Association Foundation,(SOAF). Thank you, one and all:

Special Operations Association
Orleans Hotel & Casino
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.
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Henderson "Ridge" Marriot
Lloyd O'Daniel
De Espresso Liber Coffee (Ron Owns)
Paul M. Duffy
Jeffrey Stone, (Larry Trimble)
Fred Lindsey
John S. "Tilt" Meyer
BEAM Corp. (Tony J. Bandiera, Jr.)
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Mark Kinsler
Shirley Williams, (Joe Kline Art)
Alfred H. Paddock, Jr.
Chuck Woodson
OLAA, (Don Engebretsen)
"Rick" Grabianowski

The SOA Riders, (Tom Carrell)
Joe Conlon
WHITE RIVER KNIFE and TOOL CO.
(Jim Shults)
MKS Supply, LLC/Hi Point Firearms),
(Jim Shults)
SNAKE EATER TACTICAL
"The Squid"
Curtis Bodin, Jr.
John "Doc" Padgett
KEL TEC
Donna Hephner
Mr. Newton Tran/Pho 54, Inc.
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Nguoi Viet News, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Thanh Van Nguyen/Thanh My
Restaurant
Mr. & Mrs. Cuong Dang Pham/Saigon Deli
Restaurant, Inc.
Mr. Dung Trung Tran
Mr. Nhu Duc Nguyen
Mr. & Mrs. Rick Estes
Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Furbish
Viet Fountain Valley Dance Group

Raffle / Silent Auction Winners

1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Raffle:

The winner of the 2014 American Eagle Gold Proof Four-Coin Set was Robert Tilley - Nine Mile Falls, Washington 99026 (Ticket Number: 19675) Donated by: Joe Conlon, SOA # 1833-GA.

2. The SOA PERSONAL VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT Raffle:

The winner of the KEL-TEC KSG 12 GAUGE SHOTGUN was Michael P. Taylor, SOA # 2500-GL (Ticket Number: 39865) Donated by: KEL-TEC CNC Industries, Inc. The SOA Riders secured this unique 13 round weapon on behalf of the SOA.

The winner of the Alaska Chinook Lodge – Three (3) Nights, (B&B), One (1) Day Fishing Salmon Trip for Two (2) was Mark Kinsler, SOA # 700-GL. Donated by “Rich” D. Mullaney, SOA # 1319-GA

The winner of the GLOCK, Inc., USA was Leonard W. Tilley, SOA # 1495-GA. Donated by GLOCK, Inc., USA. Chester Howard, SOA # 1609-GL facilitated the securing of this “Silent Auction” Prize on behalf of the SOA.

The winner of the Carbine, Hi-Point, .45 ACP was Syble Robison, Wife of Sam Robison, SOA # 2326-GA. Donated by MKS Supply, LLC, and Hi-Point Firearms. Jim Shults, SOA # 500-HL facilitated the securing of this “Silent Auction” prize on behalf of the SOA.



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- Buffalo Bill Presentation Knives \$500
- Randalls \$500 and up

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- STABO Rigs \$350 to \$500
- Hanson Rigs \$250
- Jungle Boots \$75 to \$150
- Jungle Boots with Foot Print Sole \$1,000

CAPTURED ITEMS

- Ordinance \$100 to \$350
- Uniforms \$350 to \$500
- Headgear \$100 to \$250

INSIGNIA

- Recon Team Patches \$500 and up
- Other Patches \$150 to \$500
- Beer Can DIs \$150 to \$250

Bill “Blaster” Shelton Memorial Breakfast

During SOAR XXXIX, a memorial breakfast was held to honor a charter member of the Special Operations Association, LTC Bill “Blaster” Shelton, who passed away in Las Vegas on May 18, 2015. Most notably among Bill’s other Special Forces assignments, he commanded two SOG launch sites within CCN: Forward Operations Base 1 at Phu Bai, Vietnam, and Mobile Launch Team 3 at Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. His final SF assignment was Deputy Commander, 46th SF Company, Lop Buri, Thailand.



COL Roy Bahr, Bill’s role model, mentor and best friend, was the principal speaker.



“Panther” Pierce, Prairie Fire FAC commander at NKP, reminisces about Bill’s leadership and inspiration.



Pat “Mandolin” Watkins spoke about Bill’s command of FOB1 at Phu Bai.



Bill’s sons, Scotty and Bobby, and Bill’s grandson represented Bill’s family.



Rick Estes and George “Speedy” Gaspard joined the Sheltons at the head table.



NKP Prairie Fire “Nail” FACs and “Heavy Hook” FAC riders gathered at SOAR specifically to honor “Blaster”, the best commander any of us ever had.



Mike Taylor, Bill’s ops officer and XO at NKP and life-long family friend, with the Sheltons.

TAPS

<u>Member's Name</u>	<u>Member Number</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Arthur T. Fields Jr	SOA # Not Available	03-06-2015
Bill "Blaster" Shelton	SOA #89-GL	05-18-2015
Charles G. Erickson	SOA #1954-G	02-04-2015
Don F. "Sluggo" Murphy	SOA #790-GL	04-21-2015
Francis (Frank) Quinn	SOA# 1451	11-20-2014
Fredrick Forrest (Fred) Mentzer	SOA#1725	12-12-2014
Grant "Bo" Bollenbach	SOA #3185-GL	07-15-2015
Harry E. Friberg	SOA #1921-GL	06-16-2015
Henry Cook	SOA #331-GL	03-17-2015
Jack NeSmith	SOA #2059-GA	06-18-2015
James H. Spear	SOA #Not Available	06-09-2015 (Arlington Burial)
James Holt	SOA #MIA 02-07-1068	Accounted for 01-15-2015 Arlington Burial 05-15-2015
James Sorenson	SOA #2582-GL	07-25-2015
JAMES YU-B	SOA #2459	09-03-2015
Jim Ringland III	SOA#1498	11/06/2014
John Carl Burtram	SOA #3007-G	05-28-2015
Joseph E. Pearce	SOA #1009	06-06-2015
LeRoy Carlson	SOA #2058-GL	08-15-2015
Ralph Munson	SOA #Not Available	08-21-2015
Rex Morris	SOA #Not Available	02-28-2015
Robert (Bull) Durham	SOA #Not Available	06-11-2015
Robert Disney	SOA #1674-GL	11-06-2015
Robert Jay Tessier	SOA #2983	04-08-2015
Robert T. Ledellaytner	SOA # Not Available	04-02-2015 (Est.)
William L. "Bill" Miller	SOA #1276-GL	03-22-2015

2015 Registrar Report

This year, 708 members and guests attended SOAR XXXIX making it one of the best attended reunions to date.

Attendance by Member Type:

319 General
21 Associate
3 Operational Associate
5 Honorary
6 Widows/Family
7 Organizations & Vendors (Non Members)
Total Attendance:
361 Members
347 Guests
708 Total

It was an honor to be recognized with the 2015 President's award, but this award would not have been possible without the efforts of the volunteers. Thank you to our Volunteer Coordinator, Bill Dadek, and the fifty plus volunteers who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful Reunion.

Mark your calendar and join us next year as we celebrate our 40th reunion, another milestone in our history. If you haven't seen some of your SOA buddies lately, call them and encourage them to attend as well.

Have a great year.

Ray Frovarp
SOA Registrar



State of the Membership Annual Report

One of my first goals as Membership Chairman was to update the database so that you, the members, would receive SOA information in a timely manner. I am pleased to report that, thanks to you, the database is almost 100% accurate.

If you have any changes to your contact information or wish to add an emergency contact or next-of-kin information, please fill out the change form on page 65 and return it to me.

No contact information will be shared with anyone without your prior consent. Annual member dues for 2016 are now payable. If you have not paid your dues, complete the information on the 2016 Dues Invoice form (next page) and return it to me with the appropriate check made payable to SOA or go to the SOA website and pay online using your credit card.

