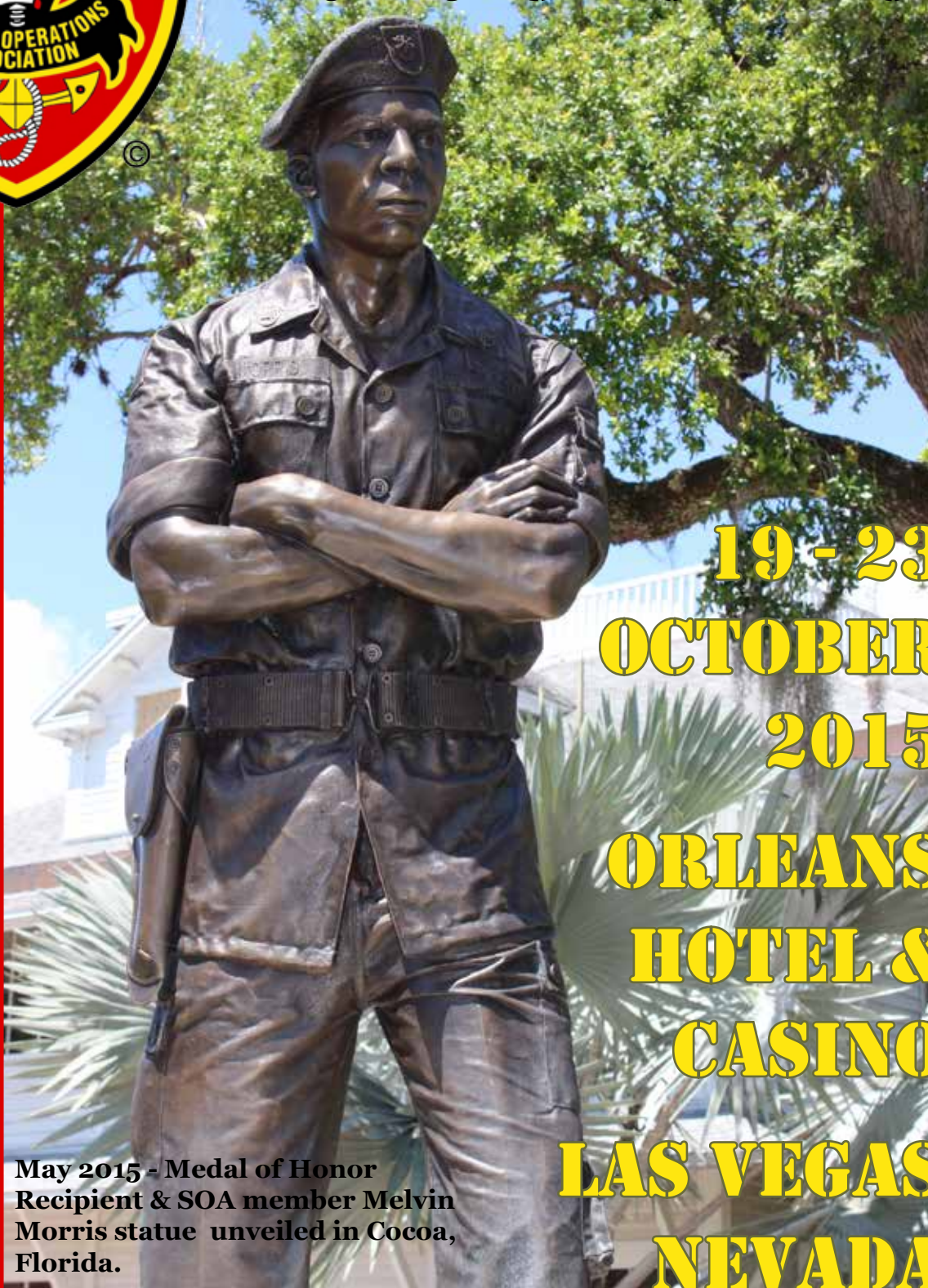




# THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SOAR XXXIX PRE-REUNION PACKET



**19 - 23  
OCTOBER  
2015  
ORLEANS  
HOTEL &  
CASINO  
LAS VEGAS  
NEVADA**

May 2015 - Medal of Honor  
Recipient & SOA member Melvin  
Morris statue unveiled in Cocoa,  
Florida.



