



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION AFTER ACTION REPORT**



Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Roger Donlon  
SOAR XLI banquet October 19, 2017, Las Vegas, NV

**SOAR XLI**

**OCTOBER 16-20, 2017**

**THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Educational grants to vetted Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families**

"The Special Operations Association Foundation provides educational grants to vetted Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families through the SOA's George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program." The SOAF provides education grants to vetted Active Duty, separated, and retired SOF and their families through the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program. As of August 2016, 159 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the program in 1983. The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant is awarded by the Special Operations Association (SOA) and must be used at an accredited Junior College, Community College, Technical school, or Four-year college or university for studies which will lead to an Associate Degree, a Bachelor's Degree, or a technical vocational program certificate.



**ELIGIBILITY:** A high school graduate, or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, unmarried, and under the age of 21 years at the time of application. Must be a son, daughter, or grandchild, natural or adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit, and is a SOA member in "good standing". Applications are also accepted from wives and widows of Special Operators who are members of the Special Operations Association or were KIA or MIA while serving with a Special Operations unit in combat.

**APPLICATIONS:** Application packets are available from 15 September of the previous year to 15 February 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. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Christopher McClure at [cmclure@tech-architect.com](mailto:cmclure@tech-architect.com).

More information on the Special Operations Association can be found at <http://www.specialoperations.org>



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

# **SOA FACT SHEET**

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:

- a. 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,
- b. To perpetuate the Special Operations "esprit de corps"; and,
- c. 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 \$648,500 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 162 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. 70-years or over, Lifetime fees are \$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 42d annual reunion (SOAR XLII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Hotel and Casino during the period 15-19 October 2018. We anticipate in excess of 650 members and guests.

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**2018 ANNUAL DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE.  
Refer to the annual dues page 66 for additional information**



## Letter from the President



The Special Operations Association had the great honor of having as our guest speaker Medal of Honor recipient Col Roger Donlon, the first Medal of Honor recipient in the Vietnam War. Colonel Donlon, accompanied by his lovely wife Norma arrived at the Orleans early enough to spend time meeting with guests and old friends during the day and attend our entertainment in the evening hours. Colonel Donlon delivered the keynote speech at the banquet on the importance of Duty and Service to the country by all.

The Joint POW/MIA Committee had a full program this year with an informative speech by Director of the Defense POW/MIA Director Maj Gen (USAF, Retired) Kelly McKeague as well as informative reports from DPAA Staff members Jack Kull, Steve Thompson and Matt Kristoff. Be sure to read Mike Taylor's detailed report on the progress the Joint POW/MIA Committee is making to obtain the fullest possible accounting of our missing comrades.

This year's SOG: SPAD Symposium was devoted to the first public showing of the one-hour interview of SOA member Mel Howard recorded shortly before his passing. This video was produced by SOA Video History staff members Dennis Cummings and Lisa Allen and is part of the growing project archives. All who watched the video found it a moving very "special" Video of a devoted commander beloved commander.

Mystere by Cirque du Soleil show and dinner at the Treasure Island Casino was enjoyed by SOAR attendees this year as well as a great banquet performance by Master illusionist Patrick Martin who delivered an outstanding presentation on the use of illusion in War. As always our Beam Suntory liquor tasting classes were a great hit. Be sure to look at John Russell's Entertainment report in this AAR. John is working on more great programs for next year.

SOA election results were: Rick Estes-President, Mike Taylor-Vice President and John (Doc) Padgett as Director all for three year terms.

*Respectfully submitted, Rick Estes-President*

# Special Operations Board of Directors 2017-2018

## President

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A replica of the life sized bronze sculpture at Riverside National Cemetery was presented to the Special Operations Association by SOA Member James "sneaky" White. The sculpture depicts a bound prisoner of war bound forced to his knees but with head still held high designed by famed sculpture Lou Millet son of MOH recipient and SOA member Lewis Millet now deceased. Assisting in the transportation and presentation of the sculpture was family friend and SOA member John Garrison.

# Special Operations Association

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# SOA Riders

Another successful year for the Riders is in the books. We continue to grow by adding 4 new folks this year. That being said, I am asking every member of the organization to reach out to our Brothers and Sisters that have served in the community. I want you to encourage them to join our organization. I am also asking you to reach SF Chapters and SF Groups to encourage their motorcycle groups to join us on the road. They might not qualify for membership but there is a brotherhood that can't be ignored. I'll be reaching out.

What follows is a mission, taken on by one of our Riders. It explains why we ride; from a sense of open road enjoyment to keeping the memory of those we have lost alive. No small undertaking and one most Riders would like to make.

## Mission Ride by Gerad Riester



*This trip is dedicated to the memory of my friends and team-mates, CaptRyan Hall (Aircraft Commander), CaptNick Whitlock (Co-Pilot), 1Lt Justin Wilkens(Combat Systems Operator) and SrAJulian Scholten (Tactical Systems Operator), who were killed in the crash of RATCHET 33. On 18 February 2012, at approximately 1918 local time, RATCHET 33, a United States Air Force U-28A aircraft, crashed five nautical miles southwest of Ambouli International Airport, Djibouti while returning from an ISR mission in support of the Combined Joint Task Force. This aircraft was assigned to the 34th Special Operations Squadron, 1st Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, FL, and deployed to the 34th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The U-28A provides a manned fixed wing, on-call/surge capability for Improved Tactical Airborne ISR in support of SOF.*

A lot of people would ask why cross the continent on two wheels. Adventure, I think, was why the initial idea took root. It sounded like fun. Most importantly, though, this trip was an opportunity to help make sure that the crew killed in the crash of RATCHET 33 would continue to live on in our memory. In addition to that, I love road trips, and I love riding. Every time I thought about it, I would picture myself on a long straight open road that stretched all the way to the horizon. I thought of the warm air flowing around me, my feet stretched out in front of me, my eyes taking in the landscape as the center stripes flashed past me, and not a single car or sign of civilization for miles. On this trip, I found that stretch of road, but I had to fight a lot of weather and traffic before I got to it.



We set off with me in the lead, on my 2016 Harley Night Rod Special, and my wife, Jean, covering my six in her 911. We saw two oceans, mountains, deserts, strong winds, heavy rain, dust storms, car crashes, cold mornings, hot days traffic jams, and wide-open roads as far as the eye could see. I got one speeding ticket, and scared the shit out of myself by nodding off for a moment. Every second of it was beautiful!

**Day 1: Navarre, FL to Jacksonville, FL** As I got ready to begin my trip, Hurricane Nate was beating up Central America, and taking aim at the Gulf Coast. Lucky for us, Nate decided to turn left, and I went right. The trip out to Jacksonville, FL, was nice and without incident except for some issues with how I installed my clip-on windscreen. One side popped off while I was doing about 90 down I-10! It was a slight hardware issue that was compounded by the fact that I didn't bring any tools or hardware with me. Lesson #1: if you're going to ride 1000s of miles on a bike, bring tools and some hardware!

In Jacksonville, I stuck my foot in the Atlantic and grabbed a room for the night.



Jacksonville Beach, FL  
(next to Joe's Crab Shack)  
on 08Oct17



## SOA Riders (Continued)

**Day 2: Jacksonville, FL to Navarre, FL** Although Nate had passed, he'd pulled a lot of wet stuff behind him and there was a solid line of storms between me and my objective (my house). Looking at the radar and forecasts, I decided I could make it as far as Tallahassee, grab a bite and wait out the rest of the stuff. That didn't quite work out as planned. About 50 miles east of Tallahassee, with my rain gear secured safely in my tank bag, I hit a solid wall of water. I took refuge under an overpass, donned my raingear, and pressed on. I stopped in Tallahassee, grabbed lunch, and set-up shop in a Starbucks to watch the RADAR and wait out the storms. No such luck. It finally became clear that if I was to get home that night, I was going to have to get wet again. So, I donned my rain gear once again, and continued to head West. I hit sporadic downpours, but nothing too bad, and got within 45 minutes of the house. In a fit of wishful thinking, I decided that the forecasts that I looked at earlier must still be correct and, without looking at the RADAR, I took off my rain gear expecting smooth sailing. That turned out to be a bad call. Within 15 miles of home, I hit the heaviest and most consistent rain of the day. "Get-there-itis" set-in and I decided to press on home and accept the fact I was going to get a little wet. I got a lot wet, but got home safely. Lesson #2: if you think you're going to hit storms, wear your rain gear, and KEEP IT ON until you're sure you're out of it.

**Day 3: Navarre, FL to Sulfur, LA** I expected to hit some rain for the first couple of hours, but thought it would improve after that. It didn't. Armed with my lessons of the previous day, I got my rain gear on and kept it on all the way there! Right? Apparently, us Air Force guys don't learn very fast. What I actually did was, I kept my gear on MOST of the way there, but was hit by another wave of unexplained optimism. For the second day in a row, I took off my rain gear a bit too early, and got soaked through every article of clothing I had on, right down to my boots. Lesson #3: see lesson #2, dummy!

**Day 4: Sulfur, LA to Fredericksburg, TX** We hit the road early, and it was still dark. THIS TIME, I checked the weather forecasts and RADAR thoroughly. Without a hint of precipitation expected in the next 12 hours, I very reluctantly hit the road with my rain gear packed away. To say I was extremely gun-shy is an understatement. In the dark, I couldn't actually see whether there were any rain clouds, so I harbored a healthy dose of paranoia until I was finally greeted with a rain free sunrise. There was a dark moment prior to that where a few drops from someone's window washer fluid elicited a hateful string of profanity that was thankfully contained within my helmet. We negotiated the heavy traffic of Houston and San Antonio, and apart from that, enjoyed a very nice ride up to Fredericksburg, TX. Fredericksburg, originally settled by German immigrants in the 1800s, is a very charming town and definitely worth a visit if you haven't been there. Among other items of interest, Fredericksburg boasts the Hanger Hotel (where we stayed), a very well-run hotel made up in the 1940s style inside. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay, and would highly recommend it to anyone passing through.