The SOA recruiting year ended with the addition of 53 new members (3 joined subsequent to the reunion) to the official roster.

Those additions show that we have added the following classes of members:

- 46 General/Annual & Life
- 5 Associate/Annual & Life
- 0 Operational Associate/Annual & Life
- 2 Honorary
- 53 Total active members

Membership applications are now available and can be completed on the SOA website. A paper application is included in this publication. Copy it and encourage those you know to join.

Ray Calafell, Jr.



Video History Project

The year 2015 was a good one for the SOA Video History Project. It was the first year we were able to interview people who were not able to attend SOAR. Thanks to the hard work of John “Tilt” Meyer, Valerie Alvord and Lisa Allen we were able to interview retired Col. Stephen Cavanaugh, Chief SOG and Marshall “Duke” Hall in their own homes. During SOAR XXXIX this year we were able to interview 14 members and we appreciate the time they took to be part of the Video History Project. Each member we interview provides unique insight into the world of Special Operations during the Vietnam War. For that reason I am asking members who wish to be part of the program to please sign up early for the interview slots at SOAR XL. If enough people are interested in doing an interview and will be arriving early or staying late the Video History Project will extend the number of days we conduct interviews.

This year also pointed out the need for additional funds for the Video History Project. To that end a number of people stepped forward and helped out. The SOA and the Video History Project are very grateful for General and Mrs. Singlaub’s generous donation to this vital project. Tom Carrell and the SOA Riders did a fabulous job selling raffle tickets and we thank them for their efforts. Shirley Williams contacted artist Joe Kline who donated several of his signed and numbered prints to the silent auction. Another was signed by attending members and is preserved in the SOA Archives. The funds generated from those prints will be used to visit more members in the coming year that would otherwise not be able to take part in an interview. But in order to keep this effort ongoing we will need more contributions to the Video History Project. A donation in any amount will help. The more we can raise the more people we can interview. As each member passes he takes with him his own personal part of the SOG story. We need to get to them while we still can. Please send all donations to Pete Buscetto, SOA Treasurer and make sure that you note it is for the Video History Project.

Finally, as the head of the Video History Project I would like to thank two special people who have supported the project. The first is Marshall “Duke” Hall. Thank you for the personalized plaques that were presented to Lisa and me during the reunion. Your support and friendship mean a lot personally and to the project. And to Lisa Allen I also say “thank you!” You are the one who makes the interviews what they are. I used that very point to help sign up several people for interviews. I told them you would make it easy. Each was skeptical, but each returned after his interview and told me you had done just that. Thanks for doing what you do.

Dennis J. Cummings
SOA Video History Project Chairman
314-298-0936
djc106@aol.com

MG John K. Singlaub Jedburgh Award



Beginning in 2016, the Special Operations Association (SOA) will sponsor a Major General John Singlaub Jedburgh Award. The award will be presented annually to a male or female Army Special Operations Soldier selected by USASOC that exemplifies the combat service, courage, and heroism that MG John Singlaub displayed throughout his distinguished Army career in Special Operations spanning World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam.



Example of the award that will be presented to the selected individual. A duplicate award will be on display at the USASOC HQ containing the names of all awardees.

Archives

SOAR XXXIX was very good for the SOA archives. I want to thank Terry Cadenbach and Dave Marks for assisting me during the reunion which allowed me to get out from behind the Archive table and gather some needed documents, photographs and artifacts. I also want to thank Joe Parnar for taking the time to use maps from Ray Smith's Ray's Map Room web site to produce a map of the Son Tay Raid showing the air routes into and out of the target area. Also displayed are the areas where the helicopters inserted and extracted the ground units. Along with the map Joe gave the archives an audio recording and transcription of the Son Tay mission. Joe was also able to secure for us copies of the SOG Summary Reports for 1967. These reports were gathered and compiled by Frank Greco and the SOA appreciates his generosity in allowing us to use his work as a reference resource. We hope that using this information and the maps from Ray Smith, Joe will be able to plot each mission contained in the reports as well as some of the Target Area maps that SOG used. I spoke with others regarding maps and other items, but am waiting to hear from them. Their additions will also be most welcome.

This year at SOAR we received a number of photographs from Bryon Louks. The photos taken during his time at CCC are excellent and several have appeared in a number of books. We are grateful to him for sharing them with the archives. Hopefully we will be able to share some of them in future SOA publications.

Much of what we have in the SOA archives was on display at SOAR XXXIX, but more is needed. In 2016 the SOA will celebrate its fortieth anniversary and we would like to have even more items to display. If you have anything that you can contribute in the way of uniforms, insignia, patches, equipment, photographs, books or maps please send them to me so they can be included in the Archive display. It is my hope that everyone will dig through their gear and find some things to donate to the archives and make the fortieth a reunion to remember.

If you wish to donate any items or have a question please contact me at:

Dennis J. Cummings
SOA Archivist
3649 Taylor Ave
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-298-0936
djc106@aol.com





**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
EARLY WARNING ORDER
SOAR XL**

WHEN: 17 - 21 October 2016

WHERE: THE ORLEANS HOTEL/CASINO
4500 West Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada, 89103
800.675.3267
www.orleanscasino.com/Groups

NOTE 1: If reservations are made using a credit or debit card, the first night's deposit will be charged immediately

DEADLINE: The deadline for the negotiated reduced SOAR accomodation rate is 16 September 2015

RATES: Sunday - Thursday, \$40 + tax + resort fee (per day)
Friday and Saturday, \$89 + tax + resort fee (per day)

NOTE 2: When making your reservations, inform the representative that you are with the Special Operations Association and provide them with the Group Code

A6SOC10

That is: Alpha-Six-Sierra-Oscar-Charlie-One-Zero

SEE YOU AT SOAR XL

Operation Brightlight

FACTS: The SOA, established in December 1977 is a fraternal veteran's organization of past and present American, and Allied military personnel who have conducted special operations in a combat environment commencing with WWII through, and including our most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

INFORMATIONAL: In 2005 the SOA Board of Directors established The SOA Operation Brightlight Committee to assist members of the SOA experiencing personal financial hardships to attend an annual Special Operations Association Reunion. Without some type of monetary assistance, those SOA members affected would not be able to attend a reunion. The committee investigates each candidate for assistance, votes on their eligibility, and submits full reports to the SOA Board of Directors on any funds used to bring the SOA member to SOAR.

ELIGIBILITY: All SOA members are eligible for assistance once approved by the committee. Since 2005, 35 SOA members, and in unique cases, three (3) family members, have received some level of assistance from the Operation Brightlight fund. All SOA members who received Brightlight assistance remain anonymous to the general membership. Members who have candidates for Operation Brightlight assistance are requested to contact committee members: John "Tilt" Meyer, (idahoonezero@sbcglobal.net) (619) 892-5983, Tim Schaaf, schaaf11t@msn.com, 951-551-1462, Rick Grabianowski, (rick@grabianowski.com), (775) 846-1138, or Pete Buscetto, ccsrecon@gmail.com, 863-669-7602.

CONTRIBUTIONS: The SOA supports the Operation Brightlight Fund through various fund raisers, direct monetary contributions and raffles. The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veterans organization, 501 (c) (19), operating on tax-deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Any, and all contributions to this fund should be made payable to the SOA, and annotated "BRIGHTLIGHT" in the MEMO column:

Attn: Pete Buscetto
Treasurer, SOA
934 Ashton Oaks Circle
Lakeland, FL 33813

Revised: 10 November 2015

Brightlight Committee Report

To: SOA Board of Directors
Fr: SOA Operation Brightlight Committee
Chairman: John S. Meyer
Committee members: Tim Schaff, Rick Grabianowski, Pete Buscetto
Re: Annual Report on SOA Recipients of Brightlight Assistance for SOAR XXXIX, 2015
Date: December 6, 2015

For SOAR XXXIX the SOA Brightlight Committee approved three full rides to the reunion for three SOA members who were in good standing.

