



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

AFTER ACTION REPORT XLIII



50th Anniversary

*Command and Control
South*

**SOAR XLIV
OCTOBER 19-23, 2020
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

You can also donate a portion of your Amazon purchases to the SOAF through the Amazon Smile Program at <https://smile.amazon.com>



EDUCATION

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 Special Operations Association's (SOA) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program. As of September 2019, 168 young men and women have been awarded scholarships since the grant program began in 1983. The George C. Morton Scholarship grant is awarded by the SOA and must be used at an accredited four year College or University, Junior College, Community College, or Technical School which will lead to an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, or a technical vocation 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 March of the year that the grant will be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year

the Grant will be awarded. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Christopher McClure at cmclure@tech-architect.com.

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



Special Operations Association Fact Sheet

The Special Operations Association, 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. Membership is limited to Free World forces who supported, or personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity. 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 the global war on terrorism.

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;
- 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 \$656,000 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 168 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veteran's organization, 501(c)(19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Annual membership dues are \$30 USD. Lifetime membership fee is \$505 USD under 70 years of age, and \$305 USD for 70 years and over. 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 conducted its 43rd annual reunion (SOAR XLIII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at The Orleans Hotel & Casino during the period 20-25 October 2019. This year's attendance was 579 members and guests. The annual SOAR banquet featured tributes to Col. Sully de Fontaine and MG Eldon Bargewell following their demise this year.

Revised: 1 November 2019
WEB SITE: www.specialoperations.org

President's Message



SOAR XLIII was a great reunion! The Orleans Hotel and staff made our stay and reunion a truly enjoyable and memorable reunion as always. The moving tributes to our old comrades Sully de Fontaine and MG Eldon Bargewell by Dave Mauer and Clyde Sincere at the Thursday's banquet will never be forgotten by those of us in attendance.

The reports contained in this issue contain detailed information on our 2019 activities and in some cases plans for next year's activities so be sure to read all of them listed in our table of contents. This year we added a new Book Signing program headed up by Clyde Sincere which reflects our growing number of authors. Be sure to read Clyde's excellent report and plan for expansion of this program next year.

The Video History Project has received the first batch of completed videos returned from USASOC for posting on the SOA website. USASOC watermarked each video and captioned them "For Official Use Only" and "Viewers may not copy this video. All rights reserved." before downloading them to SOCOM's secure servers for Lessons Learned. We are projecting the debut of the videos on our Members Only side of the SOA website before our Pre-Reunion Packet goes out so stay tuned. These combat veteran interviews are unique, and we know our members will enjoy viewing them.

The POW-MIA joint committee continues to do an outstanding job in to keeping the SOA membership informed and to supporting DPAA, as well other DoD agencies, veterans service organizations, family groups and anyone else involved in working responsibly toward the fullest possible accounting for missing and unaccounted-for personnel. The speakers this year were outstanding. Be sure to read Mike Taylor's excellent report on Committee activities this last year.

Donations for all SOA activities are at record levels. These donations reflect a high level of support for SOA activities. Please review our financial statements and the details of our silent auction proceeds which are available in our fundraising Committee reports.

I wish to express my gratitude to all the wonderful people for the support and assistance given me as President in 2019 and help in preparing this After Action Report. Special thanks to Dick Whitman for his great photos and our Secretary, Duffy Jensen, for his many hours putting this report together.

Fraternally,

Rick Estes

Seeking Brightlight Candidates

December 2019

Fellow SOA Members,

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XLIV this year due to personal financial problems? If you know an SOA member faced with that dilemma, please call or e-mail Operation Brightlight committee members who are listed below.

Operation Brightlight was founded in 2005 to help SOA members attend SOAR and is funded through member contributions. The levels of assistance can range from helping to pay for a hotel room, SOAR registration, airfare or travel costs, a stipend for taxi and general costs, or all of the above combined, depending on the SOA member's individual situation at the time of the review by the Operation Brightlight Committee members.

Operation Brightlight committee members screen any applicant's request for assistance before any final decisions are made regarding that individual candidate. The names of all Brightlight candidates remain confidential and are not shared with the general membership, only committee members and key personnel on the SOA Board of Directors or SOA Special Staff.

Since 2005, 43 SOA members and three family members have been assisted at some level of monetary consideration by this program thanks again to the generosity of the SOA membership in general, and the SOA Riders.

Please contact one of the following committee members for assistance:

- Chairman John "Doc" Padgett | 702-499-8155 | E-mail: bacsi10@yahoo.com
- Tim Schaaf | 951-551-1462 | E-mail: schaafnt@msn.com
- Rick Grabianowski | 775-846-1138 | E-mail: rick@grabianowski.com

Respectfully submitted,

SOA Operation Brightlight Committee
John "Doc" Padgett
Tim Schaaf
Rick Grabianowski

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm." —George Orwell

Table of Contents

SOA Fact Sheet	01
Letter from the President	02
Seeking Brightlight Candidates.....	03
SOA Officers & Directors	05
Early Warning Order	07
Ben Baker — In Memoriam	08
Book Signing.....	09
NKP Aviation Symposium.....	14
POW-MIA Symposium.....	15
Kà Entertainment	16
GMM Minutes.....	17
Election Tally Report.....	21
GMM and Oath of Office	22
Financial Reports	24
Fund Raising Reports.....	26
Scholarship Report.....	28
Membership Report	30
Registrar’s Report.....	31
SOA Riders Report	32
Video History Project & Archives Report	34
Warrior’s Family Fund Report.....	33
Brightlight Report	36
Nominating Committee Election Announcement	37
Tenure Pins 20-35	38
Liquor Tasting	42
TAPS	43
SOA Policy Statement.....	45
CCS Breakfast	48
Banquet.....	50
Endowments, Bequests & Wills	56
Planned Giving Program	58
SOA VN Tribute Pistol.....	59
SOA Membership Folio	60
Quartermaster Sales	65
SOA MOH Ad & Order Form.....	67

**2020 annual dues are now due and payable.
Refer to the annual dues page 62 for additional information.**

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Early Warning Order SOAR XLIV 19-23 Oct 2020

Who: SOA Members in good standing and their guests are eligible to register. If you have questions about your status, contact Ray Frovarp, Membership Chair, 910-425-1425, or email membership@specialoperations.org.

Where: The Orleans Hotel and Casino, 4500 West Tropicana Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420, Phone: 800 675-3267 <http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>.
Group Code: ASP0C10 (Alpha-Sierra-Papa-Zero-Charlie-One-Zero). Use this code when making your reservations.

Accommodations: Room rates and availability are guaranteed through 16 September 2020. Sunday through Thursday daily — \$46 per day plus tax and resort fee \$12.99. Friday and Saturday — \$96 per day, plus tax and resort fee \$12.99.

Guests: Guests are always welcome; however, sponsors are expected to be in attendance when their guests arrive.

Banquet Seating: Reserve your banquet seat after you check-in.

End of Reunion: All SOAR activities will cease at 1200, Friday 23 October 2020.

MIA Memorial Breakfast

There are 140 of our brothers-in-arms, who would have been eligible to join the Special Operations Association, but are still missing and unaccounted for or Killed In Action body not recovered (KIA/BNR).

On Wednesday, October 21, 2020, the SOA will hold a memorial breakfast at SOAR in the Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, in honor of these 140 men who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. Details and a method to make reservations for this event will be posted on the SOA website and Facebook page, and by “Blast Email”, when the details are finalized.

If you know the family members of any of our unaccounted for or KIA/BNR personnel, please pass on this “heads up” and encourage them to attend, if interested.

Ben Baker — In Memoriam

Conrad B. “Ben” Baker, SOA # 897-AL, passed away December 16, 2019.

Within the Special Forces community, Ben was best known for his innovative contributions to the SOG recon teams operating in Southeast Asia. As head of the Counterinsurgency Support Office (CISO) operating out of Okinawa, Japan, he and his staff made numerous trips to Vietnam to see first-hand, the challenges facing the teams in the field.



Some of his more notable contributions were:

- Indig Rations and Rucks – CISO developed rations that were more suitable to the dietary needs of the indigenous team members thereby which reducing their gastrointestinal stress. The rucksacks were designed to fit the smaller stature of the indigenous troops which provided more comfort and efficiency of movement.
- Eldest Son Program – This Psy-Ops program dropped booby-trapped enemy munitions, handheld radios, and similar devices in enemy territory. When used, the C-4 laced materials would explode, killing or maiming the enemy.
- Improved Jungle Boots – CISO was responsible for the metal plates that became a fundamental component of the Jungle Boot following its initial introduction.
- Weaponry – Ben Baker is credited with designing the first SOG knife. It featured a 7" blade that had weight and balance suitable for throwing. In addition, the CISO team continually worked to acquire, modify, and develop weapons outside the DoD processes.

In recognition of his leadership and commitment to the SOG/SF troops in Southeast Asia, Ben received an honorary Green Beret presented by BG Healy in 1971 for his work in Vietnam. On April 27, 2017, the Special Forces Regiment approved the induction of Mr. Conrad B. “Ben” Baker as an Honorary Member of the Regiment (HMOR), the highest Regimental honor bestowed upon a civilian. Mr. Baker’s induction plaque, along with a picture, is on permanent display in the Special Forces Hall of Fame at the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School permanently.

SFA Chapter 23 members were looking after Ben and Shirley for the last 4 years and were by his side through both the good and bad times.

Tasked with putting together a celebration of Ben’s life, Chapter 23 was able to gather 50 Special Forces soldiers, both Active and retired, to celebrate Ben’s support of our mission. USSF were represented by SFA Chapters 23, 14, and 78; SF Officers from the Monterey Naval Postgraduate school; and, Special Operations Association Members.

Ben’s remarkable career was reviewed by Chapter 23’s Jim Shields and Chapter 78’s “Tilt” Meyer before military honors were performed by the California National Guard and the American Legion Chapter 105 Rifle Team from Redwood City, California.

In appreciation for Ben’s lifetime of service, the Naval Postgraduate school has committed to establishing a Conrad Ben Baker section in the School Library that will contain Ben’s library donated by Chiyo Baker in Ben’s memory.

Author's Book Signing Event



Authors

L-R Henry Gole, Mike Blackwell, Dan Thompson, Joe Parner, Shirley Williams, Robert Dumont, Steve Sherman, Tilt Meyer, Gamble Dick

On Tuesday, 22 October 2019 during the conduct of SOAR XLIII, seven (7) SOA Authors took advantage of a new program initiated by the SOA Board commencing with SOAR XLIII.

The response was outstanding, both from the Authors point of view, and the SOA Members and Guests who elected to listen to the Authors tout their latest book(s). The Authors were all given a minimum of 10-15 minutes to promote their respective book(s), and then following all presentations, answered any queries from the audience. Additionally, each of the authors donated an autographed copy of their book(s) to the SOA Archives for which the SOA Board was very appreciative. Thank you gentlemen, and our very own Shirley Williams.

Following the program, the SOA established two (2) tables in the SOA Vendor Area where all Authors had an opportunity to autograph, and sell their respective book during the conduct of SOAR:

Dan M. Thompson, SOA # 3046-GL — (POC via email: tmael@rcn.com):

Dan's book, "Colors of War & Peace", is available only on Amazon, (\$15.), and is a

collection of short stories, that spans the long divide between chaos and community. Assigned to Top Secret, Studies and Observation Group, (SOG) during the Vietnam War, the Author returned home to school, family and career. Convinced that Chapter closed, the Author forgot and forged on. But the arc of his war had not reached its apogee. Driven by an addiction for risk and desire to reorder his war, the Author shares stories of his inexorable crash. Illuminating and powerful, these stories provide an intimate portrayal of how memories once buried, rise again from the dead.