**Day 5: Fredericksburg, TX to El Paso, TX** This was one of the better days of driving for us. The speed limit on I-10 through South West Texas is 80MPH all the way to the outskirts of El Paso! The only real challenge was making sure we timed the gas stops right. Before you bypass a gas station on this stretch of road, you better be sure you have the gas to make it to the next town. This held true for the remainder of the run to San Diego. Lesson #4: Plan gas stops before starting out each day.

**Day 6: El Paso, TX via Tombstone, AZ to Tucson, AZ** We had planned this to be a relatively short drive, so we would have plenty of time to soak up some "old west" history before heading to the hotel for the night. As an added benefit, we managed to make arrangements to meet up with

## SOA Riders (Continued)

SOA member Jim Shorten (Jones). He introduced us to a great microbrewery just down the road from the OK corral. Highlights included the Crystal Palace Saloon, The Bird Cage Theater (the only completely original building in town...bullet holes and all), and Boot Hill. If you haven't been to Tombstone, it's well worth the visit! Besides the history of this town, the scenery in the area is tremendous. It wasn't difficult at all to imagine cattlemen, outlaws, stage coaches, and the like making their way across the arid terrain as we rode out of town in the dimming light. This of course was enhanced greatly by the fact I was negotiating the way astride my faithful Harley.

**Day 7: Tucson, AZ to San Diego, CA** The Home Stretch! That is to say, this was the home stretch in terms of the primary objective – my mission ride from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Not only was this the culminating point of my objective, it was also the best riding of the whole trip. Not long after leaving Tucson, you can pick up I-8 to San Diego, and I-8 was the stretch of road I'd been dreaming of. It contained arid, barren long strait stretches of asphalt with beautiful southwestern terrain along the way. As a bonus, there were a couple mountain passes to go through that had just enough twists and turns to keep me interested. As Jean said, every time I hit one of those turns, I'd just get faster and faster! This is where the Night Rod really was in its element. At 125 horsepower and 85 pound-feet of torque, and possessing a very low center of gravity and nice over-all feel and balance, the Night Rod was nothing short of confidence inspiring. I'd roll into a turn and just keep adding lean and throttle in equal portions until I ran out of turn. On the downhill segments, I would lean forward and put my face in the windscreen.



I almost felt like I was in a single-seat aircraft with a bubble canopy over me rolling in hot on a target. In short, it was an absolute blast! All too soon, we left the desert behind. The roads widened, and the traffic became heavier.

We found our way to the hotel, checked-in, and I headed over to put my foot in the Pacific. I walked out on the beach in full riding gear (sans helmet) reveling in the thought that the other beach goers might be

confused by my garb and actions. I strode to the water's edge, and let the warm ocean water wash across my boot. After pausing to take in the scenery, I went back to the Harley. I got on, fired her up, and enjoyed a brief, celebratory, burnout before riding off into the sunset.



Pictured on left: Pacific Beach, San Diego, CA, on 13Oct17

To the crew of RATCHET 33,  
here's a toast...!



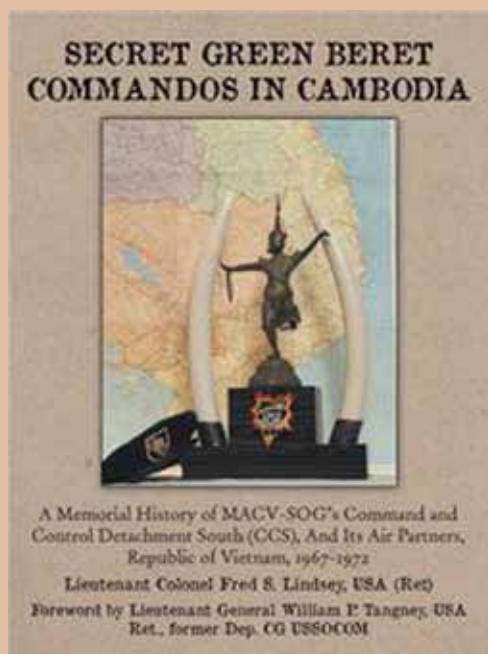
Tom "Maverick" Carrell  
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Gerad Riester (far right) with his two brothers at Hurlburt Field, FL

# 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.



## 20 Year Pin Ceremony



Those SOA members eligible to receive their 20 year pin. Not all recipients present.

Robert H. Bost  
Kestutis J. Gedmintas  
Dennis R. Gonzales  
Bruce V. Hanley  
Bruce Koch

Eugene A. Leonard  
Roland Nuqui  
Lloyd G. O'Daniel  
Eugene H. Pugh  
Vaughn Ross  
Stanley H. Shank

Roger E. Smith  
Robert L. Strange  
Leonard W. Tilley  
Laughlin Todd  
Carleton P. Vencill





# 25 Year Pin Ceremony



Those SOA members eligible to receive their 25 year pin. Not all recipients present.

Donald C. Augustin  
Dale C. Betterton  
Johnson S Clark  
Charles M. Dodge  
Michael Dwyer

Skip C. Ettinger  
Ken Gaudet  
Tony R. Herrell  
John M. Hogg  
Lloyd M. Lee

Leonard D. Moreau  
Joseph F. Parnar  
Vaughn Ross  
Laurie W. Whitlark



## 30 Year Pin Ceremony



Those SOA members eligible to receive their 30 year pin. Not all recipients present.

Carl A. Fronabarger  
Arthur Wilbur  
Bobby Evans  
Stephen G. Sherman

Eddie J. Adams  
Ludwig Faistenhammer  
Patrick J. Heminger  
James B. Cole

Manuel R. Beck  
Christopher McClure  
Bruno Urbaniak  
James White





## 35 Year Pin Ceremony



Those SOA members eligible to receive their 35 year pin. Not all recipients present.

Lewis G. Vasey  
John A. Garrison  
George W. Hunt

Jay Massey  
Neil P. Coady  
Robert Shippen

William Werther  
John S. Meyer



# 40 Year Pin Ceremony



The following SOA Members were presented their 40 Year Pins by Clyde Sincere and Colonel Donlon at the SOAR XLI Banquet.

Thomas M. Cunningham  
Richard DioGuardi  
Samuel D. Hernandez  
Robert L. Leites  
David A. Maurer  
Keith J. Messinger  
Leonard Mollica  
Herb Siugzda





## SOAR 41 POW/MIA AAR

An impressive and informative list of guest speakers was headlined by Maj Gen (USAF, Retired) Kelly McKeague, the recently appointed Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). Mr McKeague, the last Commander, Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the first Deputy Director, DPAA, and now the Director, stressed his dedication to the accounting mission. He shared that planned FY18 Southeast Asia investigative and recovery activities are robust and that DPAA's projected budget is good, but still requires positive Congressional action. He also expressed sincere appreciation for SOA and SFA's support of DPAA in the accomplishment of their mission and for supporting his selection as DPAA Director. Mr McKeague was followed by SOA's "Three Amigos", all members of both the SOA and the DPAA staff.

Jack Kull gave us an update regarding recent government-to-government talks with Cambodian, Lao and Vietnamese counterparts. The Lao are being more cooperative: permitting a fifth Joint Field Activity (JFA) in FY18, allowing larger DPAA teams, and allowing extended periods for JFAs if weather or mechanical failures delay operations. Cooperation with Vietnam remains positive and productive discussions are ongoing to extend JFAs in the weather-impacted Central Provinces where most of our remaining identified cases are located, previously denied areas are now open to DPAA, and we are pursuing enhanced archival access. Though previously cited as the most cooperative nation, Cambodia operations are temporarily suspended due to political issues between the USG and the Cambodian regime.

Steve Thompson described on-going and planned operations. All planned operations for FY18 are subject to the Federal Government's budget being passed by Congress. Continuing Resolutions and sequestration drastically impacted DPAA's ability to operate in FY17 and creates unneeded chaos which sends absolutely the wrong message to partner nations. Provided they receive funding, DPAA plans for FY18 include:

Vietnam - Four JFAs including four Investigation Teams, four Research & Investigation Teams, fourteen Recovery Teams, one Underwater Recovery Team, four Vietnamese Recovery Teams, and four Unilateral Vietnamese Excavation Teams.

Laos - Four JFAs including four Investigation Teams and twelve Recovery Teams.

A fifth JFA is tentatively planned for summer 2018, which would include one Investigation Team and two Recovery Teams.

Cambodia - If political restrictions are lifted by 15 December 2018, one JFA will occur in January consisting of one Investigation Team and one Recovery Team

Matt Kristoff gave a very interesting presentation about a counter-SOG unit of the People's Army of Vietnam (NVA) known as "Company 75." We have long believed that the unit(s) assigned to oppose our operations could have valuable information as to the fate of some of our missing and unaccounted-for brothers-in-arms. DPAA hopes to gain such information by reading their unit histories, attending their reunions and interviewing individual veterans. Matt also discussed the ongoing search for more SOG After Action Reports (AARs) and the attempt to get those they have found processed by the Joint Staff in a Declassification Review. Matt again stressed the value of our members meeting with them at SOAR to discuss operations where we lost missing personnel, Enemy Order of Battle, etc. and asked us to bring any notes, maps, etc we may have. He is also interested in any information we might be able to provide regarding NVA or VC grave locations.

We would like to assist the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons, the Vietnamese interagency office responsible for working directly with and managing DPAA operations, as they are very helpful to us.

(After the POW/MIA Seminar, the Three Amigos told Mike Taylor that the interviews they conducted in the two hours following the seminar more than justified their trip to SOAR. Thanks to those members who interviewed with them) SOA member James Shorten briefed us about a DPAA JFA to Cambodia which he accompanied. When he was a member of Command and Control, Central (CCC) of MACV-SOG, he was team leader (1-0) of a Bright Light team which attempted unsuccessfully, due to overwhelming enemy forces, to locate and recover a downed aircrew. As a civilian and at his own expense, Jim returned to the site in 2002 and, again, was not able to locate any remains, but secured pieces of the downed F4 which he gave to families of the missing. Jim explained the composition of the DPAA team and described their attempts on this mission. He could not have been stronger in his praise of the team and their efforts. Jim plans to return to Cambodia with a subsequent JFA, if our two governments work out the current impasse.