Since SOAR XXXVIII, the committee had six potential BL candidate names submitted for consideration of assistance to attend SOAR XXXIX.

The three members attended SOAR XXXIX thanks to the generosity of SOA members in general, the SOA Riders and SOA Member Joe Conlon, in particular, who have made numerous, generous donations since the SOA BOD established the Brightlight Committee in 2005

We thank Clyde Sincere for overseeing the BL fund-raising campaign and SOA Treasurer Pete Buscetto for working closely with the three 2015 recipients to work out all the travel and reimbursement details, including paying the final hotel bills for them.

Per the SOA BOD's approved policy, BL recipients names are not publicly acknowledged. Upon request, the BL chairman will share those names with the SOA president.

Here is the cost breakdown of BL expenses for the four BL Recipients for SOAR XXXIX:

Air/ground travel and hotel rooms for three men;	\$2,714.92
Stipends [\$300 per man];	\$ 900.00
SOA Registration fees – [\$150 per man];	\$ 450.00
Grand Total	\$4,064.92

As of this date, the SOA Brightlight fund has \$9,000+ remaining after this total was paid.

I'd like to thank BL Committee members Rick Grabianowski, Tim Schaaf and Pete Buscetto for another year of service to our committee. Tim volunteered to serve on the BL Committee following the resignation of BL Committee founder member Tom Waskovich in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Meyer
Operation Brightlight Committee Chairman



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FACTS: The Special Operations Association Scholarship Grants are awarded by the SOA and must be used at an accredited, Junior College, Community College, Four-year College or University for studies which will lead to a Bachelor's Degree. Each Grant is for \$1,000 per semester not to exceed \$2,000 per year (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at the rate of \$1,000 per Fall and Spring Semesters).

BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY: A high school graduate or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, unmarried or married and under the age of 21 years at the time of application and must be a son, daughter or grandchild, natural or legally adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit and is a SOA member in good standing and such SOA member remains a member in good standing for the duration of the scholarship awarded. An applicant who is the child or grandchild of a MIA or KIA who was a member of SOA or who would have been eligible to be a member of SOA is also eligible to apply. A student who is already attending an institution of higher learning may apply, provided that they were under 21 years of age at the time that they began their studies at the institution, and have been enrolled full-time and in good standing since beginning their studies.

APPLICATIONS: Application packages are available from 15 September of the previous year to 15 March of the year that the grant will be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year the grant will be awarded.

AWARDS: On approximately 1 July of that year, selectees/recipients of a Special Operations Association Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

INFORMATIONAL: As of September 2014, 152 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the program began in 1983.

**Special Operations Association Scholarship
c/o Christopher E. McClure
Scholarship Committee Chairman
715 N. Bloodworth Street
Raleigh, NC 27604-1229
Email: cmcclure@tech-architect.com**

**EMAIL CHRIS McCLURE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATIONS**

Revised: 29 December 2014

George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Annual Report 2015

Recipient Status

- Three Class of 2016 students, Andrea Deuschle, Danielle Susan Edwards, and Samantha Shipman, remain in the program.
- Four Class of 2017 students, Sloane Echevarria, Elizabeth Oden, Shannon Randall and Lynsey Antilla, remain in the program. Ms. Lynsey Antilla, who started in the program as a Class of 2016 student, was on hold with the program, pending her completion of short-term military training service. She has returned to college full-time after her active duty military service obligation, and has been reinstated in the program as a Class of 2017 student.
- Two Class of 2018 students, Mr. Sean L. Wilson, and Ms. Kristen Rogers, a new recipient this year, are in the program.
- Three Class of 2019 students, Zebulun Criswell, Claire Lacey, and Samuel Shumate, are also new in the program.
- Twelve scholarship recipients therefore are currently active and remain eligible in the program this semester. The following is an overview of recipients by class, not including the student who is on hold:

➤ Seniors	3
➤ Juniors	4
➤ Sophomores	2
➤ Freshmen	3

The eligible twelve scholarship active recipients have been sent checks for the 2015 Fall Semester.

2015 Financials

- The SOA's total outstanding scholarship obligation at this time is \$46,000. The following is the current outstanding liability by class:

➤ Seniors (Class of 2016)	\$3,000
➤ Juniors (Class of 2017)	12,000
➤ Sophomores (Class of 2018)	10,000
➤ Freshmen (Class of 2019)	<u>21,000</u>
Total	\$46,000

- Available funds in the designated scholarship accounts as of 1 October 2015 are as follows:
 - Total Scholarship assets \$92,750.00

More current information may be found in the current Treasurer's Report.

Summary:

• Current scholarship value for four years is \$8,000. Stipend checks will be \$1,000 per semester for this year’s recipients, for a total scholarship value of \$8,000 per recipient. This represents the stipend level that began with the class scholarship application cycle in 2011. It is recommended that the current total scholarship value be maintained for the new scholarship awards, beginning in Fall 2016, for a total maximum scholarship value of \$8,000 per recipient. The amount of available funds for award is based upon the amount raised from all sources, less program expenses, between the previous two SOAR’s (for the 2016 academic year’s awards, that means from the end of SOAR 2014 through the end of SOAR 2015), with award recommendations being limited by that amount, plus additional funds as authorized by the SOA Board, if the Board deems it necessary or desirable. Some cushion has been maintained by students occasionally not remaining in the program, for one reason or another, by suspension for academic reasons, by not awarding full four year scholarships to advanced-standing students, and by not having an “even” amount for scholarships or by not having enough applicants for the amount raised in the previous year. This “cushion” enables us to occasionally have the flexibility to award additional scholarship money in any given year to deserving recipients. The program remains fiscally sound.



Christopher E. McClure, AIA
Scholarship Committee Chairman



Andrea Deuschle



Claire Lacey



Danielle Edwards



Kristen Rogers



Sean Wilson



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOA Warrior's Family Fund

The SOA Warrior's Family Fund was established in 2012 to assist SOA family members who couldn't afford to attend SOAR. Family members who need assistance can apply for financial help by contacting Bill Werther, Horace Boner or Art Driscoll. In 2014 we helped finance four SOA family members.

The committee investigates each family for assistance, votes on their eligibility and submits a full report to the SOA Board of Directors.

August 15th 2015 will be the deadline to submit you application for assistance.

Contributions:

Any and all contributions to this fund should be made payable to the SOA Warrior's Family Fund.

SOA Warrior's Family Fund: Our Warrior's Fund people were Robert "Bob" Huston and Brother John Huston. The Huston brothers are the brothers of Charles "Greg" Huston who was on Team Asp along with Alan "Al" Boyer and George "Ron" Brown. Team Asp launched out of FOB-4 was lost on 28 March 1968. To this day the three are still MIA.

Robert Huston needed no support; he received the \$200.00 spending money.

John Huston received airfare (\$630.20), registration and hotel lodging plus the \$200.00 spending money.

Robert and John made worthwhile contacts and much needed information concerning their brother, they were very happy.