Gamble C. Dick, SOA # 2553-GL — (POC via email: gcd3@att.net):

Gamble's book, "A Glorious Nightmare", is available through CLC Publishing, LLC, Mustang, Oklahoma 73064. In 1965 while working as a surgical orderly at the local hospital, Gamble C. Dick enlisted in the U.S. Army with the intention of becoming a Special Forces (Green Beret) Medic. Along the way he diverted to Officer Candidate School and became an Infantry Officer before proceeding to Special Forces. In the fall of 1967, after much training and preparation, he went to the war zone in Vietnam. He was assigned to a Top-Secret project known as MACVSOG.

Author's Book Signing Event (Cont'd)

His primary job was to lead Cambodian mercenaries on combat missions against the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos. Years later, after the confidentiality of the assignment had expired, he started writing something about it for his grandchildren. The memories came flooding back and it became a book about some great and courageous men. Not famous, but better than famous. They believed in something greater than themselves and put their country and brothers before all else including their own safety. They were men of honor. They were heroes! This is their story as he remembers it...

Henry G. Gole, SOA # 291-GA — (POC via email: golehg@aol.com):

Henry's book, "Legacy of Lies, Over the Fence in Laos", is available at Amazon and Barnes & Noble in paper, and eBook. Henry has four (4) other books that are available via Amazon. Henry wrote his book on the premise of three (3) questions:

- "Why he wrote about SOG",
- "Why he, as an Academic Historian wrote it as a novel", and
- "What is the premise of the Novel?"

He wrote about SOG because he was an unabashed admirer of the skill, courage, and character of the men he knew at CCC, (Command and Control Central) in Kontum. In a career that commenced with Basic Training in 1952, and ceasing with retirement in 1988, he had gratifying positions with troops in Europe and Asia; in the Pentagon; in the American Embassy in Bonn, Germany; and teaching at West Point, and the Army War College, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The brainy jobs absorbed him, but reflecting on his 36 years as he prepared for retirement from the Army, he saw the men. The best thing about the Army to

a 19-year old BAR man in Korea was the men; the best thing about the Army to a 55-year old Colonel, was the men. Standing reveille and retreat with the men of the 10th Special Forces Group in Prince Heinrich Kaserne in the mid-1960's was the thrill each time he did it. So was living in 1970 with Franklin Miller, Bob Howard, Ruff, Don Green, Mike Shepherd, Joe Walker, Robbie, John Kinstry, Pete Landon, Heinz Roesch, Fritz Krupa, Chuck Behler, little Bemis, Mike Rose, Jim Storter, Ken Locke, Ron Tom, and First Sergeant Billy Greenwood. Memorial services in Vietnam from 1966 to 1971 for dead Comrades-in-Arms were potent stuff. Taps at night at Arlington – hell anytime – ripped his guts. Was it worth it? Yeah. Why? The Men. It was always the Men. Now, Henry considers himself as an "Old Geezer", and time to write his book. There may not be a next year.

He wrote his SOG story as fiction because his Army refused to declassify SOG records of "Cross Border Operations". DOD and DA did not wish to open a "can of worms" during the social turmoil that characterized the period 1967 onward. Recalling the bad old days: Combat refusals and racial issues in Vietnam; a US Navy ship and crew captured by North Korea; ignominious evacuations of Saigon in 1975. And, in the US; Detroit and LA in flames; riots in Chicago; the White House surrounded by war protestors chanting, "Hey, hey, LBJ, how many babies did you kill today?"; students burning draft cards and ROTC buildings and occupying university offices in Madison, Berkley, and Columbia. The Green Beret in 1966 was a Badge of Honor. In 1970, the Special Forces soldier might be called a baby-killer. The Army was a gang that couldn't shoot straight. Conscription came to an end. The role of women in the military changed. A recruiting slogan said: "The Army will join you." There was talk of beer in barracks. The years following the war were not a happy time for the US Army. Until the first Gulf War in

Author's Book Signing Event (Cont'd)

1991, it had been almost half a century since America had a war terminating with a win. Henry was able to get a quick look at the SOG files in 1988 in the bowels of the Pentagon, enough time to confirm that they existed, and to copy some titles of file folders. He proposed declassification, and that he write the history of SOG. That was a "no-go". In his opinion, it was a missed opportunity to tell a story reflecting great credit on the US military. He licked his wounds, and published four (4) non-fiction books, and many articles and reviews on other subjects. But, he commenced writing, editing, and rewriting his SOG story as fiction.

The tactics and techniques he described are authentic. So is the spirit of the time — in the camp, in the boondocks, and in the bars, including Janus Joplin wailing "Me & Bobby McGhee". His characters are composites of men he had known for 36 years of soldiering. The scenario for the plot is entirely invented. It never happened.

Without spoiling "Legacy of Lies", here's the premise. It's 1970. US Forces are drawing down. Vietnamization is the buzzword. A CCC recon team locates a segment of the enemy's main supply route in Laos near the Tri-border area without a parallel trail of any kind. This is highly unusual. OP-35 in Saigon proposes a SOG blocking force on the trail with maximum air support. The objective is to interrupt flow of enemy logistics into the Republic of Vietnam. The plan is approved up and down the chain of command from Kontum to Saigon to Honolulu to JCS and the White House. There is one major proviso: "plausible denial by political authority. The operation is a great success, but there are two (2) major glitches: weather turns bad, even measured by Central Highlands standards; and a journalist exposes the mission, and the history of US border violations, that is, lies by the US Government. A knock-down, drag-out battle ensues in awful weather.

BREAK! BREAK!

It is now year 2000 in Las Vegas as SOAR meets 30-years later. Surviving field operators learn the details of decisions made in Washington. Staff planners learn what happened on the ground in Laos. There are a couple of surprises. Read the book, and tell your friends about it.

Joe F. Parnar, SOA # 1041-GL — (POC via email: jfparnar01@gmail.com):

Joe's book, "SOG Medic", is available on Amazon, (Hardcover -\$26.21, Kindle Edition , \$11.99), and was written to document a small portion of SOG operations in the 1968-'69 time period, and provide an insight into the actions of some truly outstanding men in as accurate and factual manner as possible. Joe was born in Gardner, Massachusetts, and has lived there his entire life. After the military, he completed his education at the University of Massachusetts, and graduated with a BA in Physical Education. He was employed at Simplex Time Recorder Company in Gardner, for 25 years, retiring in 1996. He is a member of the American Legion, and served as Commander of Post 129 in 1989, and 1990. He is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam, Veterans of America, and the Special Forces and Special Operations Association. His Co-Author, Robert Dumont is an Oklahoma native, and a graduate of Tulsa University. He currently resides in Brooklyn, New York, and is retired after a 32-year career with the New York Public Library. He is the author of two (2) works of fiction, "Borough of Churches", and "NYC Transit(s); and co-author with Jerry Krizan of "BACSI; A Green Beret Medic's War in Vietnam".

Mike Blackwell, SOA # 1007-GA — (POC via email: mike@sovereignpress.net):

Mike's book, "Treason By Lies, Deceit and

Author's Book Signing Event (Cont'd)

Fraud”, is available through Sovereign Press, Denton, Texas, and is a compilation of events as described by the Author in his endeavor to awaken America. He further describes the International Banking and Legal Conspiracy against America. The U.S. Congress has been assembling unlawfully since 1861. Since 1861, martial (military) law has prevailed in the United States. Since then, international bankers and members of the bar association have conspired to take control of America. In “Treason By Lies, Deceit and Fraud”, Mike Blackwell states = Abraham Lincoln ignored the Constitution by convening Congress under military law... and the precedent has continued to this day. The UNITED STATES OF AMERICA is a privately owned corporation organized under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. The US legal profession is actually governed by the British Accredited Registry in London, England in conjunction with the Vatican for their own financial profit and control. Every U.S. citizen by law is a slave of the corporate state known as the United States of America. The original government formed by our founding fathers was unincorporated. Why is it incorporated now? Does this matter? Absolutely! Learn how the American people lost their freedom and how they can regain it again. An American National by birth, Mike Blackwell served his country in the Army's 5th Special Forces Group, MACVSOG in the Republic of Vietnam before launching a career in real estate. He resides in Denton, Texas where he continues the fight for freedom and liberty.

**John S. “Tilt” Meyer. SOA #492-GA
— (POC via email: [idahonezero@
sbcglobal.net](mailto:idahonezero@sbcglobal.net)) and (Personal Website:
www.sogchronicles.com):**

John's three (3) books, “Across the Fence. The Secret War in Vietnam”, “On the Ground, The Secret War in Vietnam”, and “SOG Chronicles,

Volume One”, are all available through Amazon, both in Paperback, and eBooks:

“Across The Fence, The Secret War in Vietnam” – Expanded Edition. Written by John Stryker Meyer. The Book covers entering the secret war with stories on FOB-1 recon teams running SOG missions. ST Alabama vs 10,000 NVA; The Frenchman, shot four (4) times in the back by NVA; Touched by NVA.

“On the Ground, The Secret War in Vietnam” – co-authored by John Stryker Meyer and John Peters. First book on NVA sapper attack at FOB-4, 23 August 1968, NVA asks RT Lion to pull guard duty, RT Idaho tracked by Orangutans.

“SOG Chronicles, Volume One” – written by John Stryker Meyer. The center piece is “Operation Tailwind”, with Mike Rose, MOH recipient; Cliff Newman returns to Laos to search for RT Intruder MIA's, and a Ben Baker profile.

**Shirley Williams, Outstanding
SOA Supporter — (POC via email:
soulhealersw@gmail.com)**

Shirley Williams books — “The Come With Me Series”: consisting of seven (7) Books is an Educational adventure, travel log, compilation of history, local folklore, background of places as seen through the eyes of a military child growing up in a household that moves when one, or both parents receive orders from one military assignment to the next. Each book contains the magic that changes the ordinary into the extraordinary along the way. 98% is true and the rest is magic.

BOOKS ONE, and TWO are written about the desert surroundings of Tucson, Arizona.

Author's Book Signing Event (Cont'd)

BOOKS THREE, and FOUR are written on an isolated farm in Springville, Indiana. These two (2) books are now in a time capsule at the Lawrence County Museum of History in Bedford, Indiana to be opened in 2068. We all hope children will still be reading books then.

BOOK FIVE takes place in Point Loma, California where Nana lives. This area south of San Diego, and my readers who travel to San Diego take the book and follow Aundi's and Daniel's adventures. How fun is that?!

BOOK SIX takes place on the North Island of New Zealand in the premise that they search for the elusive blue faerie penguin. Along the way they learn culture, the society, the land, and Maori mythology.

BOOK SEVEN takes place in the Land down Under, Australia. Shirley lived in Canberra for five (5) years, and has friends scattered everywhere so they all had Chapters to bring

Australia to life. She also had lived among the aborigines, the Pitjanjara in the Outback.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, TWO (2) Items:

Unfortunately, one (1) SOA Author, Jim McLeroy had to decline at the last minute due to his Book, "BAIT: The Battle of Kham Duc", which was being published by Casemate was not published in time for SOAR XLIII. However, it was released in November 2019. I'm sure Jim will take advantage of the second SOA AUTHORS BOOK SIGNING EVENT programmed for SOAR XLIV, in October 2020.