CAROLYN G. GOODMAN  
MAYOR



*From the Office of  
Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman*

**Special Operations Association 39<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
October 19 - 23, 2015  
Las Vegas, Nevada**

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the citizens of the great City of Las Vegas, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to SOAR XXXIX being held October 19 - 23, 2015, at The Orleans Hotel & Casino. Your 39<sup>th</sup> Reunion this year coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the majority of your memberships are Vietnam veterans. It is through the hard work and dedication of many people that a special event such as this is made possible.

There is no greater cause than serving your country and the brave men and women who have done so, have helped to promote freedom and democracy throughout the world.

I hope that this reunion will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with old friends, hopefully make new ones, and share that special bond that each of you has had with one another in service to our country.

Again, welcome to fabulous Las Vegas! Best wishes for an enjoyable stay in our fine City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Goodman".

Carolyn G. Goodman  
Mayor, City of Las Vegas

CITY OF LAS VEGAS  
495 S. MAIN STREET  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

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FAX 702.385.7960  
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EMAIL [cgoodman@lasvegasnevada.gov](mailto:cgoodman@lasvegasnevada.gov)  
WEBSITE [www.lasvegasnevada.gov](http://www.lasvegasnevada.gov)



July 2015

Fellow SOA members

I want to personally invite all of you to SOAR XXXIX. Our many SOAR volunteers are working on putting together what we hope will be our best SOAR ever. Jimmy Tong, our reunion Chair, is going full speed ahead to put together another great event again this year and has promised a night of entertainment and dancing following our banquet. The friendly Orleans staff is standing by to make your stay better than ever. Jimmy has scheduled a tour of the Valley of Fire, as well as last year's popular Viva Las Vegas dinner show, as part of the many activities available to our attendees.

Our cover this year is a photograph of the recently unveiled statue of Medal of Honor recipient and SOA member Melvin Morris, which was erected in his home town of Cocoa, Florida. Melvin will be attending our reunion this year and will speak at the banquet, so be sure not to miss it. Also, please read the book review by Ray Calafell on Medal of Honor recipient Roy Benavidez' MOH mission, titled Legend by Eric Boehm. Roy Benavidez was a member of the SOA.

The SPAD pilot symposium is back this year and will include Forward Air Control "Covey" pilots and the Covey riders explaining the support they provided to SOG teams and the "Prairie Fire" missions. This program has filled the room in the past and has been a great opportunity for the pilots and men on the ground to meet each other, often for the first time.

Our POW/MIA committee will be presenting a very complete front line briefing on the recent repatriation of remains from Southeast Asia as well as the reorganization of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. Our guest speaker will be Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families. Also, be sure to read the excellent article/report by Committee chair Mike Taylor in this PRP and his request for assistance in our letter writing campaign to fully fund recovery efforts in Southeast Asia. Wade "Ish" Ishimoto, representing the SOA, has submitted an excellent report for your information on the solemn ceremony for MSG James W. Holt, an Army Special Forces soldier, whose remains were finally returned home after being MIA for over 46 years.

On May 13, 2015 the SOA Riders gathered in Ottawa, Illinois for their annual SOA ride. Included in this PRP is an excellent report of the trip and the wreath-laying ceremony accompanied by the inspiring photographs of the event. The SOA Riders are raising money this year to support the SOA video history project.

Be sure to vote! We have a fine selection of candidates this year with many years of experience to offer our association. Please review their candidate statements and send your vote to SOA Tally chair Mike Keel. Please be sure to use the envelopes included with your PRP.

See you at SOAR XXXIX.

Sincerely, Rick Estes



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

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

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

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

To unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations; and,

To perpetuate the Special Operations "esprit de corps"; and,

To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA through the management of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$594,500 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 157 deserving young scholars.