Brad Taylor, Program Chief, Defense Intelligence Agency's "Stony Beach", the ONLY US Government entity solely and entirely tasked with investigating and following up Vietnam War MIA cases, briefed us about their program, which includes interviews of witnesses and archival research. To recognize their outstanding service, the SOA President's Award was presented to Stony Beach at this year's banquet.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman and CEO, National League of POW/MIA Families and Honorary Life Member of SOA and SFA, discussed the League's current perspective on the accounting mission. She is very hopeful for the future of DPAA, given the appointment of Kelly McKeague as Director. She stressed the value of our ongoing coordination and cooperation between the League, SOA, SFA, Vietnam Veterans of America and other responsible organizations, primarily veteran groups, and our continued, unified pressure on the Administration, Congress and DOD to prioritize and resource the accounting mission.

Addendum: Recently DPAA located, recovered and identified the remains of Captain (then-Lt. Cmdr.) James Bauder, USN, pilot of an F-4B off the aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea. Captain Bauder's radar intercept operator was Ann's brother, CDR (then LTjg) James B. Mills, USN. DPAA plans to return to the site in the Spring of 2018 to continue the



search for Jim's remains. Ann and her family have requested that this be the final search effort, as they are now aware of Jim's death and the circumstances which took his life. Their desire is that DPAA devote its resources to accounting as fully as possible for those whose fate remains unknown. The SOA and SFA wish all the best to DPAA and Ann.



# SOG/SPAD Symposium

The SOG: SPAD XLI program was a presentation of the SOA Video History interview with SOA member Mel Swanson conducted before his passing on 12 March 2017. Mel Swanson was a beloved and active participant in the SOA SPAD program, the interview was shown in his memory.

Mel commanded the 56th SOW Operating Location Alpha Alpha (OLAA) at Danang airbase, RVN. Mel led the small unit in highly classified operations supporting Special Operations reconnaissance teams as well as USAF search and rescue missions in 1970.

Mel Swanson was a life member of the SOA.



## MISSION GO BAG SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION EDITION

The Mission Go Bag – Official Issue to all SOCOM personnel under the BALCS Program during the War on Terror. Originally issued to Special Forces Medics in the 18D Tac Set as a grab and go trauma bag, it became popular with breachers, snipers and R&S personnel. It was chosen for the BALCS program as a SOF Survival Bag because of its versatility and ideal shape. While it wraps flat around the hip with a small load, it's pleated design allows massive expansion. And the carry straps can be configured to wear as a backpack, satchel, brief case, waist pack, belted butt pack, ruck lid, MOLLE Vest mount and vehicle wall mount. It has rubber grip on the back to keep it from slipping on a wet decks, and for use as a sniper rifle rest. But in its basic form as a survival bag, the large interior with two large pockets is ideal to hold mags, first aid kit, radio batteries, maps, food and water. And being built to SOCOM standards, this bag makes a great every day carry bag for your truck.

Sewn in the USA of 500 denier nylon Cordura and it comes with a Velcro removable Special Operations Association patch that can be removed when the situation dictates. The unique shoulder straps are patented. It comes with a front slash zippered pocket, and internal map pockets, two internal IV bag pockets, and a hidden rear pocket.

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## SOAR XLI Dinner and Entertainment

John Russell, Chairman of the SOA Entertainment Committee was excited to plan and execute this year's SOAR Special Entertainment Event. The night began with dinner at Gilley's Restaurant and concluded with a performance of 'Mystere' by Cirque du Soleil. SOA Member Roger Donlon and his wife, Norma were the guests of honor. Everyone had an excellent time and we look forward to the exciting event that John will plan for SOAR XLII.



Special Welcome sign depicting Colonel (Retired) Roger Donlon (MOH)



Seated at Gilley's Restaurant are John Russell, Ray Frovarp, Ronnie Frovarp, Ken Gaudet, Robert Strange, Nancy Blair, and David "Bulldog" Smith.





# Cirque du Soleil, Mystere'



L-R Bob and Kelly Leites, Ray and Ronnie Frovarp, Bulldog Smith, Roger and Norma Donlon, John and Judith Russell plus the cast of Mystere'

Roger Donlon with cast members of Mystere'

## Beam Suntory Tequila Tasting



During SOAR XLI, we had another alcohol tasting event sponsored by Beam Suntory. Over eighty guests attended a tasting of Tequila hosted by Beam representative and expert, Rene Huerta. He did an excellent job of explaining where and how the tequila was produced. Beam also provided a variety of cheeses, fruit, and crackers to compliment the tasting. During next SOAR (SOAR XLII), we will have another opportunity to taste a Beam product sponsored by Beam Suntory.





# CCS Southern Brotherhood Breakfast

**The Traditional Early Morning CCS Southern Brotherhood Memorial Champaign Breakfast Was Held During Soar XLI To Honor The Fallen In Battle And The Souls Who Have Passed Since Returning Home.**



*A toast by Fred Lindsey*

“So here’s to the souls who never came home, to friendships and families that never would be.

Here’s to the ones who stepped off the “Freedom Bird “ stateside but would never be the same; for those who brought something home they couldn’t return.

Here’s something for the mantle, a reminder to not forget. Or

something for the unit’s reunion or the buddy down the street. Here’s to all who served our nation so valiantly whenever called upon. Let us all lift our glasses. Here’s to the memories still coming in hot. Our thoughts and Prayers go out to the families of these men Let us all stand (if able) and salute these men during the playing of TAPS.”



# Illusionist Patrick Martin



L-R: Jim Hetrick, Clyde Sincere, COL/R Roger Donlon (MOH), Magician Patrick Martin, President Rick Estes



Patrick Martin entertains the crowd

The special Entertainment Event provided by John Russell and the Entertainment Committee during the SOAR XLI Banquet was the critically acclaimed magician Patrick Martin. Patrick entertained the crowd during the cocktail hour with walk around slight of hand. Everyone was amazed and entertained.

During the Banquet, Patrick performed many illusions and gave an entertaining and informative history of magic used in combat throughout the ages. Everyone's attention was glued on Patrick and his presentation. Many commented after the Banquet that they were amazed with his historical insights and his ability to inform the crowd through mind blowing examples and visual effects.

After the Banquet, Patrick continued to entertain the crowd as he performed breath taking magic at numerous tables where SOA Members and guests were gathered for socializing.



President Rick Estes presents SOA Certificate of Appreciation to Patrick Martin



L-R: Magician Patrick Martin, Entertainment Committee Chairman John Russell, SOA Member Jimmy Spoo



# SOAR Banquet 2017



# SOAR Banquet 2017





# SOAR Banquet 2017



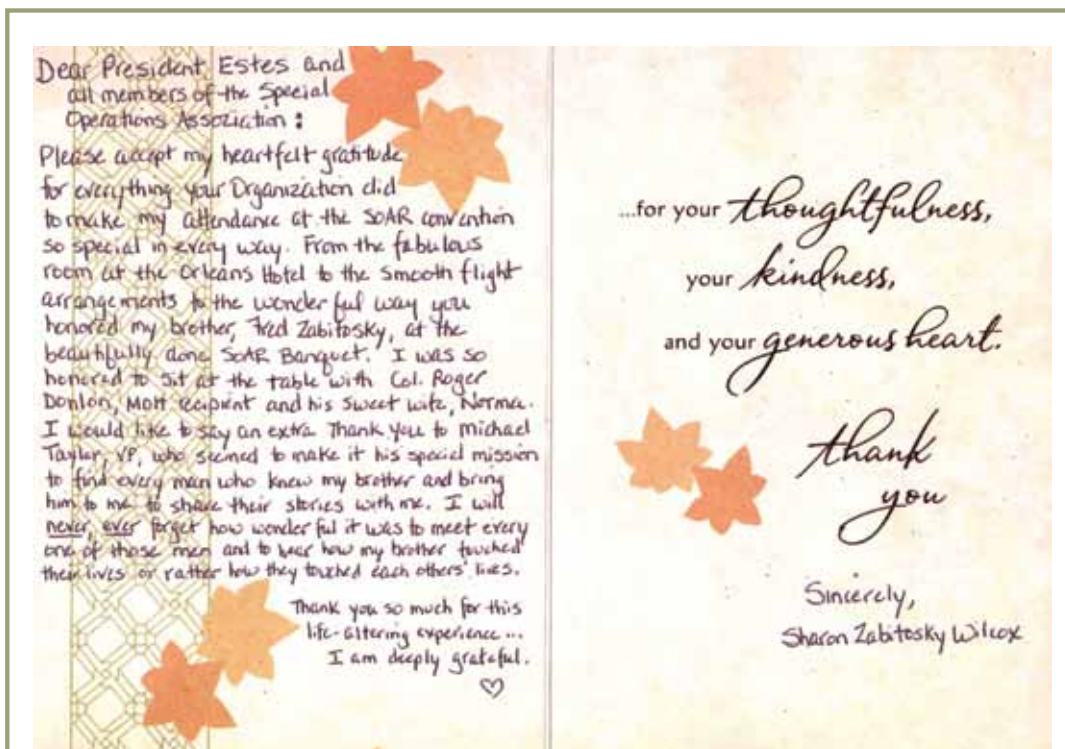


# MOH Recipient MSG Fred Zabitosky



Presentation of Army Association of America Hall of Fame Medal to MOH recipient Fred Zabitosky's sister Sharon Zabitosky Wilcox.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017 MSG Fred Zabitosky, now deceased, was inducted into the Army Aviation Association Hall of Fame. Army Aviation Association Trustees were unable to locate family members at that time to receive the award and because “Zab” was on a SOG mission when he pulled the Army helicopter pilot from the wreckage and because he was an SOA member (157-GL), Hall of Fame Trustees asked if the SOA would accept the award on his behalf. President Estes accepted the award in Nashville, Tennessee at the Hall of Fame Ceremony. SOA Member Tom Waskovich was able to locate Zabitosky’s sister, Sharon Zabitosky Wilcox, who traveled to Las Vegas to receive the medal on her brother's behalf from SOA President Rick Estes.