If you are a SOA Author, and would like to participate in the second SOA AUTHORS BOOK SIGNING EVENT scheduled during the conduct of SOAR XLIV, contact Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., President Emeritus, SOA at cjrsincere@gmail.com, and advise him of your interest. Details for the second event have yet to be finalized, e.g., Date, Time, etc.



Aviation Symposium



A group of Forward Air Controllers (FACs), FAC Riders, A-1 Skyraider pilots and a Chase Medic discussed SOG air operations out of Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, and how they differed from operations launched from Vietnam launch sites.

Located adjacent to the Laotian border at the country's mid-section, NKP was well situated to provide air support for the CCN and CCC AORs.



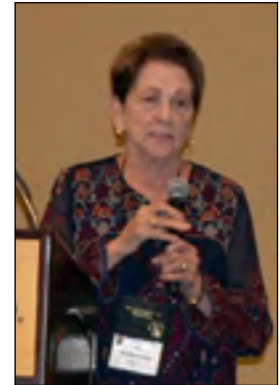
Jon Goldenbaum was the only pilot to fly Prairie Fire missions as a FAC and A-1 Spad pilot.

Nakhon Phanom — 1972



Among the front row are Mike Taylor, Garry Robb, Swede Ashton and Jim Wheeler (FAC Riders); Jim Latham and Dick Hall (FACs); Cliff Groves and Roger Youngblood (A-1 pilots) and John Hanna (Chase Medic). At far right in front row is Cliff Newman, a “passenger” in NKP air operations when we extracted the first-ever combat HALO team.

SOAR 43 POW/MIA AAR



Speakers at the POW/MIA Seminar, left to right:

- Johnie Webb, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Outreach and Communications, briefed us on the history of the USG accounting mission from the end of the Vietnam War through today's ongoing missions. At the banquet, Mr Webb received the SOA President's Award for his 40+ years of devoted service in the accounting mission.
- Jack Kull, DPAA Policy and Plans, discussed recent talks with the governments of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, including positive advances in relationships.
- Eric Phillips, Defense Intelligence Agency "Stony Beach" Program, discussed ongoing collection of intelligence related to those unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.
- Ann Mills Griffiths, Chairman and CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, gave us her always-insightful "State of the Mission" update.



Several members of "The Last Brightlight" team, our ongoing efforts to account for our missing and unaccounted for brothers-in-arms.

- Johnie Webb, Jack Kull and Matt Kristoff of DPAA
- John "Tilt" Meyer (silver hair, looking down), SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee
- Eric Phillips, DIA "Stony Beach", Cambodian Specialist
- Steve Thompson, DPAA Outreach and Communications
- Wade Ishimoto, SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee

SOAR XLIII Entertainment Event



KA — “the coming of age of a young man and a young woman through their encounters with love, conflict and the duality of Kà, the fire that can unite or separate, destroy or illuminate”



SOAR XLIII entertainment was coordinated by John Russell, Committee Chair, and assisted by his wife Judy Russell. This year’s entertainment at the MGM Grand was a masterpiece in storytelling - the ultra-lavish production featured mind-bending acrobatics, fierce martial arts, blazing pyrotechnics, and jaw-dropping aerial adventures

A total of 77 members registered, at significantly reduced rates, for the “sold-out” event. A waiting list was prepared for several members seeking to replace any possible cancellations. Transportation was also coordinated by the SOA Entertainment Committee which provided two airconditioned buses for very comfortable ride to and from the hotel.



In the true spirit of the American Disabilities Act, the MGM Grand hotel representatives arranged bus loading and unloading in an area that facilitated a short walk to and from the theatre. Wheelchair assistance was also provided by the hotel for those with mobility issues.

As is often the case, photos were not permitted which makes it difficult to share the sheer enormity of the dazzling aerial performances of the cast. Suffice it to say, the reviews among the SOA party were nothing short of “outstanding” in the truest military sense.



Finally, I would like to share an emailed thank you I received from the Cirque du Soleil to you SOA members

Bonjour John,

On behalf of the cast and crew of KA by Cirque du Soleil, we want to send you and your group a heartfelt THANK YOU for attending our show on October 22nd. We know you have many entertainment options in Las Vegas and we are thrilled you chose a Cirque du Soleil show.

We look forward to welcoming you to another Cirque du Solei show on your return to Las Vegas. Please feel free to reach out to us with any future groups that you may have.

John Russell, Entertainment Committee Chair

SOAR GMM Minutes

**Special Operations Association, Inc.
General Membership Meeting Minutes
23 Oct 2019
The Orleans Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada**

- I. Call to Order 1338 PDT President Estes
- II. Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms *Spider Parks, Bill Barclay, Clete Sinyard* President Estes
- III. Pledge of Allegiance Dick Whitman
- IV. Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs Dale Hanson
- V. Roll Call Secretary Jensen
- a. SOA Board of Officers/Directors — *President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Binford, and Director Leites*
- b. SOA Special Staff Members Present
- VI. Introduction of Guests President Estes
President Estes introduced the Payne, Lloyd, and Cooper families, and Casey Armstrong, son of Don Armstrong.
- VII. Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present/quorum present Secretary Jensen
The Sergeants at Arms reported 136 General Members in attendance. This exceeds 10% of the 278 registered General Members. A quorum was present.
- VIII. General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda President Estes
Clyde Sincere moved to approve the agenda as posted, George Metz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote
- IX. Business Meeting:
- a. Regular Business:
1. Approval of SOAR XLII General Membership Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XLIII PRP
Horace Boner moved to approve SOAR XLII Meeting Minutes, Clyde Sincere seconded the motion, and motion carried by voice vote.
2. Adoption of Standing Rules of Order Published in the PRP
VP Taylor moved to adopt the Standing Rules of Order, Clyde Sincere provided the second, and the Rules of Order were adopted by voice vote.

SOAR GMM Minutes (Cont'd)

3. SOA Financial Report and Budget

Treasurer Devon

Treasurer Devon gave an overview of the SOA and SOAF financial picture presented on screen. He pointed out that the SOA Net Profit of \$54,059 was as of September 30 and would be reduced as the SOAR costs were inputted into the ledger.

4. SOA Scholarship Committee Report

Chairman McClure

Chairman McClure was not present. Treasurer Devon reported that the awarding of scholarship grants has been modified from a multi-year format to an annual format. The annual award format allows scholarship grants to a greater number of applicants than the previous multi-year format. Each annual scholarship grant is for \$3,000, \$1,500 per semester. Each grant recipient is eligible to competitively apply each year.

5. SOA Brightlight Committee Report

Chairman Padgett

Chairman Padgett was not present. President Estes reported that there were 4 applications for assistance. Two were withdrawn, two were awarded assistance.

6. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report

Chairman Cummings

Chairman Cummings reported that the VHP had a full slate of interviews for SOAR XLIII.

Fifty-one (51) video interviews have been reviewed and submitted to USASOC for watermarking and imprinting of restrictions for use along with a prohibition of copying. The SOA review process continues, and additional interviews will be released to USASOC in the near future. As the interviews are marked and returned to the SOA, they will be posted on the Members Only portion of the SOA website. President Estes advised members that if they did not want their interview released to USASOC or placed on the SOA website, they must notify the SOA Secretary.

Chairman Cummings reported that of the total video interviews presently in hand, approximately 15 are of such poor quality they will not be released.

7. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report

Chairman Bonner

Chairman Boner reported three requests for assistance totaling 7 individuals. The total assistance is \$4,513.01 leaving a fund balance of \$2,661.25.

8. SOA Chaplain's Report

Chaplain Padgett

Chaplain Padgett was not present. President Estes reported that Chaplain Padgett's represents all members of the SOA in offering prayers and condolences to the family of our fallen brothers. In the event more than 30 days have elapsed between a member's demise and SOA notification, the chaplain will typically leave the wounds to heal.

SOAR GMM Minutes (Cont'd)

9. SOA Riders Committee Report

Chairman Whitt

Chairman Whitt was not present. President Estes first addressed the recent loss of previous Chairman Tom Carrell and his unwavering commitment to the SOA Riders. He continued by saying that the SOA Riders have planned rides for the next three years, Wisconsin, Tennessee, and the New England area. He encouraged members to join the enjoyable fund-raising efforts of the SOA Riders.

10. SOA QM Sales Report

Chairman Strange

Quartermaster Strange reminded the membership that QM was not a vendor, and 100% of the profits go directly to SOA. He encouraged everyone to stop and shop.

11. SOA Membership Committee Report

Chairman Frovarp

Chairman Frovarp reported 1,298 active General members as of 1 October, with a total of 1,531 active members across all membership categories. These figures are down significantly from the 2,847/3,452 members enrolled since 1977.

The Chairman spoke of attrition, noting there have been 63 members known to have passed away, and 41 new members have joined since 1 January 2019. He noted that some of the new enrollments, and an increase in reinstatements appear to be tied to the fiftieth anniversary of CCS.

He stressed the need for a concerted recruitment effort and encouraged all members to recruit new members – young and old alike.

SOAR Registrar Ivan Davis reported 579 registered attendees, 320 members and 259 guests. Of the 320 members, there were 278 general, 19 associate, 10 honorary, and 8 widow members. In addition, there were 5 vendors.

12. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report

Chairman Keele

President Estes, who participated in the election vote tally, commended Chairman Keele for his verification, counting, and reporting protocols.

There was one candidate for Treasurer, and four candidates for two director positions. Phil Devon was elected Treasurer, and Doc Padgett and Chris McClure were both re-elected to the board.

13. SOA By-Laws Committee

Chair Cunningham

President Estes relayed that the By-Law Committee had nothing to report.

14. SOA Nomination Committee Report

Chairman Day

Chairman Day advised the membership that the office of the president, vice president, and one director position were up for election in 2020 and asked for nominations.

SOAR GMM Minutes (Cont'd)

15. MG Singlaub Award Report Secretary Jensen
Secretary Jensen read the Singlaub award presentation from the SOAR XLIII PRP.
16. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Estes
President Estes presented departing board member Rand Binford with an Eagle Award as token of the SOA's gratitude for his service to the association over the past three years. The President expressed appreciation for his insightful input throughout his tenure.
17. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Estes
- a. Treasurer: Phil Devon
 - b. Director 4: "Doc" Padgett
 - c. Director 5: Chris McClure
- Don Haase, third highest vote recipient, was sworn in as an appointment to fulfill the remaining year of Doc Padgett's term as Director Place 1.*
18. Non valor Awards Presentations President Estes
- a. Honorary Membership
With Board of Director approval, President Estes bestowed Honorary SOA Membership upon Jean Thong for her many years of unwavering volunteer service at SOAR.
 - b. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members Pres Estes-Clyde Sincere
 - c. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members Pres Estes-Clyde Sincere
 - d. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: Pres Estes-Clyde Sincere
 - e. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members: Pres Estes-Clyde Sincere
- As VP Taylor announced the names of eligible recipients registered for SOAR XLIII, President Estes and Clyde Sincere awarded tenure pins to each member present.*
- X. New Business:
- XI. For the Good of the Order President Estes
- XII. Meeting Adjournment: 1528 PDT

Respectfully Submitted by

Duffy Jensen

DUFFY JENSEN

Secretary, Special Operations Association

Election Tally Report

**Special Operations Association
Tally Committee Report of
2019 Vote Count**

To: Rick Estes, President, SOA
Board of Directors

10-10-2019

From: Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2019 ELECTION.