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

The SOA will conduct its 39th annual reunion (SOAR XXXIX) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Orleans Hotel and Casino during the period 19-23 October 2015. We anticipate in excess of 650 members and guests.

[www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)

Revised: 20 June 2015



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# Special Operations Association Board of Directors 2014-2015

## President

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www.sogchronicles.com

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## Vice President

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321-704-1454 Cell  
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## Director

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brian.vines@aol.com

## Secretary

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480-703-4008  
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## Treasurer

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863-669-7602  
soatreasurer@specialoperations.org

## Director

Douglas N. Godshall  
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Medina, OH 44256-7246  
dngodshall@gmail.com

## Director

Jimmy Tong Nguyen  
PO. Box 621288  
Las Vegas, NV 89162  
702-202-6002 Tel/fax  
949-683-5003 Cell  
jlcnguyen@aol.com



# Seeking Bright Light Candidates

Fellow SOA Members,

July 2015

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XXXIX 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 – listed below.

Operations 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, 32 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 specifically.

Please contact one of the following committee members for assistance:

John S. "Tilt" Meyer - 619-892-5983 E-mail: [idahonezero@sbcglobal.net](mailto:idahonezero@sbcglobal.net)

Tim Schaaf - [schaaf11t@msn.com](mailto:schaaf11t@msn.com)

Rick Grabianowski - 775-846-1138 E-mail: [rick@grabianowski.com](mailto:rick@grabianowski.com)

Pete Buscetto – 863-669-7602 E-mail: [ccsrecon@gmail.com](mailto:ccsrecon@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

SOA Operation Brightlight Committee

John S. Meyer

Tim Schaaf

Rick Grabianowski

Pete Buscetto

# Special Operations Association Special Staff and Committee Chairmen

## SOAR Reunion

Chairman - Jimmy Tong  
Nguyen  
PO. Box 621288  
Las Vegas, NV 89162  
702-202-6002 Tel/fax  
949-683-5003 Cell  
jlcnguyen@aol.com

## Budget & Planning

Chairman  
Pete "Bus" Buscetto  
934 Ashton Oak Circle  
Lakeland, FL 33813-5657  
863-669-7602  
soatreasurer@  
specialoperations.org

## Registration

Chairman - Ray Frovarp  
4072 Ardenwoods Dr.  
Fayetteville, NC 28306-8344  
910-425-1425  
soarregistration@  
specialoperations.org

## Membership

Chairman - Ray Calafell  
2405 S. Ardson Pl. Unit 603  
Tampa, FL 33629-7336  
813-245-2769  
Fax: 813-871-3981  
membership@  
specialoperations.org

## President Emeritus

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
598 N 1620 W  
St. George, Utah 84770-6691  
(435) 652-3553 (H)  
(435) 680-4476 (C)  
sincere@skyviewmail.com

## System Coordinator

Morris G. "Mo" Worley  
w5201@aol.com

## MIA/POW

Chairman - Mike Taylor  
808-232-8075  
cagedivers@hawaii.rr.com

## Operation Brightlight

Chairman - John S. Meyer  
619-892-5983  
soapresident@  
specialoperations.org

## Video History Project & Archives (I.C.)

Chairman - Dennis J.  
Cummings  
3649 Taylor Avenue  
Bridgeton, MO 63044  
314-298-0936  
djc106@aol.com

## Scholarship

Chairman - Chris McClure  
cmclure@tech-architect.com

## SOP/Procedures

Chairman - Ty Furbish  
P.O. Box 1091  
Cocoa, FL 32923  
321-704-1454  
soavp@specialoperations.org

## SOA By-Laws

Chairman - Brian Vines  
2761 Lookout Ln  
Kissimmee, FL 34746-2883  
407-433-9709  
brian.vines@aol.com

## Quartermaster Sales

Robert Strange  
1492 Lake James Dr.  
Prudenville, MI 48651  
248-935-5431  
quartermaster-sales@  
specialoperations.org