## COL Donlon Guest Speaker

The Special Operations Association had the great honor of Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Roger H. Donlon delivering our keynote speech at the SOAR XLI banquet. Colonel Donlon delivered an inspiring speech on the importance of service to our country, our fellow man and staying true one's moral compass. Colonel Donlon was accompanied by his lovely wife Norma of over 51 years.

Captain Donlon received the Medal of Honor from President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House on 4 December 1964 for his actions as commanding officer of U.S Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong, Vietnam. Captain Donlon was the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War becoming the first Special Forces Soldier to receive the Medal as well. Colonel Donlon now travels the United States addressing audiences about the importance of patriotism and service to one's Country and our fellow man.



# Honorary Memberships and Presidents Awards

## Presidents Awards



Presidents awards: Recipient Rand Binford (Above), Recipient-John Russell (Left), recipient Stony Beach Program (Right).

## Bronze Star



Larry Page receives a Bronze star Medal with "V" device from Col Roger Donlon for actions performed in Republic of Vietnam 4 June, 1971.



## Honory SOA



Neil Thorne dispaly's his honorary SOA membership certificate and recieving his Honorary Special Forces Association Membership Certificate from SFA Executive Director Cliff Newman.



# **SOAR 2018 ALERT!**

In the early morning hours of 23 August 68. 17 Special Forces troopers died at FOB 4, Danang. The worst day in Special Forces history.

The Special Operations Association will honor the families of our lost mates at a Memorial Breakfast on the Wednesday morning of SOAR 2018.

Legendary SOG Operators Major General Eldon Bargewell and Command Sergeant Major Spider Parks have graciously agreed to serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the event.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** To locate and identify and invite the family members and to invite all SOG Operators who were there at Marble Mountain that morning.

Our Committee is already hard at work. MG Bargewell is at this moment searching for the families. Larry Trimble has already designed Memorial Wreaths

Steve Bric, brother of KIA Bill Bric, has also agreed to serve on our Memorial Committee.

Please contact Doug Godshall at [dngodshall@gmail.com](mailto:dngodshall@gmail.com) for further details or better yet, to volunteer to serve on the Memorial Committee.

## **THE NAMES OF THE SEVENTEEN:**

PFC William H. Bric III	SFC Harold R. Voorheis
SFC Tadeusz M. Kepczyk	SFC Donald W. Welch
SFC Donald R. Kerns	MSG Rolf E. Rickmers
SGT James T. Kickliter	SSG Talmadge H. Alphin, Jr.
MSG Charles R. Norris	1Lt Paul D. Potter
SGM Richard E. Pegram , Jr.	SFC Albert M. Walter1
SP4 Anthony J. Santana	Lt John E. Miller ( <i>expired</i>
MSG Gilbert A. Secor	<i>24Aug68 from wounds received</i>
SGT Robert J. Uyesaka	<i>23Aug68)</i>
SSG Howard S. Varni	

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RT Washington (CCC)



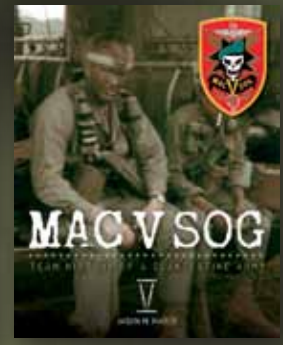
#### VOLUME 3 FEATURES

RT Crusader (CCN)  
RT Sidewinder (CCN)  
RT Texas (CCC)



#### VOLUME 4 FEATURES

RT Auger (CCS)  
RT Illinois (CCC)  
RT Le Loi (CCN)  
RT New Hampshire (CCC)



#### VOLUME 5 FEATURES

RT Alabama (CCN/CCC)  
RT Habu (CCN)  
RT Michigan (CCN)



#### VOLUME 6 FEATURES

RT Adder (CCN)  
RT Louisiana (CCN)  
RT Nebraska (CCC)  
RT Wyoming (CCC)



#### VOLUME 7 FEATURES

RT Nevada (CCC)  
RT Oklahoma (CCN)  
RT Pick (CCS)  
RT Intruder (CCN)



#### VOLUME 8 FEATURES

RT Delaware (CCC)  
RT Hawaii (CCC)  
RT Intruder (CCN)



#### VOLUME 9 FEATURES

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Gerbers	\$350 to \$500
Buffalo Bill	
Presentation Knives	\$500
Randalls	\$500 and up

## EQUIPMENT

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

I am interested in all other items that you may have - Mike Force, SEAL, Force Recon, LRRP, etc. Please call or email for an offer. Also interested in items from post Vietnam covert ops - Central America, Grenada, Rhodesia etc.

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# SOAR GMM Minutes

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION ~ GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

18 October 2017

The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

- I Call to Order 1333 PDT President Estes
- II Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms (Spider Parks, Bill Barkley, Chuck Woodson, Cleat Synard, and Doug Le Tourneau )
- III Pledge of Allegiance led by John Padgett.
- IV Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs Chaplain Grabianowski
- V Roll Call Secretary Vines
  - A SOA Board of Officers/Directors present were: President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Vines, Treasurer Buscetto, Director Godshall, Director Binford, Director Cunningham, Director McClure, and Director Day.
  - B SOA Special Staff Members Present.
- VI Introduction of Guests President Estes
- VII Credentials Report: Sargent At Arms Robert Parks reported 119 members in attendance which satisfied quorum requirements in accordance with the By Laws.
- VIII General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda. Motion to approve made by George Metz, seconded by Robert Pruitt and unanimously approved.
- IX Business Meeting:
  - A Regular Business:
    - 1 Approval of SOAR XL General Membership (Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XLI PRP). Motion to approve made by John Padgett, seconded by Joe Lopez and unanimously approved.
    - 2 Financial Report and Budget: Treasurer Buscetto presented the profit and loss statement and 2018 Budget (all are posted on the SOA website). Motion to approve the budget was made by Kurt Garloth, seconded by George Metz, and unanimously approved.
    - 3 SOA Scholarship Committee Report: Chairman McClure briefed that the details of the Scholarship Committee Report will be posted in the AAR. He summarized that the committee had received nine applications and two were awarded \$1,500 scholarships. The current total is three Seniors, two Juniors, one Sophomore, and three Freshmen receiving SOA scholarships.
    - 4 SOA Brightlight Committee Report: Chairman Meyer briefed that they had one fully funded SOAR XLI attendee.
    - 5 SOA Personal Video History Committee Report: President Estes explained that the Video History Project currently has \$25,000 including a generous \$5,000 check received during SOAR XLI.
    - 6 SOA Warriors Family Committee Report: Chairman Werther reported that they had one family member supported by the Warrior Family Fund to attend SOAR XLI.
    - 7 SOA Chaplain's Report: Chaplain Grabianowski highlighted that 33 members had deceased during 2017 then solemnly read their names. He concluded with a moment of silence.
    - 8 SOA Riders Committee Report: Chairman Carroll reported about the SOA Rider's trip to Colorado Springs, CO and highlighted their upcoming ride (May 2018) to Mount Airy, NC. He presented President Estes with a check of \$400 collected by the SOA Riders.
    - 9 SOA QM Sales Report: Chairman Strange explained that sales were going well and extended his appreciation for those that assisted with his setup. He also highlighted that he had a Buck Knife at QM Sales for pre-order with the proceeds going to the Warrior Family Fund.
    - 10 SOA Membership Committee Report: President Estes reported that he had received 19

# SOAR GMM Minutes (*Continued*)

new membership applications for the 57th Assault Helicopter Squadron, which was having their reunion at the same time.

- 11 Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report: Chairman Keele explained the importance of writing SOA numbers on envelopes to expedite the ballot vetting process. He also asked for members to not send him raffle tickets or registration forms in the mail.
  - 12 By Laws Committee. Chairman Cunningham
  - 13 Nomination Committee Report. Chairman Meyer
  - 14 Special Operations Association Foundation Report: Chairman Godshall briefed the SOAF fundraising activities and highlighted the importance and appreciation of the Gas Card Program. John Padgett read some examples from 5th Special Forces Group how they had used the Cards to assist Active Duty Special Forces Soldiers and their families. George Sternberg also commented on the effectiveness and heartfelt appreciation of 5th Special Forces Group and the local SFA Chapter and asked that we tie these types of programs to SG Group picnics for better outreach and recruiting.
  - 15 MG Singlaub Award Report: Secretary Vines briefed the GMM on CW3 Lawrence Stindt's citation and receiving the MG Singlaub Award from USASOC CG, LTG Tovo.
  - 16 Farewell to SOA Board Members: President Estes presented outgoing Director Tom Cunningham with an Eagle
  - 17 Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors
    - a President: Rick Estes
    - b Vice President: Mike Taylor
    - c Director: John "Doc" Padgett
  - 18 SOAR XLI Report: Chairman Hetrick briefed there are 525 people registered for the banquet and that he had negotiated a cost savings to members for the 2018 and 2019 SOAR. Daily rates will be \$44 per night plus a \$12.99 daily resort fee and weekend rates will be \$94 per night plus a \$12.99 resort fee.
  - 19 Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members President Estes
  - 20 Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members President Estes
  - 21 Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: President Estes
  - 22 Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members: President Estes
  - 23 Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members: President Estes
  - 24 Entertainment Committee: Chairman Russell highlighted the excellent SOAR XLI Entertainment Event to Treasure Island Hotel for dinner at Gilley's and seating for the Cirque Du Soliel Mystere' Show. The membership unanimously applauded the event. Chairman Russell asked that members to consider making donations in addition to purchasing tickets for future entertainment events.
- B New Business:
- X For the Good of the Order President Estes
- A Director Doug Godshall reminded members of the 23 August 1968 Reunion Planning Committee Meeting at 1800.
  - B Joe Lopez invited the membership to the 2018 Special Forces Association to be held in El Paso, TX in June.
  - C Chairman Werther invited the membership to the 1600 Beam Suntory Tequila Tasting to be held in Salon G.