Ballots for the SOA election of Treasurer and two Directors were sent to the members in the 2019 pre-registration package (PRP). Only current general members were eligible to cast a ballot. Voter eligibility was determined by the Membership Chairman during the ballot collection process.

This year's election for SOA Treasurer and two Directors had a slightly better turnout than last year. All 144 ballots cast this year were valid. There were no write-in votes cast.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Keele, Tally Committee Chairman

General Membership Meeting



On Wednesday, October 23rd, the SOA members convened their annual General Membership Meeting at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. A quorum was present with 136 General Members in attendance. Mr. Dick Whitman led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance and Mr. Dale Hanson offered the Invocation.

President Estes presented departing Director Binford the Eagle Award for his service to the SOA before administering the Oath of Office to incoming Treasurer Phil Devon and Director Don Haase. Incoming Treasurer Devon provided an overview of the Associations financial position. In addition, various other committee Chairman gave updates on current initiatives and projects.



President Estes bestowed Honorary Membership upon Jean Thong for her many years of SOAR service. Similarly, Mr. Helmer Pearson received a Certificate of Appreciation. With the assistance of President Emeritus Clyde Sincere, the President presented 20, 25, 30, and 35 year tenure pins to those recipients in attendance. Following adjournment, Clyde Sincere announced the raffle winners. Unlike previous years, the closing of the silent auction was moved until 1000 hours the following morning.



General Membership Meeting (Cont'd)



Special Operations Association, Inc.
Balance Sheet - Cash Basis
As of December 31, 2019

	As of Dec 31, 2019	As of Dec 31, 2018
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts		
Checking Operations *4345	17,419.06	4,029.41
WF Operating Savings *0541	88,544.29	93,484.28
Total SOA Non-Restricted Accounts	\$ 105,963.35	\$ 97,513.69
SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543		
Brightlight Restricted Acct.	18,705.83	16,111.81
George C. Morton Scholarship Savings Restricted Acct.	41,545.15	71,059.40
LifeMbrship Fund-Board Restricted	39,193.96	31,795.06
POW/MIA Restricted Savings	7,542.88	5,866.61
SOA Warriors Family Fund-Restricted Acct.	1,895.58	7,170.42
Video/Archives Restricted	22,942.00	456.87
Total SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543	\$ 131,825.40	\$ 132,460.17
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 237,788.75	\$ 229,973.86
Accounts Receivable	475.00	0.00
Prepaid Contract-Web	0.00	175.12
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 238,263.75	\$ 230,148.98
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	2,760.00	0.00
Wells Fargo VISA	185.14	0.00
Other Current Liabilities	1,705.00	0.00
Temporary Liability-Restricted Scholarship Funds	30,500.00	49,200.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 35,150.14	\$ 49,200.00
Equity		
Net Assets (Retained Earnings)	189,148.98	207,591.12
Net Income	13,964.63	-26,642.14
Total Equity	\$ 203,113.61	\$ 180,948.98
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 238,263.75	\$ 230,148.98

Special Operations Association, Inc.
Profit and Loss Comparison 2019 - 2018 - Cash Basis
January - December 2019

	<u>Jan - Dec 2019</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2018 (PY)</u>
Income		
AAR/PRP Income	0.00	400.00
Contributions	48,830.00	38,364.92
Fund Raising	17,170.00	27,285.00
Interest Income	184.05	138.60
Membership Dues	24,745.00	33,875.01
Miscellaneous Income	856.67	74.00
Quarter Master Sales	29,745.63	24,288.26
Reunion Income	116,445.00	130,135.00
Royalty Income	131.76	501.81
Total Income	\$ 238,108.11	\$ 255,062.60
Expenses		
AAR Production	10,121.37	9,396.67
Administrative Expenses	47,720.23	59,747.15
Fund Raising Expenses	3,938.39	6,550.63
Jedburgh Award Expenses	0.00	379.32
Membership Expenses	0.00	18.55
MIA & POW Expenses	0.00	760.38
PRP Production	11,757.62	10,925.90
Quarter Master Cost	18,117.41	22,444.08
Reunion Expense	105,556.98	137,867.37
Scholarship Expenses	15,000.00	16,700.00
Travel	11,931.48	16,914.69
Total Expenses	\$ 224,143.48	\$ 281,704.74
Net Income	\$13,964.63	-\$26,642.14

SOAR XLIII Fund Raising Report

During the conduct of SOAR XLIII, the SOA raised \$4,135.00 for its Charitable Activities via the “Silent Auction.

SUMMARY (see attached Excel Spreadsheet for details):

• Items submitted for the auction:	47
• Items bid and purchased:	42
• No-Bid Items: (To be presented for auction at next year’s SOAR)	5
• Cash and Checks:	\$2,140.00
• Credit Card: (Thanks to Bob Strange for accepting Credit Cards)	\$1,995.00
• Distribution of Funds Collected:	
o The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program:	\$1,050.00
o The SOA Operation “Bright light” Program:	\$0.00
o The SOA Personal Video History Project:	\$0.00
o The SOA Warrior’s Family Program:	\$600.00
o The Special Operations Association Foundation:	\$260.00
o The SOA General Operations Fund:	\$2,225.00
TOTAL:	\$4,135.00

SILENT AUCTION HIGH BIDS

Glock#1: Jay Hayes:	\$525.00
Glock#2: William Meyer:	\$525.00
Hand-made Tiger Stripe Knife: Chuck Woodson	\$300.00
Hand-made Blood Handle Knife: John Vislosky	\$300.00

SOA ANNUAL RAFFLE WINNERS

The \$17,170 of the revenue generated by the sale of raffle tickets was split 50/50 between the Video History Project Fund and the George C. Morton Scholarship Fund.

- **SOG 15 Rifle:** P.F.D. Devlin, SOA # 1263-GL.
- **John Wayne Commemorative Pistol:** Robert G. Willis, SOA # 2183-GA.

SOAR CONTRIBUTORS

The Orleans Hotel and Casino	Glock, Inc.	Joseph Parnar
The Special Operations Assn	Bonnie Cooper	Jim Phillips
George Dickel Distillery	Dr. Janelle Cooper	Clyde Sincere
Anheuser-Busch, Inc.	Suzie Gaspard	Jeffrey Stone
Pepsi-Cola, Inc.	James Gaston	John Vislosky
SFA Chapter XXI	Jim Langevin	Laurie Whitlark
John Joyce-Excalibur	Jerry Leigh	Chuck Woodson
		Anonymous (8)

SOAR XLIII Fund Raising Report (Cont'd)

SOA/SOAF DONORS

The SOA Board of Directors would like to publicly thank Mr. John Russell for his very generous donation of \$10,000, and his unselfish contribution of time as the SOAR Entertainment Committee Chairman.

Throughout 2019, the SOA and SOAF received monetary donations in the amount of \$50,032 from 40 organizations and individuals.

Donations totaling \$7,555 were made In Memory Of Eldon Bargewell, Pete Buscetto, Ray Calafel, Jimmy Dean, Charles Dunlap, Tony Herrell, and Doug LeTourneau.

It is noteworthy that \$4,047 of the total donations received came from the Amazon Smile program and Network for Good grants. *AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The **donation** will be made at no extra cost to you.*

SOAR VENDORS

Bruce Christensen
Jason Hardy
James Phillips

Mark Kinsler
Joe Parnar

John Joyce
James A Gaston

SOA DONATION/CONTRIBUTION RECEIPT

The SOA is prepared to furnish, a receipt for tax purposes, to any member who donated/contributed any items in support of the SOA "Silent Auction" which exceeds \$100.00. John Vislosky will send the Letters, to all that meet the criteria, prior to 1 December 2019. Should any member have a question or not receive a Letter, should contact John at 914-406-0316 or JV4@aol.com.

THANK YOU

A Thank You to both Clyde Sincere for his contribution of \$100.00 and Joe Parnar SOA # 1041-GL for his contribution of \$100.00. Joe has asked the funds to be directed to the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.

SOA VENDOR STAFF

On behalf of Doug Godshall and Clyde Sincere, Co-Chairmen, SOA Fundraising/Resources Committee. Kudos and a "Tip of the Beret" to John Vislosky; Helmer and Gail Pearson; Chuck Woodson; Suzie Gaspard, and Linda Leavitt for their many hours of duty and devotion in the SOA Vendor Area during the conduct of SOAR LXIII. Thank you!!

George C. Morton Scholarship Report

Recipient Status

- Two Class of 2019 students, Ms. Anne E. Hewitt and Ms. Anna F. Carey remain in the program.
- Three Class of 2020 students, Ms. Mikayla H. D’Anna, Mr. Alex E. Shumate and Ms. Sydney A. Shank remain in the program.
- One Class of 2021 student, Mr. Christopher J. Berg remains in the program.
- Five new Class of 2022 students, Mr. Brandon Kinkaid, Mr. Bernard Lacey, Ms. Elizabeth Henry, Ms. Lurna Chapman and Ms. Reagan White, have been awarded one-year scholarships.
- Eleven scholarship recipients therefore are currently active and remain eligible in the program this semester. The following is an overview of recipients by class:
 - Seniors 2
 - Juniors 3
 - Sophomores 1
 - Freshmen 5
- Spring 2020 checks will be issued as soon as confirmation of continued eligibility is received from the students listed above. Confirmation of eligibility includes proof of enrollment and a copy of the student’s grade report, showing GPA and credit hours received after the Fall 2019 semester, per the SOA Bylaws and Scholarship rules.

2020 Financials

- The SOA’s total outstanding scholarship obligation at this time is \$30,500. The following is the current outstanding liability by class:

➤ Seniors (Class of 2020)	\$1,000
➤ Juniors (Class of 2021)	13,500
➤ Sophomores (Class of 2022)	7,500
➤ Freshmen (Class of 2023)	<u>7,500</u>
Total	\$30,500
- The SOA’s total outstanding scholarship obligation, plus required contingency at the present time is \$36,600.
- The total amount of funds in the designated scholarship account as of 10 January 2020 is as follows:

o Total Scholarship assets	<u>\$4,945</u>
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Additional information may be found in the current Treasurer’s Report.

George C. Morton Scholarship Report

(Cont'd)

Summary

- Stipend checks are \$1,000 or \$1,500 per semester for existing recipients (the recipients who received a scholarship prior to this year's recipients). For new recipients, starting with this year's awards, the total scholarship value is \$3,000 for one year, at \$1,500 per semester. The amount of funds available for new awards in any given year has generally been based upon the amount raised from all sources, less program expenses (generally minor over the last several years), between the previous two SOAR's (for the 2020 academic year's awards, that means from the end of SOAR 2018 through the end of SOAR 2019), with award recommendations being limited by that amount, plus additional funds as authorized by the SOA Board, if the Board deems it necessary or desirable. This year we determined the amount available for award based upon uncommitted funds on hand plus the twenty percent required contingency. Some additional funds were also placed in the contingency due to there not being enough to award one more scholarship and have the required contingency for that award.
- The SOA takes a fiscally conservative approach to funding of the SOA Scholarship program. A minimum funding reserve of committed funds **plus** not less than 20% of the amount of funds committed to scholarships is required to be maintained in our scholarship account. These funds are kept in a Federally insured restricted account, which ensures that SOA will always have the amount of committed scholarship funds available. The amount in our reserve is occasionally increased by students not remaining in the program for one reason or another, by suspension for academic reasons, by students accelerating their academic programs, by our not having an "even" amount for scholarships or by not having enough qualified applicants for the amount raised in the previous year (that has not happened in recent years!). Excess funds in the scholarship account also enables the SOA Board of Directors to occasionally have the flexibility to award additional scholarship money in any given year to deserving recipients beyond what was raised between the previous SOARs. The program remains fiscally sound.