## SOA Nominations

Chairman - Brian Vines  
2761 Lookout Ln  
Kissimmee, FL 34746-2883  
407-433-9709  
brian.vines@aol.com

## Fundraising

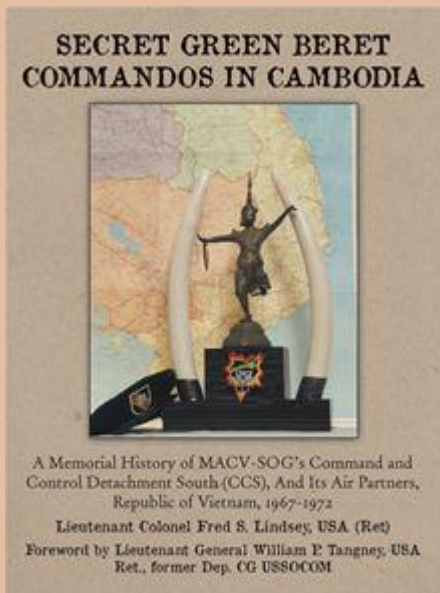
Chairman - Doug Godshall  
Co-Chairman - Clyde Sincere  
275 Meadow Oaks Trail  
Medina, OH 44256-7246  
dngodshall@gmail.com



# SECRET GREEN BERET COMMANDOS IN CAMBODIA

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

**LTC Fred S. Lindsey, USA (Ret)**



## About the Book

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

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

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

## About the Author

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

Published by AuthorHouse November 2012; 742 pages; ISBN Paperback (978-1-4772-7308-1), EBook (978-1-4772-7307-4; Available autographed directly from Fred Lindsey [f\\_elind@iquest.net](mailto:f_elind@iquest.net), or unsigned from Amazon.com. ©2012

Special Operations Association

Pre-Reunion Information

- What: SOAR XXXIX
- When: 19-23 October 2015
- Where: The Orleans Hotel and Casino  
4500 West Tropicana Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420 Phone: 800 675-3267  
[www.orleanscasino.com/Groups](http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups)
- Group Code: A5SOC10 (Alpha-Five-Sierra-Oscar-Charlie-One-Zero)  
Give this code to the hotel when making reservations.
- Accommodations: Room rates and availability are guaranteed through 14 September at \$35, plus tax and resort fees Sunday through Thursday. Rates for Friday and Saturday are \$89, plus tax and resort fees.
- Hospitality Suite: Located on the 2nd floor of the Orleans Hotel and Casino.  
Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8 AM - 1 AM.
- SOA ID Badges: When you check-in, you will receive ID badges for you and your guests. Badges must be displayed at all SOAR activities.
- Late Check-ins: The Security Desk volunteers will issue Temporary Badges for late check-ins.
- Guests: Guests are always welcome; however sponsors are expected to be in attendance when their guests arrive at SOAR XXXIX.
- Banquet Seating: After you have checked in at the registration desk, be sure to stop by the banquet seating table to reserve your banquet seat.
- End of Reunion: All SOAR activities cease as of 12 noon, Friday 23 October.
- Refunds: All refunds must be requested through the Registrar via email, [registrar4soar@gmail.com](mailto:registrar4soar@gmail.com) or call 910 425-1425 and leave message.



Special Operations Association

Registration Information

There are two (2) ways to register for the reunion:

1. Register Online on the SOA website. It is easy and secure, or
2. Complete the Registration form and mail in the enclosed envelope. Mailed forms must be received NLT 14 Oct.

NOTICE: On 15 Oct. Registrar will be traveling to SOAR.

Fees: There are two (2) registration choices - Full or Daily

Full Registration is \$150.00 per person – This includes entry into the Hospitality Room Monday through Thursday, Wednesday’s Luncheon and Thursday’s Banquet.

Daily Registration is \$55 per day per person – This includes entry into the Hospitality Room FOR THAT DAY ONLY. The Wednesday Luncheon and Thursday Banquet are included in the daily rate for those days.