Submitted by
Bill Werther, Chairman

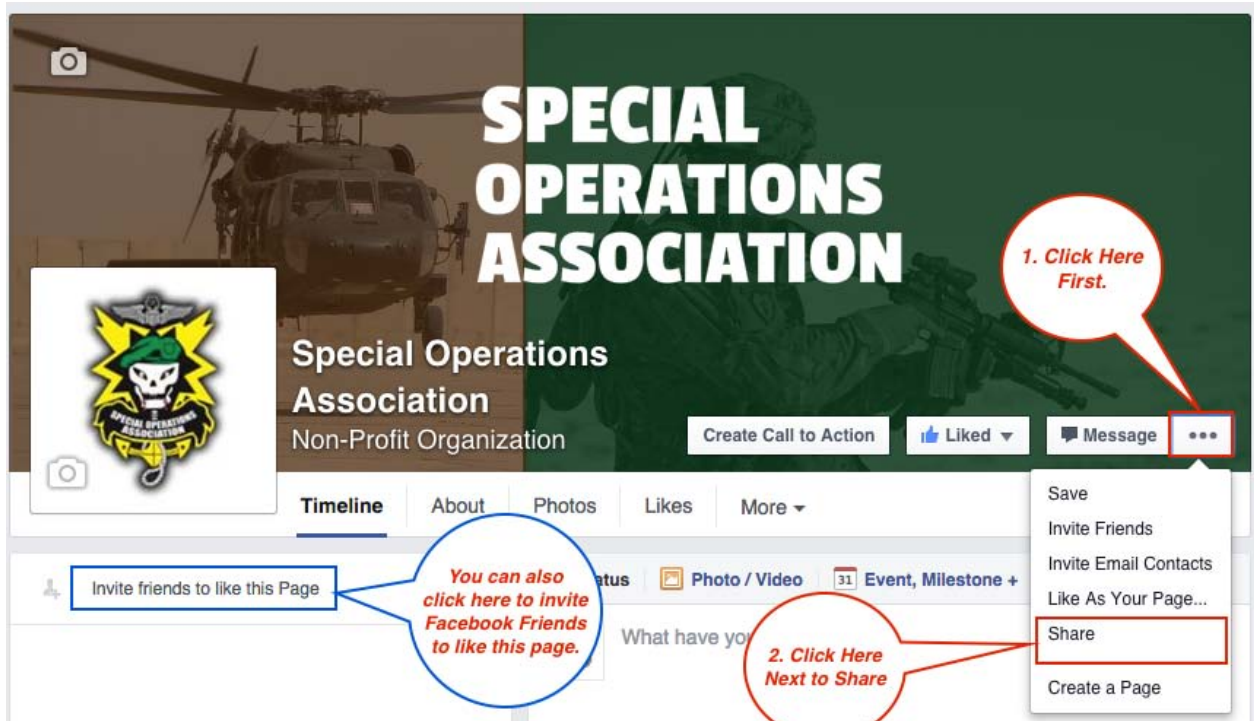
DPAA Request for Information

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency investigates losses of our personnel missing in action. They would like to contact the following personnel who might have information regarding our missing personnel. If you would like to communicate with DPAA, please contact Matt Kristoff, tel (703)699-1240, email Matthew.kristoff2.civ@mail.mil

1. Anyone on the recon or Bright Light team that buried the remains of Capt Joseph Rosato, 558th Tactical Fighter Squadron near Dak Ha Township, Dak To District, Kontum Province.
2. SFC Larry S. McMillian and SSAG James R. Moore regarding SSG Danny Taylor on RT Montana September 66.
3. Any team member on a CCN Team that was on the Feb 67 mission with SFC Domingo Borja in Laos.
4. Anyone on the team with SGT Howard Carpenter (B-50/Project Omega, FOB 2) that was KIA in Laos on Mar 67.
5. MSG Minor Plyant, SSG Michael Stanfield and SSG Jay Graves that may have involved in an attempt to find 4 members of a UH-1C lost in Quang Nam Province on 8 May 68 from the 281st Attack Helo Company, Project Delta/B-52
6. Anyone with knowledge of enemy order of battle in Salavan Province, Laos, circa 23 May 68 when SFC Glen Lane and SSG Robert Owen from RT Idaho were lost.
7. Cordinne McMurray concerning 1LT James Birchim RT New Hampshire.
8. Frank Belletire reference SP4 William Copley from RT Vermont, 13 November 1968.
9. Thomas M. Turner (USAF) regarding the loss of six 606th Special Ops Squadron personnel on a C123 over Laos on 13 Dec 68.
10. Any Bright Light team members and 195th AHC members that were involved in an attempt to find 1LT Harold Kroske, RT Hammer, 11 Feb 69 in Kratie Province, Cambodia.

11. James C. Lamotte regarding the loss of SFC Ricardo Davis, RT Copperhead on 20 Mar 69 in Laos.
12. Any of the four members that were extracted on 27 Sep 69 from Phouvongxai District, Attapu Province, Laos, by a UH1H from the 57th Aviation Company that lost PFC John Huntley.
13. Anyone with information on the crash and loss of Maj Gerald Helmich, A1H pilot, 602nd Special Ops Sqdn, on 12 Nov 69 in Boualapha District, Khammouan Province, Laos.
14. Anyone involved with the 30 Jun 70 and 27 Aug 70 for CDR Donald Aldern, A7A pilot in Attapu Province, Laos, lost on 29 Jun 70.
15. "Oliveras (no further info)" and Fred Wunderlich regarding the 4 Jul 70 loss of SFC Charles Bookout, RT Colorado, in Salavan Province, Laos.
16. CPT Steve Wallace and SSG Jeff Mauceri regarding the 4 Dec 70 loss of SGT George Green, RT Washington, in Attapu Province, Laos.
17. 1LT McCarty or anyone with knowledge of the loss of SGT James Harwood, and 1LT Gerald Kinsman, on 15 Jan 71 in An Giang Province, South Vietnam.
18. Pat Mitchell and John St. Laurent regarding the loss of SGT David Mixer, RT Colorado in Attapu Province, Laos, on 29 Jan 71.
19. John "Rowdy" Yeats, Richard Hendrick, Kenneth Holmes, Coy Reese, Robert Cook, and Lemuel McGlothorn regarding the loss of two WOs from the 158th Avn Bn who were trying to extract RT Alaska on 17 May 71 from Quang Tri Province.

Special Operations Association on Social Media



Visit our SOA Face Book page to receive updates on Special Operations related events, reunions, information, and humor or visit the SOA webpage at <http://www.specialoperations.org>

Continued from page 21

Hanna, who describes himself as a “non-joiner” learned about the SOA reunion from SOG Historian Jason Hardy and SOA member Mike Taylor – chairman of the SOA’s POW/MIA Committee. Hanna signed up with the SOA and attended the reunion, meeting men he hadn’t seen since Training Group or when he was a medic at CCN, 10th Group and out of NKP.

On Oct. 20th, 45 years and three months after the firey rescue atop Co Roc, Hanna met Makool in the hall way outside the Hospitality Room.. “When we first started talking, he asked me about the lieutenant who had broke his leg, Lt. Weisbrod, on July 20, (1970). Then it hit me, he was the medic who saved my ass all those years ago. I couldn’t believe. I finally met him at SOAR...Meeting John Hanna was priceless. It was like an instant high for me, like that Chicago song it was Saturday In The Park , like the Fourth of July all wrapped up in one. I was blown away.”

For Hanna, “It was a once in a life time experience. I never had an experience like that. At the time, it was just an insert that went tragically bad. I have to say, meeting Crash was the highlight of my time in Vegas at SOAR. I’ll be back next year.”

Special Operations Association Advertising Rate Sheet

Front Outside Cover is Not Available

Back Outside Cover \$1700

Front and Back Inside Cover \$1500

Interior Full Page \$1400

Interior ½ Page \$400

Interior ¼ Page \$275

All Ads are full color

Camera Ready Artwork is furnished by advertiser.

Ads must be approved by publication manager in advance.

Ads must be consistent with current SOA guidelines.

Ads are based upon space availability.

For more information contact:

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.

598N 1620W

St. George, Utah 84770-6691

sincere@skyviewmail.com







Three Season Box set - 15 hours of viewing with rare images, video footage, interviews and informed commentary with extra **The AUSTRALIAN** feature material included. By Dr Bruce Horsfield producer of *Long Tan: The True Story*

SASR-THE UNTOLD HISTORY

NEWLY RELEASED - The 11 episode history set tells the in depth story of the Australian SAS from its birth through to recent operations in Afghanistan including the advent of ISIS. With footage, photos, interviews and reflections from founding members, veteran SASR and current serving members, Ben Robert-Smith VC and Mark Donaldson VC.