Christopher E. McClure, AIA
Scholarship Committee Chairman

SOA Membership Report

Our ranks are beginning to thin. In 2019, 46 new members were added to the roster; however, the number of reported deceased members continue to outnumber new members. In 2019, 90 members were reported deceased.

Annual Members that do not renew their membership represent the highest attrition rate. Each year, an estimated 20% of the Annual Members do not renew their membership. If you are an Annual Member and have not renewed your 2020 membership, visit the SOA website and renew today.

46 applications for General or Associate membership were approved. These new members are reflected in the current roster ending December 31, 2019. 2018 totals are shown for comparison:

	2019	2018
General	1,174	1,312
Associate	110	122
Operational Assoc.	22	22
Honorary	45	45
Warriors Widow	47	44
Totals	1,398	1,545

To ensure the viability of the Association, all members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the application process, become SOA ambassadors and recruit qualified combat veterans, especially those from the Post 911 era.

I wish to personally thank the members of the Committee for the outstanding work accomplished during 2019.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Membership Chairman; however, 2020 will end my tenure as Chairman. I will continue to serve the Association as a member of the Committee.

If anyone is interested in this challenging, yet rewarding position, please contact me.

Ray Frovarp, Membership Chairman
www.membership@specialoperations.org
910 425-1425; 910 850-4646

Registrar's Report

The 2019 Special Operations Association Reunion was held at the Orleans Hotel & Casino during the week of October 21, 2019. 570 members and guests celebrated SOAR XLIII, in fellowship and camaraderie.

Attendance by type:

269	General
20	Associate
0	Operational Associate
8	Honorary
10	Warrior's Widows
263	Non-Member Vendors, Guests and Organizations
570	Total attendees

Thank you to all the members and guests who volunteered this year. Your service is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our reunions. Of particular mention, we thank the following volunteers:

Swede Ashton
Charles Borg
Don Green
Tom Halligan
John and Faye Hutchens
Katy Leites
John and Barbara Lipski
George and Sally Sternberg
Dan Thompson
Moe and Pam Worley

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.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivan Davis

SOA Riders Report

As we begin the new year, we must take a moment to reflect on the recent loss of SOA Riders Chairman Tom Carrell. Tom passed away the evening of August 30, 2019 and was laid to rest at the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Madison, IN on September 14, 2019. The SOA Riders lost a great leader, a great man, and an outstanding human being. Mary Carrell, Tom's wife, continues to support the SOA Riders with her untiring efforts to ensure that our Riders are supported in every way possible.



The Special Operations Association Riders held its annual ride to commemorate our Vietnam Special Operations Brothers that are still MIA on June 5-8, 2019. The ride was hosted by our SOA Riders Chair Tom Carrell and his wife Mary and headquartered at the Riverside Inn, Greendale, Indiana. 12 SOA Riders and 6 spouses/significant others joined in the rides and in the Laying of the Wreath ceremony that commemorated our Fallen Comrades. The Ceremony took place at the Hidden Valley Lake Veterans Memorial in Lawrenceburg, IN.



SOA Riders Report (Cont'd)

Now to this year's adventure, Red is busy prepping for our next ride. See the information below. If you are planning on attending, please email Red at **amor.surgenor@yahoo.com** and let him know you are planning on attending the ride. He wants to get a preliminary head count so he can ensure he has arranged for enough lodging.

Hello SOA Riders and guests,

*I am hosting the 2020 SOAR Ride in NW Wisconsin **Wednesday, June 10th through Saturday, June 13th.***

I have blocked 20 rooms at the Ameri Vu Inn & Suites in New Richmond, WI. Have also been putting together some ideas for rides and places to visit. No snakes or dragons (as Tom Carrell said) but lots of beautiful country roads with little traffic once we are out of New Richmond. Please reserve rooms before May 10th, 2020. It is a small but clean motel with 28 rooms available.

*Ameri Vu Inn & Suites, 814 N. Knowles Ave., New Richmond, WI 54017
Phone 715 246 4606 Website **www.amerivuinnewrichmond.com***

Rate is \$79.00 per night, non smoking, 2 story building, no handicap rooms, decks & patio access overlooking a pond on back side with a fire pit, continental breakfast, hospitality room, & indoor pool. Restaurant next door and several others in town also.

*If you have any questions don't hesitate to call me. Please leave a message and I will call you back. My phone number is 715 415 4972, or email me at **amor.surgenor@yahoo.com.***

If you are trailering your bike, please bring along some folding chairs as am planning on using the fire pit. We do have a lot of deer in WI, so please keep your eye on the ditches.

*Look forward to seeing you all in June!
Amor (Red) Surgenor*

Respectfully submitted,

CSM (Ret) MARCUS B WHITT II – Chair, SOA Riders
405-535-9353
csmwhitt@att.net

Video History & Archives Report

The SOA Archives was established to preserve the history of the Special Operations Association as well as the history of the units, missions, and operators who conducted Special Operations. As this mission continues, we are still in need of artifacts for the archives. Each year the exhibit at SOAR grows larger, but we still need donated items to round out the archives. The archive accepts photos, uniforms, documents, insignia and equipment, as well as any items associated with the SOG mission. Please contact me if you have items to donate!

A very important part of the mission to preserve Special Operations history is the SOA Video History Project. Over the past year we have lost many members, some of which we were not able to get interviews with. If you haven't done an interview yet, please consider doing so. We are currently trying to expand the Video History Project in order to be able to conduct more interviews during SOAR. The expansion will also take time and funds, so any donations are gratefully accepted. It was through generous donations this year that the VHP was able to record all 14 interviews using our new High Definition camera. Not only was the video image better, but the audio was also improved.

I also want to thank those who donated funds to our project this year. Our thanks go out to Shirley Williams, Marty Bordson of Badger Ordnance, Marshall Hall, and the Black Rifle Coffee Company for their generous donations. There are others who gave but wish to remain anonymous at this time. To all of you I say thank you for your help in preserving our history. You really stepped up when it was needed most. I would also like to thank Kenyon Smith and Shirley Williams for giving their time so freely in helping out at the Archive table at SOAR. Having your help made things run smoothly!

Again, if you have not done an interview yet, please consider doing one this year. I hope to see everyone at the next SOAR in October. If you are unable to attend SOAR and would like to do an interview, please contact me.

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

Warrior's Family Fund Report

The SOA Warrior's Family Fund was established in 2012 to assist SOA family members who cannot afford to attend SOAR. In addition, the Warrior Family Fund Committee can approve up to a \$500.00 cash stipend for widows and family members to cover funeral expenses following the death of a SOA member. Family members in need of assistance are encouraged to apply.

2019 Request for Assistance

There were three requests for family assistance for SOAR XLIII. Each request was honored at various levels of assistance.

Total disbursements for 2019 — \$6,162

Donations and Fund Raising

The Warrior's Family Fund received \$887 through donations and fundraising efforts during 2019. The Fund's year-end balance was \$1,896.

Donna Marie Menefee's donation of \$100 was In Memory Of her brother Gene Allen Menefee (KIA 1966) and James Monaghn.

/s/Horace Boner

WFF Chairman

Brightlight Report

The Operation Brightlight (BL) mission is to provide financial assistance to SOA members in good standing who, without monetary help, would not be able to attend the annual Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR). Members proposed and considered for BL grants are kept anonymous as far as possible, with names being revealed only to the BL committee and special staff.

Costs eligible for assistance are round trip transportation, hotel accommodations, SOAR registration, and an allowance for cab fare, meals, and incidentals. Assistance also extends to a family member who is the member's primary care giver, if required.

During the eligibility cycle for the 2019 SOAR, the committee received three Brightlight (BL) funding requests, submitted by members in good standing for funding for other brother SOA members. All requests were submitted and discussed by the committee. All were approved unanimously.

Of the requests submitted: One member withdrew his name due to medical considerations.

Another, after learning that his name had been submitted for, and granted BL funding, withdrew his name stating he has always paid his own way and would continue to do so.

The third BL grant request processed was for a member who had been approved for a BL grant the previous year (2018). After considerable discussion among committee members, it was determined that an exception was warranted due to extenuating circumstances: 1) the member had expended his saved SOAR funds to travel to act as a pallbearer for a lifelong friend, SOG team member and SOA member; and, 2) he was a member of RT Krait with Col de Fontaine who was being memorialized at SOAR 43.

A fourth request was received after the cut-off for applications but was considered urgent. One of our members is terminally ill and it was determined that he could not attend without his wife present as his caregiver. To facilitate his attendance, his wife's SOAR registration for Thursday was covered by Operation Brightlight.

Operation Brightlight disbursed \$2594.02 in fiscal year 2019. Through donations and fund-raising efforts, Operation Brightlight received \$4,340.22, to end the year with a fund balance of \$18,705.83.

Respectfully submitted,

John E. Padgett
Chair, Brightlight Committee

Committee Members: Tim Schaff and Rick Grabinowski.

SOA Nominating Committee Election Announcement

Special Operations Association Officer & Board Of Directors Election — 2020

1. The SOA will elect a President, Vice President, and one Director to three (3) year terms effective as of the SOAR XLIV General Membership Meeting.
2. SOA Members competing for an open position must agree to serve as a Director on the Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF).
3. In order to run for any Board position, a member must be either an Annual or Life General member in “good standing”, and have attended at least one (1) of the last three (3) SOARs, including the day before the General Membership Meeting, the General Membership Meeting, 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 2020.
5. The SOAR XLIV Pre-Registration Packet (PRP) will contain the bio/photo data and the official SOA Election Ballot with space below each category position for any write-in candidates. Ballots must be mailed to the Chairman of the Tally Committee NLT 30 September 2020 for tabulation and presentation at the 2020 SOAR General Membership Meeting.
6. Queries may be addressed to any member of the Nominating Committee.

7. Nomination Committee Chairman

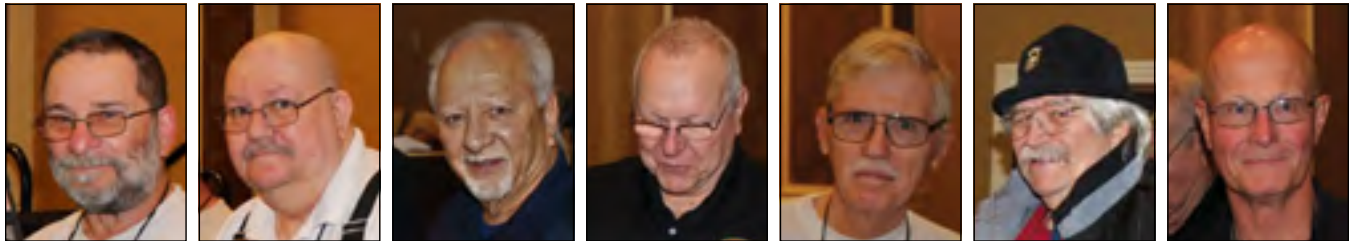
Jim Day
12383 Quinlan Ave.
Port Charlotte, Florida 33981
(541) 912-5225
rtrule@comcast.net.