Registration Hours: M T W - 9 AM - 5 PM; TH - 9 AM - Noon

If you are pre-registered, proceed to tables, A - L or M - Z.

If you did not pre-register, proceed to the Registrar’s table to Register.

Name Badges: On the Registration Form, enter member and guest names as you want them to appear on the badge.

Volunteers: Volunteers are vital to the success of the reunion. Specific assistance is needed in the Registration and Security areas. Please indicate your availability at the bottom of the form.

Questions: If you have any questions, call or email the Registrar, Ray Frovarp 910 425 1425, registrar4soar@gmail.com.

**SOAR XXXIX REGISTRATION**  
**Special Operations Association Reunion**  
**19-23 October 2015**  
**The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV (800) 675-3267**

SOA #	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Address		City	State
			Zip+4
Home Phone		Cell Phone	Email

Member and Guest Names  Print names below the way you want them to appear on the name badge. First Name                      Last Name	Full Registration  Enter full reunion rate beside each person's name.  Wednesday's Luncheon and Thursday's Banquet is included.	Daily Registration  Enter the Daily rate beside each person's name indicating day(s) attending.  <b>Daily rate is \$55 per person per day.</b>  Wednesday includes the Luncheon, Thursday includes the Banquet.					Total \$
	Mon - Thurs \$150.00 per person	Mon \$55	Tues \$55	Wed \$55	Thur \$55		
Member							
Guest							
Guest							
Guest							

Use additional sheets as needed

1. Registration Total Member + Guests = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2. Vendors Only: # Tables \_\_\_\_ X \$150 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL DUE**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Complete the Registration and Payment Information forms and return in the enclosed envelope to Ray Frovarp, 4072 Ardenwoods Drive, Fayetteville NC 28306-8344. Questions? Call or email 910 425-1425, [registrar4soar@gmail.com](mailto:registrar4soar@gmail.com).

**Mailed forms must be received by the Registrar NLT 14 October; or you may register on line or at the reunion.**

Volunteers: YES: I wish to volunteer in: Registration \_\_\_\_\_; Security \_\_\_\_\_; as needed \_\_\_\_\_



SOAR XXXIX  
PAYMENT INFORMATION FORM  
(REGISTRATION ONLY)

Every effort will be made to insure that your personal financial information is not compromised.

SOA # \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: Check \_\_\_ M.O. \_\_\_ Make payable to SOA

CREDIT CARD, SELECT ONE:

VISA: \_\_\_ M/C: \_\_\_ AMEX: \_\_\_ DINER'S: \_\_\_ DISCOVER: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Security Key that is on back of card: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as Printed On Card: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

\*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(\*Signature Required for Credit Card Transactions)*

Submit completed form to the Registrar in the envelope enclosed:

Ray Frovarp  
4072 Ardenwoods Drive  
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28306-8344  
(910) 425-1425, registrar4soar@gmail.com

THANK YOU



## **CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM**

If personal, emergency or next of kin contact information changes, complete this form and return it to the Membership Chairman. This is important to ensure that you receive SOA information in a timely manner.

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 \_\_\_\_\_

### **NEXT OF KIN**

Relationship to Member (wife, Son, Daughter, Brother, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and return to:     Ray Calafell, Membership Chairman  
  2405 S Ardson Pl. Unit 603  
  Tampa, FL 33629-7326.  
  813-245-2769  
  Membership@specialoperations.org

Form available on SOA website: [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)

TO: Annual SOA Members  
FROM: Ray Calafell, Membership Chairman  
Ray Frovarp, Registrar

REFERENCE: Annual Dues

In order to register for the reunion, your dues must be current. If you have not paid your 2015 dues, submit \$35 online or by U.S. First Class mail.

- Online: Use the safe, secure website, [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org). Your SOA number is your customer ID number. You can even set up a recurring billing so you don't have to worry about paying membership fees every year. The link is on the bottom right of the webpage – you may have to scroll your screen to the left in order to see the hot link: Member Dues. Just click on Member Dues and follow the prompts.
- By US Mail – Complete your payment information on the form below (make checks payable to SOA) and mail to the Membership Chairman; or
- Apply for a Life Membership:  
\$500 for members under the age of 70;  
\$300 for members over the age of 70, with proof of age.