Available in the Hand Crafted Leather Bound Limited Edition Box set until 31st December at the special Christmas offer of USD\$345. Open Edition Box set USD\$85.



Order directly from Bruce via forwardscoutfilms@gmail.com

For more details visit www.forwardscout.com or www.theaustralianSAS.com

THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE (SAS)

The Review was written by SOA Member John Russell

The Australian Special Air Service (SAS) is a unique and very highly trained formidable fighting Special Operations unit which performs, not only covert and clandestine special operation combat missions, but also missions that involve the analyses, protections, and elimination of terrorism throughout the world in which SAS units are necessary. It is without question that the SAS units are very effective fighting forces as they fought with different Mobile Strike Force (Mike Force) units throughout various areas of South Vietnam.

To further expound and understand their missions, the SAS has developed several video depictions of their actual training regimens, followed by video depictions of actual combat missions in the South East Asian nations, including Borneo, Indonesia, and South Vietnam. What is particularly intriguing are the training methodologies and the use of equipment very similar to, and in many instances the very same used by US Special Forces units. It is also interesting to note that there are many different photographic depictions of weapons displayed, including captured weapon caches of NVA and Viet Cong units.

There are a total of six (6) Digital Video Discs (DVDs), encompassing three (3) separate seasons, which are further separated into two (2) video disc packets with each packet stored within their individual protective hard plastic retainers, inside a beautifully designed hardback protective cover for all three seasons. Each cover is titled "The Australian SAS – The Untold History". Alongside their respective titles is the very famous SAS

emblem which bears the globally recognized motto of “Who Dares Wins.” The DVDs are recorded in high definition color, and are broken down into three seasons further explained below.

Season 1 (Disc 1) is separated into four (4) parts (Part 1 - “Heads and Hearts”; Part 2 - “The Arc of Instability”; Part 3 - “The Phantoms of the Jungle”, and Part 4 - “Fortress Australia”). This first season begins with the SAS’ evolution in 1957 and because of their small size as a fighting unit, they were oftentimes referred to as the “Ugly Duckling” of the Australian Army. Much of the negative projections towards the SAS units were based on their being shrouded in total secrecy in their training and mission readiness, to the extent that even their faces are covered from public view, thus envy and jealousy ensued and as a result, they were called “Cowboys”, a term which appears to be analogous to certain negative relations which US Special Forces units experienced with certain top commanders in Vietnam. Nevertheless, they proved themselves as a formidable fighting force in the jungles of Borneo during the Indonesian Konfrontasi (a violent confrontation which occurred during 1963-66 as a result of Indonesia’s opposition to the creation of Malaysia). Of special note is also a very interesting biblical reference to “Gideon’s 300” in which men of Gideon’s army were handpicked for fighting because of their method of drinking water with only one hand, while keeping their weapons ready and being watchful for any possible surprise attack. Disc 2 contains a photo gallery and Bonus interviews of former SAS members whom participated in the various SAS missions in their combat AORs.

Season 2 (Disc 1) – contains parts 5 (“The Black and the Green”); 6 (“The Search for Meaning”) & 7 (The Postmodern Regiment”). This season’s DVDs depicts numerous aspects of SAS training skills of airborne operations involving static line jumping, HAHO and HALO freefalling; water operations with the US SEALs, and vehicular mounted operations. The vehicular mounted operations covered very large areas within the northern borders of Australia. One may recall the past American TV series of a vehicular patrol combat unit which was then titled “Rat Patrol” which seems to correlate with the SAS’ mission in the mountain and desert regions of Australia often covering areas from 1500 – 3000 kilometers. They also used motorbikes for rapid response and in areas with limited vehicular access. Additional video coverage depicts a tremendous and expansive use of their first Counter-Terrorist (CT) units when terrorism became an international threat. Disc 2 also contains a photo gallery and bonus interviews by former SAS members and their top brass whom commanded these units.

Season 3 (Disc 1) is a culmination of the SAS history which contains Parts 8 (“Force of Choice”); Part 9 (“The Strategic Soldier”); Part 10 (“A War of Attrition”), and Part 11 (“Fighting the Asymmetric War”). In this video the SAS CT squadrons seized water vessels and during the USA post 9/11 tragedy, the SAS joined Coalition forces in Afghanistan in the search for Osama Bin Laden. This video also depicts the joining of US Special Forces and the SAS in fighting the asymmetric war, in which the Taliban command structure was devastated.

It is extremely difficult to present a fully documented synopsis of the numerous strategic actions in how SAS forces are deployed on the global platform; however, you may be assured that once viewing begins, it will also be very difficult to stop before completely finishing each disc. An unofficial opinion is rendered to the extent that these discs provide what is perceived as tremendous educational as well as entertainment benefits.

SOA Policy Statement Reminder

The following applies to members and guests desiring to maintain a Vendor Table(s) and/or place Advertisements in either the SOAR After-Action-Report, (SOAR AAR) or SOAR Pre-Reunion Packet, (SOAR PRP):

- a. **VENDOR/EXHIBITOR:** The SOA has a policy relating to items sold to attendees at any SOAR. Vendors and/or Exhibitors must ensure that all items offered, are in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value” and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA”. Vendors and Exhibitors agree to withdraw from display and/or sale of any items deemed unacceptable and/or not in good keeping with SOA policy. Unless previously approved, items bearing the SOA Logo will not be displayed, nor offered for sale. No Vendor or Exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or share allotted space with another Vendor or Exhibitor unless prior approval has been obtained. Vendors and/or Exhibitors are solely responsible for their wares. Neither, the Orleans Hotel/Casino or the Special Operations Association will assume responsibility for any lost or stolen items.
- b. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** The SOA has a policy relating to any Advertisement placed in either the SOAR AAR or SOAR PRP. Any prospective Advertiser desiring to place an Advertisement in either the AAR or PRP must ensure that the Advertisement is in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value”, and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA, or any of its members”.
- c. **SOA RESPONSIBLE AGENT:** The Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee is the responsible “Agent”, acting on behalf of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in all matters relating to acceptance, or rejection of prospective Vendor/Exhibitor requests, or Placement of Advertisements in either SOA annual publications.
- d. **SOA BOARD:** Finally, in the event a prospective Vendor/Exhibitor or Advertiser does not agree with the decision of the Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee, the SOA Board is the final arbitrator. Anything that it deems is inappropriate will not be allowed for display or publication.

Endowments, Bequests, and Wills

A number of SOA members have expressed an interest in including the association as a beneficiary on their wills, or other estate planning. The SOA has been requested to provide some information on what would be necessary to accomplish this task.

First - It is imperative that the membership understand that the SOA cannot provide any legal advice, or, can any information imparted to the membership be relied upon as “legal advice or legal language sufficient for all persons, jurisdictions and circumstances.” Prospective benefactors must realize that laws on descent and devise, wills, trusts and estates vary from state to state. Typically, the laws of the state in which the benefactor was domiciled govern the administration of his estate, though even this can be affected by property in other states.

Second - Any member considering the SOA as a benefactor in his will must consult an attorney or licensed estate planner to ensure compliance with the laws of his state. For example, one aspect of trust and estate laws that does vary significantly is the number of witnesses necessary for a codicil or an amendment to a will (or for the creation of an entire will itself) to be validly created and recognized by the courts and law, and whether the document must have each of the witnesses’ signatures notarized. Despite those variations in law, having at least two witness signatures notarized should ensure legal validity in most cases. Nevertheless, everyone is encouraged to consult an attorney to ensure that all laws and requirements have been met in all estate planning.