Committee member

Clyde Sincere
661 W. Calle Torres Blancas, #5108
Green Valley, AZ 85614
(435) 680-4476
cjjrsincere@gmail.com

20 Year Pin Ceremony

The following SOA Members have reached or surpassed their 20th year as a member of the SOA. Those attending the SOAR XLIII General Membership Meeting were presented their tenure pins by President Estes and President Emeritus Clyde Sincere.



Ernie Acre Richard Biddle Curtis Bodin Bill Crosby Philip Devlin Ted Ellison Mike Hurst

Ernie Acre	1652-G	Henry Eskins	1600-G	Robert E. Morris	1780-G
Todd N. Bates	1711-A	Donald F. Fulton	1784-G	Jeffrey C. Mummery	1713-G
Richard A Bittle	1751-G	William F. Gabbard	1808-G	Merrill E. Newman	1717-G
Lynne M. Black	1802-G	Richard Hall	1494-B	Brian W. Paine	1736-G
John Balanco	1333-A	Jay C. Hammond	1764-G	Bobby G. Pruett	1765-G
Curtis J. Bodin Jr	1800-G	John T. Haralson	1819-G	John R. Saunders	1695-G
Jan Borek	1803-G	James E. Hooker	1739-G	Paul Sawyer	1788-G
Barclay Boyd	1737-G	Michael R. Hurst	1701-G	James H. Schaeffer	1818-G
Robert A. Bradow	1799-G	Bert S. Imada	1703-G	David F. Siciliano	1758-G
Roy E. Brown	1710-G	James R. Jarrett	1734-G	Robert S. Sinton	1760-G
Andrew M. Brown	1817-G	Norman E. Jennings	1796-G	Sterling S. Smith	1821-G
Mark A. Byrd	1793-G	Robert M. Kline	1791-G	John St. Martin	1654-G
Son Hung Cao	1733-G	Glenn E. Lane	1718-G	Howard Sugar	840-G
Robert L. Cole	1807-G	Lance O. Lollini	1708-A	Fred Thompson	1801-A
Jackie W. Cook	1709-G	Charles E. Luczynski	1714-G	Frank A. Tigano	1754-G
Lorence M. Cordova	1716-G	J. J. "Crash" Makool	1790-G	Patrick N. Watkins	1824-G
Donald L. Corkran	1812-G	Raymond Masterson	1748-G	James B. Weisbrod	1763-G
William R. Crosby	1768-G	John W. Mayhew	1747-G	James E. Wilde	1699-G
Howard B. Davis	1724-G	Joel S. McDaniel	1706-G	Paul Wilson	1660-G
Philip F. D. Devlin	1263-G	Keith L. McKim	1730-G	Herschel R. Wilson	1702-G
Harry J. Dillon	1722-A	Russell H. Miller	1715-G	Herbert J. Winters Sr	1719-G
H. Ted Ellison	1349-A	Thomas S. Mochen	1746-G		



Joel McDaniel J.J. McKool Bob Sinton Howard Sugar Frank Tigano Paul Wilson

25 Year Pin Ceremony

The following SOA Members have reached or surpassed their 25th year as a member of the SOA. Those attending the SOAR XLIII General Membership Meeting were presented their tenure pins by President Estes and President Emeritus Clyde Sincere.

Howard W. Allen	1200-G	James C. Harrison	1211-G
Harry Birdsall	1241-G	Roger L. Hill	1201-G
Dale E. Boswell	1230-A	Ted Hornung	1181-G
Phil M. Brown	1253-G	John M. Howell	1219-G
Edwin O. Brown	1223-G	Bryon Loucks	1235-G
Thomas W. Burke	1196-G	Matthew McClintock	1186-A
Issac Camacho	1209-G	Robert P. Mohs	1182-G
Colin Lee Chaffee	1246-G	Ronald D. Mullins	1191-G
Russell T. Cornett	1245-G	Steven C. Perry	1189-G
Ward Dean	1225-G	Eugene H. Pugh	1205-G
Francis J. Delaney	1213-G	Joe Sottile	1119-G
Khanh V. Doan	1233-G	Jon Sprague	1222-G
William Durand	1204-G	Gary J. Swartzbaugh	1185-G
Michael Dwyer	1057-A	Kenneth Thompson	1234-A
Jerry D. Estenson	1224-G	Clarence F. Williams	1190-G
William Hanson	1214-G	Edward Wolcoff	1208-G



Joe Sottile



Michael Dwyer

30 Year Pin Ceremony

The following SOA Members have reached or surpassed their 30th year as a member of the SOA. Those in attendance at the SOAR XLIII General Membership Meeting were presented their tenure pins by President Estes and President Emeritus Clyde Sincere.



Saul Arredondo



Carl Franquet



Nick Godano



Dave Maurer

Saul Arredondo	891-G	Nicholas Godano	872-G	Peter H. McGiffert	854-G
Anthony Belluscio	860-G	William Gratton	892-G	Charles Odorizzi	853-G
Franklin T. Castleberry	864-G	Robert F. Head	894-G	Jon Ross	886-G
William Coughlan	322-G	Paul Ray Jensen	868-G	Howard Sugar	840-G
Mike Farrell	856-G	Dave Maurer	721-G	Robert Taylor	885-G
M. Steven Fishman	855-A	Donald F. MacIver	880-G	Laurence Wicorek	819-G
Carl Franquet	629-G	Williston McCain	877-G	Charles R. Woodson	884-A



Howard Sugar



Ted Wicorek



Chuck Woodson

35 Year Pin Ceremony

The following SOA Members have reached or surpassed their 35th year as a member of the SOA. Those in attendance at the SOAR XLIII General Membership Meeting were presented their tenure pins by President Estes and President Emeritus Clyde Sincere.



Carl Franquet



Carl Fronabarger

Bernard Bright	651-G	Lionel L. Hector	620-G	Timothy Schaaf	549-G
Richard Brokhausen	635-G	John Luscher	608-G	Raymond R. Shultz	639-G
Allan L. Bucknell	603-A	Dave Maurer	721-G	John M. Trantanella	622-G
Louis W. Caton II	611-G	Norman H. Olson	610-G	J. R. Turner	626-G
William Coughlan	322-G	David Paul	28-G	Marcus B. Whitt II	602-G
Carl R. Franquet	629-G	David Parenteau	637-G	Ralph M. Wilkerson	640-G
Carl A. Fronabarger	632-A	Billy Phillips	617-G		
Jerrald Ginder	618-G	Ken R. Quackenbush	616-G		



Dave Maurer



David Paul



John Trantanella

Liquor Tasting

Immediately following the GMM, 105 inquisitive palates attended the annual liquor tasting which was hosted by George Dickel Tennessee Whisky. It must have been an exceptionally well received event because SOA's normally reliable photographer, Dick Whitman, was only able to grab a single photo before becoming fully engrossed in the proceedings.

Born 40 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, George A. Dickel was an established Nashville merchant when he entered the whisky business. Dickel grew his reputation for selling the smoothest, most mellow spirits in the region. Thus, Geo. A. Dickel & Co. was born and when the Cascade Hollow Distillery opened in 1878 in neighboring Coffee County, George Dickel bought a large share. George Dickel followed in the Scottish tradition of spelling whisky without an "e."



George Dickel preferred whisky made in the winter months more than summer months because he felt it made the whisky taste smoother, so the company began advertising their Geo. A. Dickel's Cascade Tennessee Whisky as "Mellow as Moonlight." This is why our whisky is chilled before undergoing the charcoal-mellow filtration known as the Lincoln County Process. This extra step smooths out the flavor and we're still the only Tennessee distillery to do it.

Bowling Tournament



The origin of this event is unclear, but several enterprising wives appear to have organized the "1st Annual SOAR Bowling Tournament" which was held on Thursday, the 24th. Connie Maurer was the winner of the inaugural event. Michelle Werther and Deborah Sinyard have been identified as the points of contact for the "2nd Annual SOAR Bowling Tournament". Well done ladies, well done.



Connie Maurer



L-R Connie Maurer, Deborah Sinyard, Julie Wheeler, Michelle Werther

TAPS

The following are our brothers who have passed since the last TAPS reported in the 2018 AAR, and those who departed earlier, but were not previously identified.

The SOA has attempted to list our fallen as accurately as possible. Should any member have information of a deceased brother who has not been identified here, please contact a BOD member and the information will be published in our next report.

MAY THEY REST IN ETERNAL PEACE

Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death
Vincent W. Arnone	309-G	12/4/2019
Arpad Bacskai	1250-G	12/3/2015
Conrad Ben Baker	897-A	12/16/2019
James L. Beard	156-A	6/29/2019
Joseph A. Bossi	682-G	2/6/2016
William R. Bumps	2635-G	10/1/2019
Dean Byrne	361-G	10/2/2019
John A. Carpenter	1475-G	7/7/2011
Tom Carrell	1809-G	8/30/2019
Wiley S. Craig	1419-G	3/3/2015
Homer R. Dawson	1673-G	11/23/2017
Merlyn D. Eckles	24-G	9/9/2019
Roy Lee Eckrote	2934-G	12/7/2019
Gary O. Ennen	3070-G	4/30/2019
Hal F. Faulk	585-G	7/13/2019
Harold E. Fischer	1332-G	4/30/2009
Theodore S. Fleser	1666-G	2/3/2011
Arthur F. Garcia	1909-G	3/6/2017
Jonathan D. Gibson	1170-G	6/21/2019
Ward T. Gilbert	2849-G	12/30/2019
Gerald K. Griffin	1003-G	3/10/2018
Richard R. Gross	304-G	12/23/1999
James A. Hanlon	427-G	1/21/2012
Michael D. Harding	2610-G	5/22/2017
Joseph G. Harrilla	1838-G	8/7/2019
Donna Hephner	1249-WW	2/19/2018
Anthony R. "Tony" Herrell	1066-G	10/1/2019
John M. Hogg	1049-G	9/23/2019
Peter A. Holmberg	736-G	11/14/2019
Justin Dan Hughes	444-G	3/25/2018
Jackson B. Hughes	2551-G	8/3/2019

TAPS (Cont'd)

Member Name	SOA#	Date of Death
Douglas Le Tourneau	2062-G	7/25/2019
Donald L. Martin	1592-G	3/21/2019
Williston B. P. McCain	877-G	6/27/2005
Robert J. McCormack	1083-G	9/13/2006
Patrick L. McMullin	2517-G	10/17/2019
Horace H. Mewborn	214-G	12/14/2019
Robert W. Mitchell	1595-G	12/11/2015
Harrold K. Ownby	1536-G	9/19/2017
H. Ross Perot	91-H	7/9/2019
Mark Ponzillio	1890-G	7/14/2019
Horace J. Reisner	1449-G	5/4/2016
Rudolf G. Rosenquist	930-G	3/1/2010
Richard A. Rositano	2535-G	10/2/2019
Jan Schuyler Roush	742-G	7/9/2019
Tasmania Soloi Samuela	1226-G	10/3/2019
James E. Siegman	2228-G	12/17/2019
John W. "Smitty" Smith	2597-G	12/8/2019
William Stojack	647-A	11/9/2017
Carl L. Sullivan	2545-G	11/14/2019
Santos D. Tenorio	989-G	6/8/2013
Daniel J. Teske	2496-G	9/29/2019
Garfield Thomas	2631-G	11/10/2019
Rickey James Thompson	2455-G	10/23/2018
Larry T. White	2476-G	7/6/2015
John W. Wisniewski	2397-G	8/31/2013

*And, though the warrior's sun has set,
its light shall linger round us yet – bright, radiant, blest.
Jorge Manrique*

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 ADVERTISING RATES

Front Outside Cover	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.
 661 W. Calle Torres Blancas, #5108, Green
 Valley, AZ 85614
 cjjrsincere@gmail.com

MACV SOG

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VOLUME 4

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RT New Hampshire (CCC)



VOLUME 5

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



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RT Adder (CCN)
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RT Intruder (CCN)



VOLUME 9

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RT Ohio (CCN)
RT Rattler (CCN)



VOLUME 10

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RT Asp (CCN)
RT Diamondback (CCN)
RT Virginia (CCN)



VOLUME 11

RT Florida (CCC)
RT Hotcake (CCC)
RT Kentucky (CCC)
RT New Jersey (CCN)
RT Oregon (CCN)

From Jason Hardy, MACVSOG, Team History of a Clandestine Army delves into the murky world of OPS-35 and the Recon Teams that manned this project. Rare, full color photographs, team members in chronological order, notable missions, equipment, knives, weapons, uniforms, and of course insignia are all explored in exacting detail.