XI Meeting Adjournment: 1508 PDT.

*Respectfully Submitted by Brian R. Vines, Secretary, Special Operations Association*

# Election Tally Report

## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION TALLY COMMITTEE REPORT OF 2017 VOTE COUNT

To: Rick Estes, President, SOA  
Board of Directors

10-10-2017

From: Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2017 ELECTION.

The Tally Committee had quite an election season in 2017. The tie vote which occurred in the race for the president's seat must surely be a first. There was a lot of interest in the outcome and we hope that next year's election, primarily for director's seats I believe, will hopefully be contested, as we get pretty bored counting ballots for races that have an undisputed outcome.

With a leaning toward making YOUR tally committee's job easier (not to mention that of the Post Office), might I request that 1: Each eligible member vote. 2: Be sure the ballot you send in is for the CURRENT ELECTION. 3: Please put the same name on the return portion of the envelope that you sign the ballot with. 4: Please include your SOA# in the return address area of the envelope. 5: Confirm that my name- Mike Keele is on the envelope and that MY address, 8301 La Senda Rd, Alta Loma, CA. 91701.

And for all of you who send raffle tickets to the tally committee, please be sure to include CASH ONLY because we were unable to "fence" checks made out to the SOA at the local ice cream emporium.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Mike Keele, Tally Committee chairman*



# General Membership Meeting



## ***General Membership Meeting and Swearing in of New Officers and Directors***

The SOA membership convened on 18 October 2017 at the Orleans Hotel and Casino for their annual General Membership Meeting (see GMM Minutes).



Following the Pledge of Allegiance and Chaplain's Prayer, Vice President Mike Taylor administered the Oath of Office to re-elected President, Rick Estes. Afterwards, President Estes administered the Oath of Office to re-elected Vice President, Mike Taylor and newly-elected Director, John "Doc" Padgett.



Treasurer Buscetto presented the Financials and President Estes presented 20,25,30, and 35-year tenure pins. Additionally, the Chairmen of various committees updated the SOA Membership on current initiatives and projects.

At the conclusion of the GMM, Clyde Sincere hosted the Silent Auction and presented Door Prizes.



# **SOA Noninating Committee Election Announcement**

## **SOA NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SOA BOARD ELECTIONS - (2018).**

1. The SOA will elect a Secretary and (2) two Directors for three (3) year terms effective during the SOAR XLII 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 2017.
- 5 - The SOAR XLII 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 2017 for tabulation and presentation at the SOAR XLII General Membership Meeting.
- 6 - Queries may be addressed to any member of the Nominating Committee.
7. Nomination Committee Chairman - Jim Day 12383 Quinlan Ave Port Charlotte, Florida 33981 541-912-5225 [rtrule@comcast.net](mailto:rtrule@comcast.net)

# Financials

## BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2017

	TOTAL		TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>		Credit Cards	
Current Assets		WF Credit Card *8526	-340.00
Bank Accounts		<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>\$ -340.00</b>
Non-Active *4329	0.00	Other Current Liabilities	
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts		Contract Payable-Archives	0.00
OPERATIONS *4345	-70,448.93	Contract Payable-Exec Director	0.00
Quarter Master *9882	887.91	Contract Payable-Joe Ruffini	0.00
SOAR Registration-*9567	104,506.10	Contract Payable-Web	0.00
Web CC Donations *9575	0.00	Deferred Revenue	70.00
WF Operating Savings *0541	90,484.09	Temporary Liability-Restricted Scholarship Funds	52,000.00
<b>Total SOA Non-Restricted Accounts</b>	<b>125,429.17</b>	<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$52,070.00</b>
SOA Restricted Accounts -0533		<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$51,730.00</b>
Brightlight Restricted Acct.	10,658.96	Long-Term Liabilities	
George C. Moron Scholarship Savings Restricted Acct.	73,523.02	Contract Payable -Exec Director	0.00
LifeMbrship Fund	19,660.42	<b>Total Long-Term Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
SOA Warriors Family Fund-Restricted Acct.	8,533.49	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$51,730.00</b>
Video/Archives Restricted	19,484.74	Equity	
<b>Total SOA Restricted Accounts -0533</b>	<b>131,860.63</b>	Opening Bal Equity	0.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$257,289.80</b>	Return on Capital	0.00
Other Current Assets		Unallocated Funds (Ret. Earn)	221,172.26
Inventory	0.00	Net Income	-15,037.10
Prepaid Contract-Archives	0.00	<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$206,135.16</b>
Prepaid Contract-Exec Director	0.00	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$257,865.16</b>
Prepaid Contract-Web	575.36		
Reunion deposit	0.00		
Transfer	0.00		
Uncategorized Asset	0.00		
Undeposited Funds	0.00		
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$575.36</b>		
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$257,865.16</b>		
Fixed Assets			
Computers	0.00		
Depreciation	0.00		
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
Other Assets			
Future Years scholarship Accrua	0.00		
Prepaid Contract -Exec Director	0.00		
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>		
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$257,865.16</b>		
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			



# Financials (Continued)

## PROFIT AND LOSS January - December 2017

	TOTAL		TOTAL
<b>Income</b>		<b>Total Reunion Income</b>	
Contributions Income	1,065.00		<b>116,777.72</b>
Archives/Video History Project	2,055.00	Royalty Income	
Brightlight Donations	3,110.00	America Remembers	688.50
Donations	4,946.00	American Historical Foundation	229.50
MIA & POW	200.00	Copy Right leasing-J Leigh	43.61
POW/MIA Restricted	10,000.00	Norbay.com	95.00
Scholarship Donations	998.00	Skinit	51.81
Scholarships	248.00	<b>Total Royalty Income</b>	<b>1,108.42</b>
SOA Foundation	730.00	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$208,850.77</b>
SOA Warrior Family Fund	2,880.00	<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$208,850.77</b>
<b>Total Contributions Income</b>	<b>26,232.00</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Fund Raising</b>		AAR Production	
Copyright/Licensing	41.18	AAR Production-contract labor	618.00
General Fund		Printing Production Cost	10,870.90
Video History Project	1,000.00	<b>Total AAR Production</b>	<b>11,488.90</b>
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	Administrative Expenses	245.40
Raffle	17,585.00	Banking	
<b>Total Fund Raising</b>	<b>18,626.18</b>	Bank Fees	3,598.74
Interest & Dividends		Bank Interchange Fee	1,502.74
Interest Income	116.48	Bank Service Charges	12.00
<b>Total Interest &amp; Dividends</b>	<b>116.48</b>	<b>Total Banking</b>	<b>5,113.48</b>
Membership Dues		Business Cards	150.20
Annual Dues	14,170.00	Commemorative Presentations	22.00
Life Membership Dues	8,635.00	Computer Expenses	
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	<b>22,805.00</b>	Computer Software	1,898.51
Miscellaneous Income		<b>Total Computer Expenses</b>	<b>1,898.51</b>
Wells Fargo Cashback Rewards	240.50	Contract Labor	
<b>Total Miscellaneous Income</b>	<b>240.50</b>	Contract Labor - Archives	4,000.00
Quarter Master Sales	1,325.80	Contract Labor - Exec Director	1,500.00
General Sales Merchandise	19,021.92	Contract Labor - Web site	2,400.00
Special Order Products	2,596.75	Contract Labor - Web site Design	1,731.26
<b>Total Quarter Master Sales</b>	<b>22,944.47</b>	Contract Labor-Bank Deposit Services	4,889.94
Reunion Income	10,641.72	<b>Total Contract Labor</b>	<b>14,521.20</b>
Advertising-AAR	500.00	Donations	185.15
Breakfast	1,425.00	Insurance	
Registration	86,571.00	Director & Officer Insurance	1,470.03
Special Events	8,180.00	<b>Total Insurance</b>	<b>1,470.03</b>
Reunion Event Income	4,920.00	Licenses and Permits	150.00
Silent Auction	3,590.00	Miscellaneous	143.10
<b>Total Special Events</b>	<b>16,690.00</b>	Office Supplies	941.70
Vendor Fee Revenue	950.00	Postage	336.86
		Professional Fees	
		Accounting	3,341.60
		Tax Accounting	1,284.32
		<b>Total Accounting</b>	<b>4,625.92</b>
		Legal Fees	422.95
		<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>5,048.87</b>
		Storage Rental Unit	3,562.20

# Financials (Continued)

	TOTAL
Supplies	
Marketing	250.00
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>250.00</b>
Trade Shows	350.00
Airfare	807.20
<b>Total Trade Shows</b>	<b>1,157.20</b>
Travel - Administrative	
Air Travel	1,351.88
Automobile Expense	1,601.24
<b>Total Travel - Administrative</b>	<b>2,953.12</b>
Website	713.26
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>38,862.28</b>
Archive/Video History	
Airfare	1,405.86
Equipment	446.93
Hotel	157.44
Meals	186.62
Production Cost	
Contract Labor	2,600.00
<b>Total Production Cost</b>	<b>2,600.00</b>
SOAR Registration Cost	770.22
taxi	102.09
Travel	134.45
<b>Total Archive/Video History</b>	<b>5,803.61</b>
BOD Meeting	
Air Fare	1,050.56
<b>Total BOD Meeting</b>	<b>1,050.56</b>
Brightlight	
Spending Cash	300.00
<b>Total Brightlight</b>	<b>300.00</b>
Entertainment Committee Expenses	
Miscellaneous Expense	76.00
<b>Total Entertainment Committee Expenses</b>	<b>76.00</b>
Fund Raising Expenses	207.20
Fund Raising Expenses contract labor	1,825.00
Fund Raising Expenses-Promotional Cost	1,895.20
Postage	51.67
Raffle Tickets	852.83
Supplies & Materials	489.20
<b>Total Fund Raising Expenses</b>	<b>5,321.10</b>
Jedburgh Award Expenses	
Award Cost	493.17
Shipping and Handling	18.76
<b>Total Jedburgh Award Expenses</b>	<b>511.93</b>
Membership Expenses	
Contract expenses	350.00
Membership Cards	801.30
Postage	160.92