Third - The Special Operations Association will accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for harm, difficulty, or invalidity of any will or other estate planning document which is adversely affected by a member (or his family’s) sole reliance on this language without consulting a qualified attorney, licensed in the state in which the member is domiciled.

Fourth - The following is provided as possible language that could be included in a will where the testator wished to leave something to the Special Operations Association:

I. General language for a Bequest

- A. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 2670 Lookout Lane, Kissimee, Fl 34746-2883, for its unrestricted use.” Or,
- B. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 2670 Lookout Lane, Kissimee, Fl 34746-2883 for the specific purpose of supporting (one of the following specific projects):
 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.

2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
4. The SOA Warrior's Family Fund.
5. The SOA General Fund.

II. Specific Bequest language:

- A. "I give _____ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property - home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 2670 Lookout Lane, Kissimee, Fl 34746-2883, for its unrestricted use." Or,
- B. "I give _____ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property – home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 2670 Lookout Lane, Kissimee, Fl 34746-2883 for the specific purpose (one of the following specific projects):
 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
 4. The SOA Warrior's Family Fund.
 5. The SOA General Fund.
- C. If at any time in the judgment of the governing body of the Organization, it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the stated purpose of the bequest, the governing body of the Organization shall determine a purpose as near as possible to the purpose stated in the bequest.

III. There are a multitude of other possibilities, some of which are:

- A. Giving all or a percentage of what remains of an estate after all specific bequests having been satisfied and debts and expenses have been paid (the "rest, residue and remainder of the estate").
- B. Give all or a portion of your estate in the event that a named beneficiary is not alive when the testator dies.
- C. Establish a testamentary charitable trust in one's will, with a "pour-over" clause to designate which assets are to be placed in a trust with income paid to one or more beneficiaries for their lifetime, with the trust going to the veteran's organization upon the death of the last income beneficiary.

Establish a trust in perpetuity in one's will, funded by some asset(s), (e.g., Life Insurance) with the beneficiary being the veteran's organization and the net income to be paid to the veteran's organization and to be disbursed by the governing body of the veteran's organization either for a specific purpose or in their sole discretion.

Note - For your planning purposes, the Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense (DOD), and by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a non-profit veterans organization 501 (c) (19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Should you have any queries whatsoever, at anytime, always consult with your attorney.



To: Board of Directors
Special Operations Association (SOA)

November 11, 2015

Subject: Post Event Report

We wish to convey our appreciation for the opportunity to attend SOAR XXXIX.

OASIS Group deployed assets that allowed us to fully staff the table you provided with two of our claims experts.

During the time period OASIS representatives were able to;

1. Provide advice or assistance to 28 of your members.
2. Are remaining in contact with 6 members to complete initial or re-opened claims
3. Are remaining in contact with 3 members who have been inadequately represented by other Veteran Service Organizations and require additional claims (Missed claims for presumptive Agent Orange ailments, were not questioned about musculoskeletal ailments, failed to submit claims for Ischemia, knee replacement surgery, etc.)
4. Advised several members already working with other Veteran Service Organizations about additional issues that needed to be added to their claims prior to submission.

Total cost incurred by OASIS Group was \$2031.27

Suggestions for improvement;

1. The SOA publishes a Pre-Reunion Package (PRP) usually 60 + days before the actual event. OASIS may provide a full page (Tear Out) insert that outlines:
 - a. The services OASIS provides.
 - b. What documents the individuals should bring to help OASIS representatives assist attendees.
 - c. A contact point (Phone or Web insert) to pre-schedule appointments
2. Upon request, OASIS will forward the information to be included in the Pre Reunion Package by the suggested date for publication. We will need that date to comply with this requirement. This will allow the attendees adequate time to obtain the necessary documents.

Steve Epperson
President
OASIS Group
SOF Helping SOF

The OASIS Group works with Special Operations active duty and fraternal organizations to assist veterans with their VA claims. www.oasisgrp.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Planned Monthly Giving Program

SOA Charities have always depended on the generosity of our members and their families. From the very beginning, this is how we have always operated and, for the most part, this is how we will most likely continue to operate into the future. To make this easier and more efficient for everyone, the Board of Directors has voted to begin a new program that allows our members, their families and friends, as well as the general public to make donations on a planned monthly basis in a way that is hassle free and easy to manage.

Members can use the attached Form or sign up on-line to begin making payment on a monthly basis that are comfortable to their unique budgets and circumstances.

The Planned Monthly Giving Program is designed to keep the Member firmly in control at all times:

- ✓ Members **choose the charity** they want to support. Simply check the box next to the fund you want to have your donation applied.

- ✓ Members choose **how much** to donate each month by entering the dollar amount on the Monthly Contribution Line. There are no high or low limits (below \$5.00/month) and members and enter any number in \$10.00 increments (\$10.00, \$20.00, etc.).

- ✓ Members choose **how** they want their donation to be paid by selecting one of the available options.

- ✓ Members choose **when** they want their donations to be paid by selecting the day when it is most convenient for them to have debit card, automatic withdrawals or credit card charges made to their accounts.

- ✓ Members **may change** any of these options at any time at their convenience. They can elect to increase or decrease the amount of their donation, how it's to be paid, when it's to be paid, from what account it's to be drawn from or can simply withdraw from the program at any time.

The Planned Monthly Giving Program was designed to maximize control for our members while minimizing hassle and involvement. Register just one time; forget about it until you want to make a change.

Each of the individual SOA Charities and the General Fund have been set up on the new web site with this program to allow you to take advantage of making monthly donations. It is simple and easy to do.

Before year-end you can go to the SOA Web Site: <http://www.specialoperations.org/> and you'll find a new tab entitled "**Planned Monthly Giving Program.**" For now though, even though it is not activated, you can get a feel of how it will work when you go to any of the charities listed under the *Donate On-Line* Header on the bottom right side of the home page. This is currently set up for one- time donations.

Each of the charities and funds currently available for participation are listed and as new ones are brought on line they will be added to this list. For now though, just scroll down until you find the one you want to support first, click on it and you will see a brief description of the charity and a button titled "*Donate Now.*"

Clicking this button credits this and all future donations to your selected charity. Again you can select any amount *starting at just \$10.00, \$20.00* or as much as you are comfortable giving. After entering the dollar amount you will be asked to complete the phishing protection input which is an electronic means of protecting you and your account. Just enter whatever crazy combination of letters and numbers, being sure to use capitals as indicated, on the screen.

This will open a secure portal where you can choose to make your contribution an on-going contribution by checking the box in the upper right corner or leave it blank and your donation will be a one-time donation. Once you have completed that, just fill in the remainder of the information for your credit or debit card and that is all there is to it. This box is what will make it possible for ***continuous giving.*** When this box is activated, your check off will mean the amount you have designated will be withdrawn from your account on a monthly basis.

We encourage every member to identify at least one SOA Charity or fund you will support through the Planned Monthly Giving Program and *to start supporting them on a monthly basis* with whatever *amount is most comfortable* for your specific situation.

For more information or to have your specific questions contact
Director Cork Motsett at cork130@gmail.com



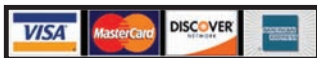
SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Planned Monthly Giving Program

Registration Form

Special Operations Association Charities and Operations depends on the generosity of our members, their families, friends and the Public to help those in need and who are most deserving of our assistance. The Planned Monthly Giving Program is an opportunity to schedule your donations in monthly increments that best fit your personal situation and doesn't create a financial strain on your own budget. To participate just fill in this form and return it in the envelope provided, fax or e-mail it to the Treasurer (Fax (863)646-9872; or e-mail ccsrecon@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR XL.

Monthly Contributions to be made by:
 Payment by Check (Personal or Corporate): Checks Mailed to SOA Treasurer: 934 Ashton Oaks Circle Lakeland, FL 33813
If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely
 Payment by Credit Card: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover Card



Monthly donations by credit card can be made on the SOA WEB-SITE:
www: specialoperations.org.