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- Indig Set \$500 to \$1,000
- Tiger Stripe Set \$250 to \$500
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- Modified Fatigues \$250 to \$750
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- Other Camouflage \$250 and up

HEADGEAR

- Berets \$100 to \$250
- Embroidered Berets \$250 to \$700
- Black Boonie Caps \$250 to \$500
- Tiger Stripe Caps \$250 and up

LIGHTERS

- Zippo® w/ Presentation \$250
- Others \$100 to \$200

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- SOG ID's \$250
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- Others \$75

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- SOG Knives \$800 to \$1,400
- Presentation SOG Knives \$1,500 to \$2,000
- 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.

Jason Hardy • jason@specialforceshistory.com • 978-337-1982

Southern Brotherhood Breakfast

2019 marked the 50th anniversary of CCS. One hundred and one warriors and guests of the Southern Brotherhood gathered for their annual breakfast to celebrate this milestone.

LTC Lindsey returned following last year's absence, to once again emcee the early morning event. Following the Invocation by Dave Spencer, he began with a welcome to SOA President Rick Estes and the SOA Board and presented a donation from CCS-SOG, Inc. to the SOA.



As CCS Commander and Historian, LTC Lindsey provided the families and guests in attendance, an overview of CCS's mission 50 years ago in the jungles of Southeast Asia. "As many of you know, it was the southernmost of three major units (CCS, CCC, CCN) of MACV-SOG. CCS had three widely separated subunits that covered a total of 300 miles. I remember flying 8 hours a day in order to

cover the three separated units depending upon where the action was. The men of CCS represented the elite special forces conducting special operations which were all pretty much behind the main line. Our job was to gather information and to cut off the southern supply routes of the North Vietnamese Army (NVA). The tactics we used were similar to those developed by Rogers' Rangers in the 1750s."

His reference to the "Rangers" was the perfect segue for recognizing CCS veteran, and Ranger Hall of Fame inductee Carl Vincell who was in attendance.

LTC Lindsey saluted SOA VP Mike Taylor for his outstanding work with POW/MIA community's ongoing efforts to locate and repatriate those we were unable to bring home with us.

He also took a moment to recognize the January passing of Pete Buscetto, a CCS recon man with RT Plane, and a CCS-SOG, Inc. board member. This opened the way for the traditional reading of the names of CCS personnel who had fallen in combat.



Brotherhood Breakfast (Cont'd)



Troy Gilley, Mike Ash, and Bob Bost shared the burden of reading the list of CCS personnel, while Dave Spencer and Duffy Jensen recited the names of the 20th SOS and 195th AHC air partners. The Boss finished with those from the 57th, 155th, 240th, and 281st Assault Helicopter Companies. The traditional reading of names was followed by a power point presentation of those who have departed since their return home.



In his closing remarks, LTC Lindsey advised that he was relinquishing his duties at the Southern Brotherhood Breakfast. He tasked Alex Saunders and Duffy Jensen with the mission of carrying on the annual tradition. Thanks for your many years at the helm Boss.

SOAR Banquet



As SOAR XLIII Master of Ceremonies, President Rick Estes guided the 470 members and guests through an evening of traditional ceremonies and presentations, good fellowship and fine food, and just a little dancing to cap the week of camaraderie.

The highlight of the evening were tributes to late SOG legends Sully de Fontaine, Col USA (Ret) and Eldon Bargewell, MG USA (Ret). The tributes were offered by Clyde Sincere and David Maurer respectively.



SOAR Banquet *Missing Man Ceremony*



BG (USAF, ret) Jim Latham, Prairie Fire FAC and Vietnam POW, explains the symbolism of the POW/MIA Table.



Nellis Air Force Base Honor Guard



“Passing the Torch”: David Maurer passes the Ho Chi Minh Trail Coin to John Vislosky. This ceremony symbolizes passing the mantle from elder members to younger members to carry on the responsibility to “never-forget”.



- The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.
- The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.
- The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these warriors...and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers.
- The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return, and determination to account for them.
- A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families.
- The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return.
- The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.
- The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share a toast. The chair is empty...they are missing.

SOAR Banquet *Recognition*

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS



Lisa Allen, Video Interviewer



*Dave & Christie Marks
SOAR Volunteers*



Jean Thong, SOAR Volunteer

PRESIDENT'S AWARDS



*Bonnie Cooper
Contributor at Large*



Steve Sherman, SOG Who's Who



Johnie Webb, DPAA

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION



The Orleans Hotel & Casino



Jim Hetrick, SOAR Chairman



*Kenyon Smith
VHP/Archive Assistant*

SOAR Banquet Recognition (Cont'd)



Bob Strange, SOA Quartermaster



Helmer Pearson, SOAR Volunteer

RECIPIENTS NOT PRESENT

LINDA HOFFMAN — For your many hours of professional attention to detail in producing the Special Operations Association’s annual “AFTER ACTION REPORT”, and “PRE-REUNION REPORT”. Additionally, for your outstanding patience and good humor when dealing with SOA volunteers.

DAVID GREENE — For your generous support assisting the Special Operations Association with important legal advice in the highly specialized field of Intellectual Property law. The SOA Officers and members wish to express our great appreciation for your invaluable assistance.

ANGEL TAPIA: Wells Fargo Bank — For the many hours of highly professional service and attention to detail while transferring the many difficult SOA business accounts to a new incoming Treasurer. Your detailed knowledge and exceptional assistance is greatly appreciated by all.



*David Maurer honoring
the late SOG legend
Eldon Bargewell, MG USA (Ret)*



*Clyde Sincere honoring
the late SOG legend
Sully de Fontaine, COL USA (Ret)*

SOAR Banquet — 40 Year Pin Ceremony



L-R Russell Mann, John Barrett, Edward Davis, Robert Graham, Robert Bechtolt, Al Greenup



John Lamberth



The following SOA Members have reached or surpassed their 40th year as a member of the SOA. Those in attendance at the SOAR XLIII Banquet were presented their tenure pins by President Estes and President Emeritus Clyde Sincere.

John Patrick Barrett	169-G	Al Greenup	28-G	Hugh E. Murray	107-G
Robert J. Bechtoldt	146-G	Lloyd J. Howard	153-G	John R. Newman	192-G
Frank L. Belletire Jr.	217-G	Frank Jaks	213-G	James F. Ouzts Jr	151-G
Martin T. Bennett	150-G	Henry D. Jennings	139-G	David F. Ryder	119-G
Johnny K. Berry	110-G	John R. Lamberth	195-A	Jerry Sarkovics	142-G
Fred A. Camacho	133-G	Russel S. Mann	203-G	John K. Singlaub	108-G
Joseph Cavallero Jr	178-G	Roland S. Meder	180-G	Charles R. Steffler	172-G
Edward P. Davis	105-G	Charlie Mendoza	149-G	Larry Trimble	163-G
Julius Z. Farago	118-G	Ralph E. Miller	183-G	Michael J. Vermillion	167-G
Robert J. Graham	184-G	Alfred Montez	152-G	Morris Worley	1698-G

SOAR Banquet



Endowments, Bequests and Wills

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

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

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

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

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

I. General language for a Bequest:

- A. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for its unrestricted use.” Or,
- B. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for the specific purpose of supporting (one of the following specific projects):
 - 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
 - 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
 - 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
 - 4. The SOA Warrior’s Family Fund.
 - 5. The SOA General Fund.

Endowments, Bequests and Wills *(Cont'd)*

II. Specific Bequest language:

- A. "I give (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property – home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for its unrestricted use." Or,
- B. "I give (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property – home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for the specific purpose (one of the following specific projects):
 - 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
 - 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
 - 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
 - 4. The SOA Warrior's Family Fund.
 - 5. The SOA General Fund.
- C. If at any time in the judgment of the governing body of the Organization, it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the stated purpose of the bequest, the governing body of the Organization shall determine a purpose as near as possible to the purpose stated in the bequest.

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

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

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Planned Monthly Giving Program Registration Form

Special Operations Association Charities and Operations depends on the generosity of our members, their families, friends and the Public to help those in need and who are most deserving of our assistance. The Planned Monthly Giving Program is an opportunity to schedule your donations in monthly increments that best fit your personal situation and doesn't create a financial strain on your own budget.

To participate, fill in this form and return it via mail C/O Linda Leavitt, P.O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, or email to the Treasurer at soatreasurer@specialoperations.org, or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE MADE BY:

Payment by Check (Personal or Corporate): Checks Mailed to SOA Treasurer: P.O. Box 335461 N. Las Vegas, Nv 89033
If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely.

Payment by Credit Card: Visa Master Card American Express Discover Card



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

Date Credit Card to be charged/Automatic Withdrawals made each month*: Please check only one box

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1st of Billing Month | <input type="checkbox"/> 10th of Billing Month | <input type="checkbox"/> 15th of Billing Month |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20th of Billing Month | <input type="checkbox"/> 25th of Billing Month | <input type="checkbox"/> 30th of Billing Month |

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

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

PAYMENT BY AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS:

You can set up automatic payments to the SOA. Please contact the Treasurer by email with contact information so he may call you.

IMO (IN MEMORY OF) ASSIGNMENT:

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

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

MONTHLY CHARGE/WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZATION:

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

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

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

Authorizing Signature: _____

The Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute Pistol

A Handsomely Decorated Browning Hi-Power Pistol

The left side features a banner reading "Special Operations Association," the SOA logo, a recon team with several members disguised as NVA (Note pith helmets), a special forces member with his suppressed M3 submachine gun, and a Montagnard returning from a mission. The Montagnard soldiers were trusted partners who played a pivotal role in numerous recon missions.

During the Vietnam War there was a special breed of warrior, whose assignments were among the most dangerous. Their efforts served all the fighting men in Vietnam. They performed strategic reconnaissance. It meant high-risk duty running recon deep in enemy territory, collecting intelligence, extracting downed pilots, raiding suspected POW camps, spiking enemy supply caches and striking at the enemy from within.