	TOTAL
Printing	45.00
<b>Total Membership Expenses</b>	<b>1,357.22</b>
MIA & POW Expenses	
Hotel Expense	860.70
Meeting Events	255.00
MIA & POW Expenses Airfare	1,058.80
Parking	42.00
SOA Support	175.00
Travel Mileage	61.69
<b>Total MIA &amp; POW Expenses</b>	<b>2,453.19</b>
PRP Production	
#10 Regular Envelopes	1,030.78
Printing - Contract Labor	549.00
Printing Production Cost	6,530.44
Regular Postage-Bulk	1,943.15
<b>Total PRP Production</b>	<b>10,053.37</b>
Quarter Master Cost	36.01
Airfare	647.60
Custom Embroidery	3,751.30
Merchandise Inventory	11,343.08
Petty Cash	444.00
Special Order Cost	2,018.75
Inventory Cost	550.00
Shipping	766.13
<b>Total Inventory Cost</b>	<b>1,316.13</b>
<b>Total Special Order Cost</b>	<b>3,334.88</b>
Uhaul cost	132.76
<b>Total Quarter Master Cost</b>	<b>19,689.63</b>
Reunion Expense	500.00
Air	353.15
AVA set up	2,348.33
Bar Tenders	1,325.00
Beverages	4,503.61
Carvers	600.00
Entertainment SOAR	675.00
Food	40,502.75
Gratuities	12,438.94
Liquor	5,906.91
Miscellaneous	383.10
Refunds	470.00
Registration expense	153.00
Airfare	471.87
Bank Charges- Credit Card	285.27
Credential Holders	42.76
Equipment Expenses	474.32
Expense Shipping	6.65
Office Supplies	543.09
<b>Total Registration expense</b>	<b>1,976.96</b>
Service Charge	4,140.52

## Financials (Continued)

	TOTAL
Special Events	
Reunion Event Expenses	
Reunion Expense food	1,430.76
Reunion Event Expenses Gratuity	267.60
<b>Total Reunion Expense food</b>	<b>1,698.36</b>
<b>Total Reunion Event Expenses</b>	<b>1,698.36</b>
Reunion Event Expenses Show transportation	5,716.44 790.00
<b>Total Reunion Event Expenses Show</b>	<b>6,506.44</b>
Reunion Event Expenses Tax	132.46
<b>Total Special Events</b>	<b>8,337.26</b>
Staff Tips	100.00
State Sales Tax	4,332.55
<b>Total Reunion Expense</b>	<b>88,894.08</b>
Scholarship Expenses	17,000.00
Scholarship Award payment	20,500.00
<b>Total Scholarship Expenses</b>	<b>37,500.00</b>
Warrior Family Fund	
SOAR Registration Costs	
Travel	226.00
<b>Total SOAR Registration Costs</b>	<b>226.00</b>
Stipends	300.00
<b>Total Warrior Family Fund</b>	<b>526.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$223,887.87</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -15,037.10</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -15,037.10</b>



# Fundraising Report

## SOAR XLI FUNDRAISING REPORT/CONTRIBUTORS/VENDORS

1. During the conduct of SOAR XLI, the SOA raised \$4,398.00 for its Charitable Activities via the “Silent Auction” process:

a. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund:	\$ 883.00
b. The SOA Operation “Brightlight” Program Fund:	\$ 485.00
c. The SOA Personal History Video Project Fund:	\$ 880.00
d. The SOA Warrior’s Family Program Fund:	\$ 580.00
e. The Special Operations Association Foundation Fund, (SOAF):	\$ 730.00
f. The SOA General Operations Fund:	\$ 840.00*
Total:	<u>\$4,398.00</u>

\*Includes two (2) \$100. Cash donations, one (1) each from Joe Parnar, SOA # 1041-GL, and Rick “Duffy” Jensen, SOA # 3137-GA.

2. SOA Annual Raffle Winners:

a. GAU-5/A/A Carbine: Lew Merletti, SOA # 2522-HL. (Ticket # 16683). The weapon was Purchased for Raffle by the SOA from TROY ARMS Industries. All revenue garnered was directed to support the SOA General Operations Fund. A total of \$11,755.00 was raised via the sale of Raffle Tickets.

b. KEL - TEC PLR – 16 Pistol: Robert H. Simmons, SOA # 2165-GA. (Ticket # 26215). The weapon was donated by SOA Member Tom Carrell, SOA # 1809-GA. All revenue garnered was directed to support the SOA General Operations Fund. A total of \$5,845.00 was raised via the sale of Raffle Tickets.

3. SOAR Contributors: The following Corporations, Organizations, and Individuals donated “Silent Auction” items, Door Prizes, SOA Archival Items, and/or Cash in support of the various SOA Charitable Activities. There were a few prizes that were not bid on, or, the bidder did not provide the “minimum bid” required. These prizes will again be made available during the conduct of the SOAR XLII “Silent Auction” process in October 2018:

The Orleans Hotel & Casino  
The SOA Riders (Tom Carrell)  
BEAM SUNTORY (A. J. “Tony” Bandiera)  
North Carolina Chapter – POW/MIA Families  
James A. Gaston  
“Rick” Grabianowski  
Jason M. Hardy  
Henderson “Ridge” Marriot  
Battlefield Vegas (Dennis Cummings)  
Thomas Humphus  
Thomas Cunningham  
Tony Herrell

The Special Operations Association  
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.  
PEPSI COLA, Inc.  
Jeffrey Stone (Larry Trimble/Bill Werther)  
Bruce Christensen  
Joe Parnar  
Fred S. Lindsey  
Richard W. “Dick” Dioguardi  
The Bob Nissley Family  
Kenneth Gaudet  
Mark Kinsler  
John Good

# Fundraising Report *(Continued)*

Bill Werther  
Robert "Bob" Brown  
Rick "Duffy" Jensen  
The SOA Warrior's Family Program (Bill Werther)

Cindy Jackson  
John & Betty Vislosky  
"Rich" D.Mullowney

**4. SOAR XLI VENDORS:**

Bruce Christensen  
Fred S. Lindsey (CCS)  
Mark Austin Byrd  
Stephen G. Sherman  
James B. Cole  
Brian W. Payne  
OASIS  
TEXAS HOLD 'EM  
North Carolina Chapter, POW/MIA Families

Mark Kinsler  
Jason M. Hardy  
James A. Gaston  
George E. Clark (STMP)  
Virgil McVicker  
Joe Parnar  
BEAM SUNTORY TASTING  
SOAF  
SOA QM SALES (Robert Strange)

**5. SOA DONATION/CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT:**

The SOA is prepared to furnish any member who donated/contributed any item(s) in support of the SOA "Silent Auction" process, whose total value exceeds \$100. a SOA Donation/Contribution Receipt for IRS tax purposes. Members are requested to contact Clyde Sincere at (435) 680-4476, or [cjrsincere@gmail.com](mailto:cjrsincere@gmail.com) to facilitate requisite action. Thank you.

**TAPS**

Following are our brothers who have passed since the last Taps reported in the 2017 PRP, and those who departed earlier but were not previously identified. May they rest in eternal peace.

<b><u>Member's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Member Number</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>
Bylund, Lloyd E.	546	15-Dec-2015
Carle, Cecil E.	1685	17-Jul-2016
Cobb, Donald M.	12	28-Dec-2016
Conlon, Joseph M.	1833	20-Aug-2017
Craig, Ramon	453	20-Oct-2015
Curtis, Clay A.	2952	2-Sep-2017
Dorff, Anthony C.	1553	27-Jul-2017
Hill, Paul E.	2106	27-Jan-2014
Lauck, Ronald W.	2650	8-Mar-2017
McKie, Leslie J.	604	18-Oct-2012
Moore, Charles R.	2808	3-Jun-2017
Morse, Edward D.	2120	17-Feb-2017
Newcomb, Norton A.	570	4-Apr-2017
Pearce, Joe	1009	6-Jun-2015
Radtke, William P.	1450	16-Aug-2017
Ramirez, Antonio	561	14-May-2010
Schultz, Thomas F.	1700	1-Aug-2016
Woodworth, Jason T.	125	15-Jan-2009

*Slawomir "Rick" Grabianowski, Chaplain*



# 2017 Register's Report

**Registrar's Report  
Special Operations Association Reunion 41  
October 2017**

2017 marked the 41th anniversary of the Special Operations Association. Over 600 SOA members and their guests celebrated this milestone in our history.

Attendance by Member Type:

290	General
24	Associate
1	Operation Associate
12	Honorary
5	Widows
2	Organizations & Vendors
334	Total

Thank you to the 50+ members and guests who volunteered this year. Your dedication and service is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our reunions. Of particular mention we thank Ray and Ronnie Frovarp, Jean Tong and Gerad Riester, and Ivan and Becki Davis. Ivan has volunteered to assume the position of registrar for SOAR 42, for which he and his wife are in our debt.

May God bless those who wanted to but were not able to attend, and we pray their situation may improve this coming year, enabling them to join their brothers and sisters in arms for next year's reunion.

*Rick Grabianowski*  
*2017 Registrar*

# Membership Committee Report

## **2017 MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

In June, the Board of Directors approved a post 911 units list to include the Global War on Terrorism. The addition of these units will give us an opportunity to reach out to the present-day warriors and expand our base. A complete list of approved units is on the SOA website [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org).

The recruiting year ended with the addition of 36 new members in the following categories:

- 27 General
- 6 Associate
- 2 Honorary
- 1 Warrior's Widow

2017 annual membership dues are now past due. If you have not paid dues, have questions about your status, want to upgrade your membership status to life, or need additional information, email the Committee at [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)

*Pete Peterson*  
*2017 Membership Chairman*

## **Archive and Video History Project Update for the AAR 2017**



Items donated by the family of Bob Hall on display during SOAR XLI.