Date Credit Card to be charged/Automatic Withdrawals made each month*: Please check only one box
 1st of Billing Month 10th of Billing Month 15th of Billing Month
 20th of Billing Month 25th of Billing Month 30th of Billing Month

*The bank will charge your credit card or make the automatic withdrawal from your checking/savings

Please use the SOA website for recurring payments. Contact the SOA Treasurer if you need help setting up recurring payments at soatreasurer@specialoperations.org.

Payment by Automatic Withdrawals: You can set up automatic payments to the SOA please contact the Treasurer by email with contact information so he may call you

IMO (In Memory Of) Assignment:

Please check the appropriate box to identify which fund your donation is to be assigned and in whose name you wish to memorialize. Please include the entire name of the person you want remembered: (Please Print Neatly)

- George C. Morton Scholarship Fund IMO: _____
- Brightlight Fund IMO: _____
- SOA Warrior Family Fund IMO: _____
- Video History Fund IMO: _____
- General Fund IMO: _____
- Special Operations Association Foundation: _____

Monthly Charge/Withdrawal Authorization:

By signing below, you are authorizing the Special Operations Association to charge your credit card or make automatic withdraws from your checking/savings account in the amount specified on the designated day, below. Withdrawal/charges will continue monthly until written notice to stop or suspend charges/withdrawals is submitted to the Treasurer.

My authorization to charge my credit card shall remain in effect until I notify the SOA Treasurer in writing that I wish to end this agreement and the SOA has had reasonable time to act on it.

A record of each payment will be included on my card statement and will serve as my receipt. In the event of an error, I have the right to instruct my credit card corporation to reverse any charge. I understand I must do this by written notice within 15 days of the date of the credit card statement, or within 45 days after the charge was made.

Authorizing Signature: _____

Membership Application

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP or STATUS FOR WHICH APPLYING (See Membership Criteria)

GENERAL **ASSOCIATE** **OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE**

NOTE: If you apply for General Membership but the listed qualification does not meet the criteria for General Membership, will you accept Associate or Operational Associate status? Yes No

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	
STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP+4
PHONE	EMAIL	SSN or SERVICE NUMBER	

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME _____ PHONE # _____

NOTE: General Membership, Associate status, and Operational Associate status all require qualification. Applications will be reviewed by the membership committee.

QUALIFICATION(S): (Attach separate sheet with Job Duties. Be specific.)

QUALIFYING UNIT	DATES	DUTY & MOS	LOCATION

NOTE: All applicants require either a sponsor who is an SOA General Member in good standing, and who has personal and first-hand knowledge of the applicant’s qualification(s), or documentation of qualification(s). Sponsorship is the primary and preferred method for all applicants. However, a sponsor is required for all with stated qualification(s) post-1986 (In lieu of sponsorship, documentation confirming qualification(s) may be considered).

SPONSOR

SPONSOR’S FULL NAME	SOA NUMBER
SPONSOR’S SIGNATURE (optional, but recommended)	DATE

SPONSOR’S STATEMENT: I am a General Member of the SOA in good standing. I have read and understand the SOA membership criteria. I hereby state that I have personal and first hand knowledge that the applicant named heron meets the requirements for membership in the SOA and thereby recommend he be accepted as a (circle one) GENERAL, ASSOCIATE, or OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE

APPLICANT'S OATH

I affirm that I have read and understand the SOA Membership Criteria and that the information submitted on this membership application form is true, correct, and voluntarily given. I understand that SOA membership or status entitles me to the rights and privileges specified in the SOA By-Laws.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Check or Money Order Number:

Annual \$35

Life \$505

Life \$305 (over 70 only - proof required)

MEMBERSHIP FEES

Annual dues are \$30.00 USD. Life dues are \$500.00 USD for those under 70 years of age and \$300 for those 70 and older. A \$5.00 USD application fee is required. Accordingly, initial annual membership total funds due with application are \$35.00 USD, and initial life membership total funds due with application are either \$505.00 or \$305.00 USD, as applicable. Proof of age required for those 70 or over applying for initial Life membership. **MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION or SOA. DO NOT SEND CASH.** THEREAFTER, ANNUAL DUES ARE \$30.00 USD, PAYABLE ON A CALENDAR YEAR BASIS.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION, ANY SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION, AND FULL INITIAL PAYMENT TO:

**Ray Calafell, Jr.
Chairman, Membership Committee
105 South Armenia Avenue
Tampa, FL 33609-3307**

MAKE CHECKS AND MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION or SOA INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read Membership Criteria before applying. All applicants must meet all requirements.
2. Complete all information requested.
3. Please list your full zip code (Zip+4).
4. Attach additional sheets as required. You must define your Job Description in enough detail for the Membership Committee to understand your qualifications.
5. A sponsor is strongly preferred but is not mandatory. It facilitates processing of applications. If no sponsor, sufficient supporting documentation of qualification must be enclosed with application.
6. Sponsorship is mandatory for any applicant for whom sufficient supporting documentation is not available (e.g., present day or recent operations).
7. Full initial payment is required with application.
8. The SOA assumes no responsibility for finding documentation or sponsorship for any applicant. Those responsibilities fall solely to the applicant.
9. Provide proof of age if 70 or over and applying for initial Life membership.
10. **DO NOT SEND CASH. INITIAL APPLICATION FUNDS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.**

THE SOA's MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT

**To honor and memorialize MACVSOG's Medal of Honor recipients and the men of MACVSOG
Limited Edition of 250 prints
Creative Work of Robert L. Noe, CCN 69-70 and Artist Frank Allen**



Certificate of Authenticity certifying that each signature on the print is original.

Each print is 20 x 24 inches and contains the names of all of MACVSOG's Medal of Honor (MOH) recipients and the original signatures of the five surviving MACVSOG MOH recipients:

Col Robert C. Howard, US Army Special Forces, CCC, Hatchet Force Rescue (Most decorated serviceman in U.S. History, submitted for the MOH three times in 13 months and appearing on the cover of the Green Beret Magazine October 1969).

NOTE: Colonel Howard passed away on 23 December 2009.

Col James P. Fleming, US Air Force 20th Special Operation Squadron's Green Hornet for rescuing RT Chisel, CCS, from imminent annihilation.

Lt Michael E. Thornton, US Navy SEAL, STDAT, for saving the life of Lt Thomas Norris an MOH recipient (The only time in US History when a recipient is awarded a MOH for saving the life of another MOH recipient).

Lt Thomas R. Norris, US Navy SEAL, STDAT, for the famed 4 day "Bat 21" rescues of two downed pilots. Six months later, he sustained a near-fatal head wound in action and was rescued by his fellow Navy SEAL, Michael Thornton.

SGM Jon R. Cavaiani, US Army Special Forces, CCN, for his two day defense of Radio Relay Site Hickory. He was captured during the battle and was a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam for 1 year and 8 months.

NOTE: SGM Cavaiani passed away 29 July 2014.

PRINT IMAGES

Upper Left: Lt George Sisler, FOB 2, Hatchet Force, was Killed in Action (KIA) in Feb 1967 during a bomb damage assessment (BDA). He was the first MACVSOG Medal of Honor recipient and the first intelligence officer ever to receive the MOH.

Lower Left: Major Larry A. Thorne was lost, Missing in Action (MIA), on MACVSOG's first mission, 18 October 1965. A native of Finland, he was a recipient of the Finnish Mannerheim Cross, the equivalent of the US Medal of Honor, while serving in the Finnish Army against Russia during WWII. His remains were recovered in Laos 37 years after being declared MIA.

Right Center: On strings, during a STABO extraction in 1968, are SFC Walter Hawley, SFC Agostino Chiarello, and SFC Clifford Roberts.