We know them as U.S. Army Special Forces, SEALs, Air Commandos, Force Recon, and SAS. Beyond these honored titles, and a handful of others, participants in Special Operations defy easy description. Today America Remembers is proud to honor all of these heroic warriors who served in Southeast Asia with the Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute Pistol – a handsome Tribute issued on a legendary military sidearm, the Browning Hi-Power pistol.

From launch sites inside Vietnam, such as Kham Duc, Phu Bai, and others, members of the Studies and Observations Group (SOG) served covertly behind enemy lines, often in very dangerous situations and in difficult terrain. The young American warriors left behind the comforts of home for an uncertain fate on a far-off treacherous battlefield, putting their lives on the line in support of freedom and liberty, and serving with valor and distinction.

A Trusted Military Sidearm – A Fitting Tribute

In Vietnam, the Browning 9mm Hi-Power was a favorite combat sidearm for SOG warriors who operated secretly behind enemy lines. It featured a large magazine capacity, and was rugged, reliable and effective. In fact, the Browning Hi-Power was so respected, this classic military firearm was used for special presentations to recognize outstanding accomplishments. Designated the "Reconnaissance Team Leader Special Recognition Award," and called the "Silver Pistol," this unique presentation was awarded to a very limited number of individuals during the Vietnam War.

The Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute from America Remembers features dramatic and powerful artwork honoring those who served in Southeast Asia.

The Tribute is authorized by the Special Operations Association, a fraternal organization of American and foreign participants of special military operations in a combat theater, primarily in Southeast Asia. For this Tribute, each working pistol is decorated with 24-karat gold and nickel artwork by craftsmen specifically commissioned by America Remembers, and it is available nowhere else.



The right side features banners inscribed Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, a SOG member outfitted with detonation equipment for a quick demolition ambush, carrying his CAR-15, and a cross-border operations team returning from a successful mission. Both sides of the slide feature three lightning bolts representing the three methods of infiltration – land, sea, and air.

Top of slide features the SOA logo, a banner reading "Special Operations Association Tribute," and a Huey picking up a recon team from behind enemy lines.



Elegant grips are laser-carved with the Special Operations Association logo.

A Limited Edition of 250

Only 250 of the SOA Vietnam Tribute Pistols will ever be produced. Reservations will be accepted in the order they are received. We will arrange delivery of your Tribute through a licensed dealer of your choice. If for any reason you are less than satisfied, you may return your Tribute in unfired condition within 30 days for a full refund.

This Tribute honoring those who served in Southeast Asia is a truly inspiring tribute to America's Special Operations warriors, those who fought, those who fell, and those still listed as missing in action. It is certain to be a treasured heirloom for those who served in Southeast Asia, and for all those Americans who want to remember the brave warriors who proudly served our country.



Free Display Case is included with each order for this Tribute. To proudly exhibit and display your Tribute, each pistol will be shipped with a handsome, luxuriously lined display case, with an engraved brass identification plaque. © AHL, Inc.

Model: Browning Hi-Power • Caliber: 9mm Luger • Edition Limit: 250

I wish to reserve ___ of the "Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute Pistol" at the current issue price of \$2,295.* My deposit of \$195 per pistol is enclosed. I wish to pay the balance at the rate of \$100 per month, no interest or carrying charges. Certificate of Authenticity included. Thirty-day return privilege.

* All orders are subject to acceptance and credit verification prior to shipment. Shipping and handling will be added to each order. Virginia residents please add sales tax.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone (_____) _____

- Check enclosed for \$ _____.
- Charge payment of \$ _____ to:
 - Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover

No. _____ Exp. _____

America Remembers®
 10226 Timber Ridge Drive ★ Ashland, Virginia 23005
 Visit our website at: www.americaremembers.com
 To place your reservation toll-free call

1-800-682-2291



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Membership Criteria **www.specialoperations.org**



Membership in the Special Operations Association is open to Veterans or members of a U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Unit who has conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided direct support to the operational combat element within an assigned area of operations. Visit the SOA website for detailed information.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS – Documentation is required verifying your **assignment** to a Special Operations Unit, the **dates** you served in that Unit, the **location** where you served, your **MOS** and your **operational role** in that combat element. You must provide enough documentation for the Membership Committee to understand your qualifications.

MEMBER CLASSES – The SOA Bylaws define two classes of members, **General** and **Associate**. **Operational Associate** is a *distinction* conferred on non-US Armed Forces members that support the General class.

GENERAL

- A Veteran or member of a U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Unit as defined 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
- Documentation includes, but is not limited to DD214/215, Awards, CIB, citations and Orders.

ASSOCIATE

- A Veteran or member of a U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Unit as defined by this Association
- Supported the conduct of his unit's Special Operations in a non-operational direct support role.
- Normal duty did not involve direct threat or exposure to hostile fire.
- Documentation includes, but is not limited to DD214/215, Awards, CIB, citations and Orders.

OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE

- Members of foreign military units and paramilitary personnel who served with U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Units, in the role defined in the General Member category.
- Sponsorship by a General member of the SOA and an abbreviated biography of the candidate.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS AS DEFINED BY THIS ASSOCIATION – Visit the SOA website, www.specialoperations.org to review the current list of approved units.

- The unit/project/operational team must be or have been composed of U.S. Armed Forces military personnel with a mission to conduct Special Operations while assigned to what this Association defines as a Unit specifically designated and tasked with conducting combat and other combat-related missions of an unconventional, covert and/or clandestine nature; or,
- On a routine basis provided direct combat support as part of the Operational Team performing Special Operations missions, aviation units providing insertion, extraction and direct fire support while in close proximity to enemy forces.

Applications are available online (preferred) on the SOA website or mail to: Membership Committee, PO Box 335461, N. Las Vegas, NV 89033. A \$35 non-refundable application fee is required. Make checks payable to the SOA.

rev. Dec 2019



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION



Application for Membership www.specialoperations.org

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

Indicate the Membership type you are applying for:

GENERAL

ASSOCIATE

OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATE

If you do not qualify for General, will you accept Associate or Operational Associate? YES _____ NO _____

A. CONTACT INFORMATION				
LAST NAME:		FIRST NAME:		MIDDLE NAME:
STREET ADDRESS		CITY		STATE ZIP+4
PHONE		CELL PHONE		EMAIL
DATE OF BIRTH		SSN		SERVICE NUMBER
B. EMERGENCY CONTACT OR NEXT OF KIN (NOK):				
FIRST/LAST NAME, ADDRESS		RELATIONSHIP		PHONE EMAIL
C. DOCUMENTATION is required verifying your assignment to a Special Operations Unit, the dates you served in that Unit, location where you served, your MOS and your operational role in that combat element.				
D. QUALIFYING UNIT(S): Enter your Special Operations Unit assignment(s) below. The approved units list is posted at www.specialoperations.org . If your unit is not on the list, and you can document that you served in a Special Operations Unit as defined by the SOA, contact the Membership Committee for further instructions before submitting the application.				
BRANCH	QUALIFYING UNIT(S)	MOS AND DUTIES WHILE DEPLOYED	DATES OF DEPLOYMENT	LOCATION
E. SPONSORSHIP: If you have a SOA member in good standing, who served with you and can verify your eligibility, print their name and contact information below. A member of the Committee will contact them. SOA Member Name: _____ Contact info.: _____				
F. How did you hear about the SOA? Why do you want to become a member?				
G. Why do you want to become a Member of the SOA?				
H. APPLICANTS OATH: 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 membership in the Special Operations Association.				
Applicant's signature:				Date:

SOA FEE SCHEDULE

Keeping your ANNUAL membership current and in good standing allows unrestricted access to the website, AAR, PRP publications and other member benefits such as SOA scholarships, Brightlight and Warrior's Widow grants.

The following fees can be processed online at www.specialoperations.org or mailed to the address listed below:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - Renewals are due on January 1 of each year. Add \$5 late fee if paid after January 31:

\$30 If paid before January 31

\$35 If paid after January 31

REINSTATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP – If you have not renewed your membership in more than 12 months, a reinstatement fee will be assessed:

\$25 Add if more than 12 months in arrears

CHANGE STATUS FROM ANNUAL TO LIFE – Contact the Membership Chair in advance to verify status.

LIFE OR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

\$20 Life Card

\$10 Annual Card

To avoid delays, if you are applying for reinstatement or life status, contact the Membership Chairman in advance.

If you need additional information, contact:

Ray Frovarp
Membership Chair

PO Box 335461

N. Las Vegas, NV 89033

membership@specialoperations.org

(H) 910 425-1425; (C) 910 850-6023

Rev. Dec 2019



SOA ANNUAL MEMBERS

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY:

January 31
(EVERY YEAR)

AND NOBODY GETS HURT



A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

Keeping your contact information up to date ensures that you will receive your AAR/PRP publications and other news of interest to the SOA membership in a timely manner.

Indicate below the changes you would like to make on your record. 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 CONTACT

Indicate additions or changes to your emergency contact information:

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

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

This form may be completed online at www.specialoperations.org, or mailed to the below address:

Ray Frovarp
Membership Chairman
PO Box 335461
N. Las Vegas NV 89033
(H) 910-425-1425; (C) 910-850-6023
membership@specialoperations.org

SOAR XLIII AAR — DECEMBER 2019

Belt Buckle Brass raised skull	\$35.00	_____	_____
Coin MACVSOG PUC Commemorative Edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin 50 th Anniversary MACVSOG 1964 -2014	\$12.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- Bullion, SOA Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
License plate Black _____ Camo _____	\$16.00	_____	_____
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	\$15.00	_____	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 9" tall	\$30.00	_____	_____
Life Member Pin SOA round Gold _____ Pewter _____	\$6.00	_____	_____
Hat Pin SOA Red Shield 1 ½ inches	\$7.00	_____	_____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield	\$6.00	_____	_____
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	_____	_____
SOA bullet glass	1- \$20.00 _____ 2- \$36.00 _____	_____	_____

Shipping flat rate USPS	SUBTOTAL	_____
SM \$7.90 MD \$14.35 LG \$19.95	SHIPPING	_____
	HANDLING	_____ \$3.00 _____
	TOTAL	_____

ORDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Name _____ SOA# _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST. _____ ZC _____

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

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

Exp. Date _____ 3 digit code on back _____

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

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 Lt Thomas Norris an MOH recipient (The only time in US History when a recipient is awarded a MOH for saving the life of another MOH recipient).

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

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

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

Bottom Center: At Kham Duc, RVN, a Special Forces "A" camp on the Vietnam-Laotian border and a MACVSOG training and launch site, Recon Team Iowa stands in front of a Vietnamese H-34, "King Bee" helicopter prior to the launch of MACVSOG's first mission on October 18, 1965.

Top Left, SFC Jim "Halo" Smith; 4th from left, top, One-Zero (1-0), Team Leader SGM Charles L. "Slats" Petry, and bottom left SFC Steven W. Comerford. Upper Right: The Radio Relay Site "Leg Horn" located in Laos.

Lower Right: A Navy SEAL Recon Team.

**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
rstrange81@yahoo.com



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



PASSING THE TORCH



David Maurer passes the Ho Chi Minh Trail Coin to John Vislosky. This ceremony symbolizes passing the mantle from elder members to younger members to carry on the responsibility to “never-forget”.



The Orleans is proud to present

SOAR XLIV

October 19-23, 2020



Thank you for your service

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

The ORLEANSSM

Tropicana & Arville | OrleansCasino.com