If your dues are more than 12 months in arrears, you may be charged reinstatement fees as well as late fees. Contact the Membership Chairman to determine the amount necessary to bring your membership dues current.

----- Cut along the dotted line and return bottom portion -----

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

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

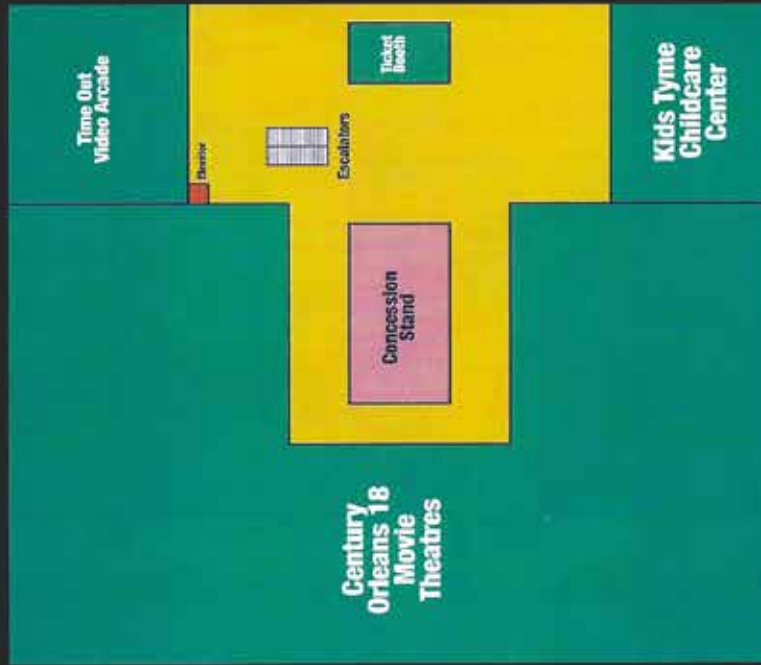
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check this box if your contact information has changed

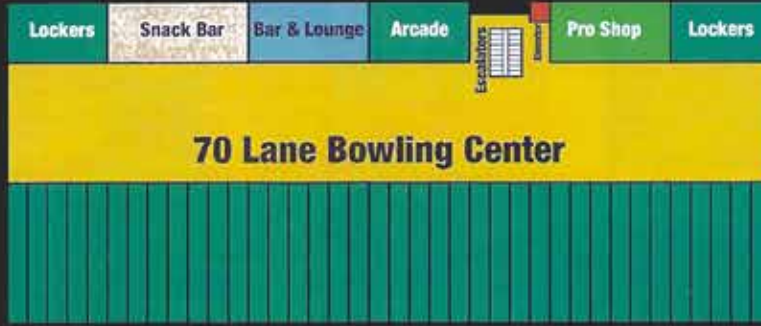
Mail to: Ray Calafell, Membership Chairman  
2405 S Ardson Pl. Unit 603  
Tampa FL 33629-7326  
813-245-2769  
Membership@specialoperations.org