Bottom Center: At Kham Duc, RVN, a Special Forces "A" camp on the Vietnam-Laotian border and a MACVSOG training and launch site, Recon Team Iowa stands in front of a Vietnamese H-34, "King Bee" helicopter prior to the launch of MACVSOG's first mission on October 18, 1965. Top left, SFC Jim "Halo" Smith; 4th from left, top, One-Zero (1-0), Team Leader SGM Charles L. "Slats" Petry, and bottom left SFC Steven W. Comerford.

Upper Right: The Radio Relay Site "Leg Horn" located in Laos.

Lower Right: A Navy SEAL Recon Team.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION'S MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT ORDER FORM

NAME: _____ SOA Member Number: _____

Number of Prints X \$150.00 per print: \$ _____

SHIPPING: \$15.00 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Payment Options: _____

Check or Money Order #: _____

(Please Print Check or Money Order Number)

Please make payable to: "Special Operations Association" or "SOA"

Credit/Debit Card: VISA _____ M/C _____ AMEX _____ DISC _____

ACCOUNT: _____ EXPIRATION: _____

NAME AS PRINTED ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE (DAY): _____ EVENING: _____

CELL: _____

Submit Completed Order Form to:
Robert L. Strange
Attention: Special Operations Association (SOA QM Sales)
1492 Lake James Dr.
Prudenville, MT 48651
bobstrange@qmsales.org

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTE: Administrative Use Only

Date Order Received: _____

Date Payment Processed: _____

Date Shipped: _____

Print # Requested and/or Available: _____

Form available on SOA website: www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Request you provide any changes that may have occurred in your personal data

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

SOA Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code + Four: _____

Phone: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Dispatch to:

SOA Membership Committee
Ray Calafell
105 South Armenia Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33609-3307
enzocalafell@prodigy.net

Form available on SOA website: www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

NEXT OF KIN

TO: All SOA Members:

Request you provide the following necessary data to the Secretary, SOA in order that he can work in concert with the Chaplain, SOA to determine the "NEXT-OF-KIN" (NOK) of a deceased member. Provisions have been made in the SOA Database to list a NOK for all members. This is a voluntary initiative. If you wish to participate in this initiative request you provide the following information to the Chairman, SOA Membership Committee by mail or e-mail:

SOA MEMBER:

*Last Name: _____

*First Name: _____

*SOA Number: _____

NEXT-OF-KIN:

*Relationship: _____

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+Four: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NOTE: If any of the above information is the same as yours (as in the case of most spouses) request you leave it blank. You are also requested to keep the Secretary, SOA apprised of any changes that may occur.

*Required Information.

DISPATCH TO:

SOA Membership Committee
Ray Calafell
105 South Armenia Avenue
Tampa, Florida 33609-3307
enzocalafell@prodigy.net

Form available on SOA website: www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Quartermaster Sales

Internet Sales - www.specialoperations.org

Quartermaster: Bob Strange (989-202-2732)

EMAIL: bobstrange@QMSales.org

All 2X add \$2.00

Item	Price	#	Total
Ring, SOA 10ct gold W/ design options (includes shipping & insurance)	\$1500.00	___	_____
Ring, SOA Sterling Silver, w/design options (includes shipping & insurance)	\$500.00	___	_____
<i>Rings are Special Order through Quartermaster</i>			
MACVSOG Commemorative MOH print (includes shipping and insurance)	\$165.00	___	_____
Book, "When Terror Comes To Main Street" by Joe Ruffini	\$20.00	___	_____
Tie, Official SOA 58 " ___ 64" ___	\$25.00	___	_____
Vest, Fleece, Nylon Reversible, Black W/SOA logo S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$55.00	___	_____
Jacket, Polyester shell, mesh upper back, and nylon lower back, front and back vents W/SOA log Embroidered S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$60.00	___	_____
Denim Shirt, Long sleeve, W/ SOA logo Embroidered S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$36.00	___	_____
Denim Shirt, Short sleeve, W/SOA logo Embroidered S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$33.00	___	_____
Polo Shirt, Dry fit W/SOA logo Embroidered, white ___ black ___ green ___ S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$35.00	___	_____
Sweatshirt, black W/SOA logo Embroidered S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$25.00	___	_____
T-shirt, Black W/ SOA Red Shield logo on back S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$14.00	___	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$14.00	___	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest W/pocket S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___	\$16.00	___	_____
Baseball Hat suede W/SOA logo Embroidered Black ___ Khaki ___ Camo ___	\$16.00	___	_____
Field Hat W/SOA Embroidered Black ___ Khaki ___	\$16.00	___	_____
PUC Certificate Set	\$12.00	___	_____
Belt Buckle Brass New addition raised skull	\$35.00	___	_____

Item	Price	#	Total
Coin SOA 2008 edition bronze and enamel	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin MACVSOG PUC Commemorative edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin SOA 2012 edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin 50th Anniversary MACVSOG 1964 -2014	\$12.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- Bullion, SOA Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
Patch, Prairie Fire gold embroidered on black background	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch square SOA logo embroidered on black background	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 4" tall	\$10.00	_____	_____
Life Member Pin SOA round Gold _____ Pewter _____	\$5.00	_____	_____
Hat Pin SOA Red Shield 1 ½ inches	\$6.00	_____	_____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield	\$5.00	_____	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 2 ¼ X 3 ¼ inches	\$4.00	_____	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 3 x 4 ½ inches	\$5.00	_____	_____

Shipping flat rate USPS	SUBTOTAL \$ _____
SM \$6.50 MD \$12.35 LG \$16.85	SHIPPING \$ _____
	HANDLING \$ _____ \$3.00
	TOTAL \$ _____

ORDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Name _____ SOA# _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST. _____ ZC _____

PAYMENT: Check/Money Orders/Credit Card (US currency only) payable to: Quartermaster SOA

CARD INFO: Mastercard ___ Visa ___ AMEX ___ (check one) CC# _____

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit code on back _____

Mail to: Quartermaster SOA, 1492 Lake James Dr., Prudenville, MI 48651

Form available on SOA website: www.specialoperations.org



**"Battle Hardened:
Veteran and Family Focused"**



THEY GAVE ALL
We are giving back

WHAT WE DO

Special Operations Association Foundation Mission: to help Active Duty, separated, retired, and deceased Special Operations Warriors and their families by providing free educational, well-being, suicide prevention, and survivor assistance.

EDUCATION



The Special Operations Association Foundation provides educational grants to vetted Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families through the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program.

WELL-BEING



The Special Operations Association Foundation seeks to improve the well-being of Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families by partnering with government and non-profit organizations to promote healthy and active lifestyles.

SUICIDE PREVENTION



The Special Operations Association Foundation seeks to reduce SOF-veteran suicides by partnering with government and non-profit organizations to raise veteran suicide awareness, combatting depression, and providing resources to SOF Veterans.

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE



The Special Operations Association Foundation seeks to partner with government and non-profit organizations to provide surviving SOF family members with assistance understanding Veteran's benefits, filing VA paperwork, and access to non-VA Survivor Assistance resources.

[Read More and Donate](#)

[Read More and Donate](#)

[Read More and Donate](#)

[Read More and Donate](#)

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE

DONATE NOW TO HELP OUR SOF VETERANS!
Your donation saves and enriches lives!



SHARE OUR CAUSES WITH YOUR FRIENDS!
Help us get more people involved!

SHOP

OUR STORE IS COMING SOON!
In the meantime, donate and share to help our SOF Veterans!

www.SOAFoundation.net



The Orleans is proud to present
SOAR XL
40th Anniversary
October 17-21, 2016



Thank you for your service

CALL 1-800-ORLEANS (675-3267) AND BOOK YOUR ROOM UNDER SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The ORLEANSSM

Tropicana & Arville | OrleansCasino.com