Those of you who read the SOA Video History Project and Archive Update in the PRP know that I requested donations of items for the Archives, as well as funds for the continuing effort to interview veterans for the Video History Project. This year we were fortunate in that not only did our regular donors come through for us, but so did some others who helped out in a big way. I want to thank the family of Bob Hall, who donated additional items this year for the SOA Archives. Their contributions made up about half of the display at this year's SOAR. So, to Vicki, John and Bobbie Hall, I cannot thank you enough for allowing us to come to your home and look through what Bob had collected over the years. Your family has added generously to the SOAR display and archives.

The next person I want to thank is former CCN Recon member Bob Donoghue. Those of you who were at SOAR and came by our table could not miss the items that Bob donated. They made up the other half of the display this year. Bob donated numerous radios, survival kits, pieces of NVA gear and a number of other items. His photo album and map book attracted a lot of attention. In all, there were about a dozen or so boxes of artifacts that showed up on my doorstep just prior to SOAR. Each piece is historically significant to the history of SOG and Special Operations and we are very fortunate to preserve them in the Archives.

Additional thanks go to Kenyon Smith, Terry Cadenbach and Greg Judge for volunteering to man the Archive and Video History Project tables. Thanks to the above donations the number of tables grew from two to six this year, and Kenyon donated a four wheel cart and a crate to ship the 642 pounds of gear that the Hall family and Bob Donoghue donated. He also paid for the freight to get everything shipped to SOAR, so outstanding job Kenyon!

The Video History team was able to record an impressive 14 new interviews this year, and I want to thank Chester Howard for organizing the interviews with the Delta veterans



## Archive and Video History Project Update for the AAR 2017 (Continued)



Some of the items donated by Bob Donoghue that were on display at SOAR this year.

from Vietnam. Their interview contributions to the Video History project is appreciated.

We received a number of monetary donations in 2017. Shirley Williams and Marshall Hall stepped up again this year as they have in the past and we are very fortunate to have them as regular supporters. Neil Melton also made a very generous donation to our project after viewing the interview of Mel Swanson at his air museum in Tennessee. With the permission of Mel's family it was shown at the museum, and again at SOAR this year. Mel's interview is the first to be viewed by members of the SOA and plans are underway to make more interviews available to the SOA membership through the SOA website. Additional news on this project will be posted on the site, so check periodically for updates.

If you would like to donate funds to help with the Video History interview process, they can be mailed directly to me or the SOA Treasurer, Pete Buscetto. We have over one hundred interviews to date stored in the SOA archives and with your help can do many more. If you haven't done an interview yet please feel free to contact me and I will work with you to get one set up. Also, if you know of any members who can no longer travel to SOAR but would like to do an interview, please contact me. We will try to arrange to conduct an interview in their home. All donations to this project are tax deductible and must be marked for the SOA Video History Project.

If you have items you would like to donate to the SOA Archives please send them to me at the address provided below. We will display as many as possible during SOAR each year.

*Dennis J. Cummings, SOA Archivist  
3649 Taylor Ave, Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-303-9156 • djc106@aol.com*



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION  
Early Warning Order  
SOAR XLII**

**WHAT: SOAR XLII**

**WHEN: 15 - 19 October 2018**

**WHERE: The Orleans Hotel/Casino  
4500 West Tropicana Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103  
(800) 675-3267  
[www.Orleanscasino.com/Groups](http://www.Orleanscasino.com/Groups)**

Note # 1: If reservations are made using a Credit Card, or Debit Card, first nights deposit will be charged immediately.

DEADLINE: The "Deadline" for negotiated reduced SOAR Accommodation Rate is: 14 September 2018.

**RATES:**

- a. Sunday through Thursday: \$44. + Tax + Resort Fee, (Per Day).
- b. Friday and Saturday: \$94. + Tax + Resort Fee, (Per Day).

Note # 2: When making your Reservations, Inform Reservations that you are with the Special Operations Association and provide them the Group Code:

A8SOC10

**That is: "Alpha-Eight-Oscar-Charlie-One-Zero"**

**See You At SOAR XLII**

## SOAF Update

# Gas/Debit Card Program

Based on input from United States Special Operations Command's CARE Coalition, the SOAF determined there was a funding gap to assist Special Operators and their families to attend medical treatment close to their duty stations that are not reimbursable by the government.

In 2016 and 2017 the SOAF provided a total of \$2,000 in \$50 Gas/Debit Cards to the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group and the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. The SOAF has already approved an additional \$1,000 in \$50 Gas/Debit Cards for the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group for 2018. The model is to provide the local Special Forces Association Chapter with the Gas/Debit Cards and they coordinate with the Group Chaplain to provide the Cards to the most deserving. Legally, Special Forces Groups cannot directly receive such cards.

Below is a report from CSM/R Frank McFadden on how the cards sent to 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group were distributed.

To date we have used 13, with seven remaining.

- Six were given thru the Chaplain's office for families arriving after the three Soldiers were killed by the Jordanian guard to assist with ancillary costs during their stays
- Two were given thru the CSM to assist a Soldier whose house burned down during the Super Bowl; to assist with immediate supplies
- Two were given thru the Chaplain, for two separate families whose husband / son was having surgery at Vanderbilt to assist with in and around mileage costs
- One was given thru the Chaplain to the family of a Soldier who died overseas to assist with costs during their stay in Clarksville
- One was given thru the Chaplain to a junior Soldier whose wife was in Vanderbilt due to pre-mature birth to assist with gas costs back and forth from Clarksville
- One was given thru the Chaplain to the family of a Soldier who died of cancer to assist with cost during their stay in Clarksville w/r Frank

The SOAF is the only organization supporting Special Operators and their families with immediate Gas/Debit Card assistance. Our goal is to support every Special Forces Group and then reach out to other Special Operators such as SEALs, Air Commandos, Ranger Regiment, Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Marine Raider Battalions, etc. With your assistance through donations, we can directly assist our Special Operators and their families overcome the hardships related to hardships, injuries, and illnesses.

*Doug Godshall, Chairman, Fund Raising Committee [dngodshall@gmail.com](mailto:dngodshall@gmail.com)*



# Brightlight Committee

## Final Report for SOAR XLI 2017

To: SOA Board of Directors

From: 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 XLI, 2017

Date: November 28, 2017

For SOAR XLI the SOA Brightlight Committee approved one full ride to the reunion for one SOA member who was in good standing.

Since SOAR XL, the committee had four potential BL candidate names submitted for consideration of assistance to attend SOAR XL. However, two withdrew the applications that had been submitted in their names due to personal health issues. One BL candidate failed to meet the criterion established in the SOA By-Laws necessary to receive assistance and was rejected by me personally, before submitting that applicant's name to the full committee for consideration.

The one member attended SOAR XLI 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, SOA Treasurer Pete Buscetto for working closely with the 2016 recipient to work out all the travel and reimbursement details, and Jim Hetrick for paying the final hotel bill in a timely fashion while maintaining Operation Brightlight recipient's anonymity.

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

Here is the cost breakdown of BL expenses compiled by Pete for the BL Recipient for SOAR XLI:

Air fare	\$ 529.23
Stipend [\$300 per man];	\$ 300.00
SOA Registration fee – [\$160 per man];	\$ 180.00
Hotel Costs for SOAR	\$ 159.96
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,169.19</b>

I'd like to thank BL Committee members Rick Grabianowski, Tim Schaaf and Pete Buscetto for another year of service to our committee. This is my last report to the BOD as chairman as I resigned this post effective in Nov. 1, 2017 letter submitted to the SOA BOD.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John S. Meyer, Operation Brightlight Committee Chairman*



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **Warrior's Family Fund Report**

For SOAR XLI, we had six people apply for assistance from our SOA Warrior's Family Fund, we approved four as follows:

We honored each request with various support. Not all applicants needed a full assistance package.

1. Richard Fitts MIA November '68: Son, Richard Fitts, Jr. received a full ride
2. Allen Lloyd MIA February '71: Sister, Mary Lloyd received registration only
3. Fiancé, Sherry Rubin received registration only
4. Judy Brouchard received registration only, she was a speaker and guest.

All recipients had a great time and talked with numerous friends of the deceased.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Werther, Chairman*



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **Scholarship Grant Program**

(Regular Applicant Category)

#### **Recipient Status**

- One Class of 2018 student, Mr. Sean L. Wilson, remains in the program and has been issued his Fall semester check.
- Three Class of 2019 students, Mr. Zebulun Criswell, Ms. Claire Lacey, and Mr. Samuel Shumate, remain in the program. All three have been issued their Fall semester checks.
- Two Class of 2020 students, Ms. Anne E. Hewitt and Ms. Anna F. Carey remain in the program and have been issued their Fall semester checks.
- Three Class of 2021 students, Ms. Mikayla H. D'Anna, Mr. Alex E. Shumate and Ms. Sydney A. Shank are new in the program and have been issued their Fall semester checks.
- Nine scholarship recipients therefore are currently active and remain eligible in the program this semester. The following is an overview of recipients by class:
  - Seniors 1
  - Juniors 3
  - Sophomores 2
  - Freshmen 3

In addition to the nine recipients in our program, one applicant who applied for our scholarship this year, Ms. Chloe Keith, granddaughter of Mr. Ralph Keith, SOA 2006-GL, was unable to be funded due to insufficient funds available for award in the SOA scholarship fund. However, our committee recommended her for the Stephano Agostinelli Memorial Scholarship which is given by Mr. Robert Agostinelli, through the American Veteran's Center in Washington, DC, and Ms. Keith was selected for that award. The amount of that scholarship is a one-time \$15,000 award. This is the fifth time one of our applicants has been selected for the Agostinelli Memorial Scholarship based upon the recommendation of the SOA Scholarship Committee.

#### **2017 Financials**

The SOA's total outstanding scholarship obligation at this time is \$51,500. The following is the current outstanding liability by class:

➤ Seniors (Class of 2018)	\$1,000
➤ Juniors (Class of 2019)	9,000
➤ Sophomores (Class of 2020)	10,000
➤ Freshmen (Class of 2021)	<u>31,500</u>
Total	\$51,500

Required minimum in the designated scholarship accounts currently is \$61,800, which includes the required reserve funds.





# **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 1/2 Page \$400**

**Interior 1/4 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.**

**1962E Redshoulder Drive,**

**Layton, Utah 84040-4911**

**[cjrsincere@gmail.com](mailto:cjrsincere@gmail.com)**



# Lou DeSeta Breakfast



The traditional Friday morning “Lou DeSeta” breakfast has become a SOAR tradition the morning after the SOAR banquet. Almost 45 attended this year’s breakfast and while Lou was unable to attend, Doug Letournea was able to call him on his cell phone to say hi to all attendees.





## **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.



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## Membership Application

Thank you for your interest in the Special Operations Association. This application may be mailed or completed online at [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org).

The SOA By-Laws defines two types of SOA Members: General and Associate. Operational Associate is a distinction conferred on non-US Armed Forces members that support the General Member category. Review the Membership criteria on page 2 and check the type you are applying for below:

GENERAL  ASSOCIATE  OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE. If you do not qualify for General, will you accept another type? Y N

<b>A. CONTACT INFORMATION</b>				
LAST NAME:		FIRST NAME:		MIDDLE NAME:
STREET ADDRESS		CITY	STATE	ZIP+4
PHONE		CELL PHONE	EMAIL	
DATE OF BIRTH		SSN	SERVICE NUMBER	
<b>B. EMERGENCY CONTACT OR NEXT OF KIN (NOK)</b>				
FIRST/LAST NAME, ADDRESS		RELATIONSHIP	PHONE	CELL PHONE
EMAIL				
<b>C. QUALIFICATION(S):</b> Unit must be an SOA approved unit. (See list at <a href="http://www.specialoperations.org">www.specialoperations.org</a> ) Attach documentation specific to the unit. Use additional sheets as necessary to support your application.				
BRANCH OF SERVICE	QUALIFYING UNIT(S) <b>MUST</b> be an SOA approved unit	DATES	DUTY & MOS	LOCATION
<b>D. SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:</b> I am a General Member of the SOA in good standing. I hereby certify that I have <b>firsthand knowledge, ie, boots on the ground</b> , and attest that the applicant named heron meets the requirements for membership in the SOA and thereby recommend he be accepted as a, GENERAL, ASSOCIATE, or OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE ( <u>circle one</u> ).				
Print Sponsor's Name		SOA#	Phone	Sponsor's Signature
				Date:
<b>E. APPLICANTS OATH:</b> I affirm that the information submitted is true, correct, and voluntarily given. I grant permission to the Membership Committee to review my application and documentation for inclusion in the Special Operations Association.				
Applicant's signature:				Date:

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**I** The preferred application method is online at [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org). Applicants may also mail the application and documents to: MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PO Box 335461 N. Las Vegas NV 89033

**II DOCUMENTATION** - Compiling documentation is solely the responsibility of the applicant. The SOA assumes no responsibility for finding documentation or sponsorship for any applicant.

**III INSTRUCTIONS** - Read the Membership Criteria below before submitting the application.

1. Attach additional sheets as required. Provide enough detail for the Membership Committee to understand your qualifications.
2. A \$35.00 **non-refundable** application fee, made payable to the SOA is required with the application.
3. If you have any questions or need additional information:
  - Visit the SOA website [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)
  - Email the Committee: [membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org).

**IV. MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA** - The SOA By-Laws defines two types of SOA Members: General and Associate. Operational Associate is a distinction conferred on non-US Armed Forces members that support the General Member category.

**A General Member**

1. Basic requirements:

- A Veteran or member of the U.S. Armed Forces
- Served in a Special Operations Unit as approved by this Association
- Has conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided direct support to the operational combat element in an operational role within an assigned Area of Operations.
- Routine or normal duty while on this assignment must have placed the applicant in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire.

2. Documentation includes, but not limited to, Sponsorship by a General member of the SOA; DD214, Awards, Orders.

**B Associate Member**

1. Basic requirements

- A Veteran or member of a U.S. Armed Forces
  - Supported the conduct of an approved Special Operations unit in a non-operational support role.
2. Documentation includes, but not limited to, Sponsorship by a General member of the SOA; DD214, Awards, Orders.

**C Operational Associate**

1. Basic requirements

- Non-US Armed Forces members and Paramilitary personnel who serve or support the US Armed Forces Special Operations Units.

2. Documentation includes sponsorship by a General member of the SOA and an abbreviated biography of the candidate.



## **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, STOAT, for saving the life of LI 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, STOAT, 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: LI George Sisler, FOB 2, Hatchet Force, was Killed in Action (KIA) in Feb 1967 during a bomb damage assessment (BOA). 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 Due, 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

## 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, MI 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.SpecialOperation.org](http://www.SpecialOperation.org)



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **Annual Membership Renewals**

### **ATTENTION: ANNUAL MEMBERS**

To keep your membership current and avoid late or reinstatement fees, pay your dues online at [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)

\$30 If paid before January 31  
\$35 If paid after January 31

If you are not sure of your membership status, amount owed, need information about changing status from annual to Life membership, order membership cards, or need additional information, contact the Membership Chair:

Ray Frovarp  
[membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)  
(H) 910 425-1425; (C) 910 850-6023

-----✂----- Pay by mail: Cut along the dotted line and mail to the Membership Committee-----✂-----

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Committee  
PO Box 335461  
N. Las Vegas, NV 89033





## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **Contact Information Change Form**

If your contact information has changed, or if you would like to add emergency/next of kin information to your member record, complete this form and return it to the Membership Chairman.

All information is confidential and will not be shared without the member's prior consent.

#### **MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ Date of change \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

#### **EMERGENCY AND/OR NEXT OF KIN**

Relationship to Member (wife, Son, Daughter, Brother, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail/email form to:

Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman  
4072 Ardenwoods Drive  
Fayetteville NC 28306  
rmfrovarp@gmail.com



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**Quartermaster Sales**

Internet Sales - [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)

Quartermaster: Bob Strange (248-935-5431)

EMAIL: [bobstrange@QMSales.org](mailto:bobstrange@QMSales.org)

All 2X and above 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	_____	_____
<u>Rings are Special Order through Quartermaster</u>			
MACVSOG Commemorative MOH print (includes shipping and insurance)	\$165.00	_____	_____
SOA Buck Knife (Proceeds go to the SOA Family Warrior Fund)	\$60.00	_____	_____
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	_____	_____
Vest, concealed carry W/SOA logo (black or tan ) S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$75.00	_____	_____
Jacket, Polyester shell, mesh upper back, and nylon lower back, front and back vents			
W/SOA log Embroidered S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$65.00	_____	_____
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, cool dry camo Iron Gray W/ SOA logo S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$20.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, cool dry Black W/ SOA script S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$20.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield logo on back W/pocket S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$16.00	_____	_____
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	_____	_____
PUC Certificate Set	\$12.00	_____	_____

Belt Buckle Brass New addition raised skull	\$30.00	_____	_____
Coin SOA 2008 edition bronze and enamel	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin MACVSOG PUC Commemorative edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin SOA 2012 edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary MACVSOG 1964 -2014	\$12.00	_____	_____
Field Hat W/ SOA logo – Rider	\$16.00	_____	_____
License Plate W/ SOA logo Black or camo	\$16.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- Bullion, SOA Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- felt background, SOA Crest, sew on	\$15.00	_____	_____
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	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 9" tall	\$25.00	_____	_____
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. \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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



# OASIS Post Event Report



**Our goal at The OASIS Group** is to ensure that all active duty/Veteran Special Operations personnel have access to accredited professional analysis of their claims in pursuit of Veterans Administration benefits.

We wish to convey our appreciation for the opportunity to attend SOAR XLI. OASIS Group deployed assets that allowed us to fully staff the table you provided with two of our claims experts from October 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>. During that time period, OASIS representatives were able to:

Provided advice or assistance to 13 SOA members.

Are remaining in contact with 4 SOA members to complete initial or re-opened claims

Advised several members already working with other Veteran Service Organizations additional issues that needed to be added to their claims prior to submission.

Total cost incurred by OASIS Group was \$1,984 SOAF donation \$1,000

**Notables:** OASIS Group appreciates the support provided by SOA in facilitating our Board meeting. This is very important to continuity and direction of OASIS Group operations.

**The Future of OASIS:** The cost of Veterans Administration claims assistance that OASIS Group provides to past and current Special Operations Forces has exceeded our donations. Until further notice, OASIS will not provide any new VA Claims Assistance. We provide a unique service for SOF and the demand for our services exceeds our resources.



## POW/MIA Table Passing of the Mantle



Clockwise from top left: The Nellis AFB Honor Guard provided excellent support to the SOAR Banquet by posting the Colors and Setting the POW/MIA Table. Below: The Passing of the Mantle Ceremony was performed by Bob Johanson and Greer Noonburg.



The highlight of the evening for members of the Nellis AFB Honor Guard was an opportunity to meet SOA member COL (US Army, retired) Roger Donlon. COL Donlon was the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War and was the guest speaker at the banquet.



# JFK Wreath Laying Ceremony

October 25, 2017





# Captain Gary Michael Rose Medal of Honor Ceremony October 22, 2017



# Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee Visit to Southeast Asia

A delegation representing the National League of POW/MIA Families visited Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) in January 2018. The Special Operations Association (SOA) and Special Forces Association (SFA) conducted a parallel visit with the League delegation. Both delegations met with US Ambassadors and Embassy officials, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach specialists and Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Detachment personnel in each country. Detachment 2, Vietnam, shown here.



The League delegation met with senior officials in Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, while the SOA/SFA delegation met with American and foreign veterans to thank them for previous eyewitness accounts and evidentiary materials that assist in the search for the missing and to encourage more of the same from their comrades. These veterans fought MACVSOG in the tri-border area.



While in Laos, representatives of both delegations visited an excavation site to thank US and host nation personnel for their often dangerous efforts during Joint Field Activities. Photos will follow in an article in the SFA magazine “The Drop” and in a comprehensive briefing at SOAR in October 2018. Be sure to attend!





*The Orleans is proud to present*

# SOAR XLII

October 15-19, 2018



*Thank you for your service*

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

**The ORLEANS**<sup>SM</sup>

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