# SECOND FLOOR



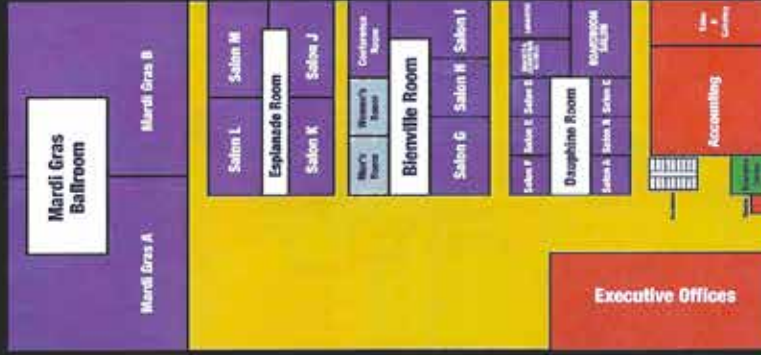
2nd Floor • West

Childcare • Movie Theaters  
Video Arcade



2nd Floor • East

Bowling



2nd Floor • East

Executive Offices  
Meeting & Banquet Rooms





**SOAR XXXIX  
Schedule of Events  
17 - 23 October 2015**

**FRIDAY, 16 October**

1500-1900 Planning and Budget Committee

**SATURDAY, 17 October**

0800-1700 Board and Special Staff Meeting

**SUNDAY, 18 October**

0800-1100 Religious Observance

1115 Board and Special Staff Meeting, SOAR Set-Up Activities

**MONDAY, 19 October**

0900-1000 BOD Meeting

0930-1700 Registration

0800-2000 SOA Video History Project – Suite # TBD - Cummings

0930-2400 Hospitality Room - Mardi Gras Ballroom

**TUESDAY, 20 October**

0900-1000 BOD Meeting

0930-1700 Registration

0800-1500 Valley of Fire Tour & Las Vegas Premium Outlet Shopping

0800-2000 SOA Video History Project – Suite # TBD - D. Cummings

0930-2400 Hospitality Room - Mardi Gras Ballroom

**WEDNESDAY, 21 October**

0900-1000 BOD Meeting

0930-1700 Registration

0930-2400 Hospitality Room - Mardi Gras Ballroom

0800-2000 SOA Video History Project - Suite # TBD - D. Cummings

0900-1030 SOG/SPAD Symposium - Esplanade Room - Don Engebretsen

1030-1200 POW/MIA Committee Report - Esplanade Room - Mike Taylor

1130-1330 Lunch Hosted by SOA - Mardi Gras Ballroom

1330-1530 SOA General Membership Meeting - Esplanade Room

1530-1600 SOAR Door and Selected Silent Auction Prizes - Esplanade Room

1600-1700 Beam Suntory Scotch Tasting with Simon Brooking - Salon G

1830-2230 “USO for the USA” - Ron DeCars Event Center

2000-Close Texas Hold 'Em Tournament - Orleans Hotel and Casino Poker Room

# **SOAR XXXIX Schedule of Events Continued**

## **THURSDAY, 22 October**

0900-1000 BOD Meeting  
0930-1200 Registration  
0930-1200 Hospitality Room - Mardi Gras Ballroom  
0800-1200 SOA Video History Project - Suite # TBD - D. Cummings  
1200 SOA Vendor Area/Hospitality Room Vacated  
1530-1730 Cocktails - Hosted by SOA - Esplanade Room  
1730-2030 Banquet - Mardi Gras Ballroom  
2030-2400 Hospitality Room Bar Reopens  
2030-Close Live Music and Dancing - Esplanade Room

## **FRIDAY, 23 October**

0800-1300 SOA Board and Special Staff Exit Meeting  
0930-1300 Hospitality Room - Mardi Gras Ballroom  
1200 HOTEL CHECK OUT

# **The Entertainment Committee Proudly Presents**

## **The Valley of Fire & Las Vegas Premium Outlet Shopping Trip**

### **The Viet Fountain Valley Dance Group**

#### **USO for the USA**

Ladies & Gentlemen:

Welcome to the 39th SOA Reunion! Just like last year, this year the Entertainment Committee has been working tirelessly to bring you the special entertainment programs designed just for you and your guests to enjoy. The following events are available for your participation:

#### **Tuesday, October 20, 2015 – Trip to Valley of Fire & L.V. Premium Outlets:**

0800 - Depart from the Orleans Hotel & Casino en route to the spectacular Valley of Fire State Park. Nevada's oldest state park was dedicated in 1935 and designated as a National Natural Landmark in 1968. The park derives its name from red sandstone formations, formed from great shifting sand dunes during the age of dinosaurs 150 million years ago. These features along with limestones, shales & conglomerates rock formations are the centerpiece of the park's attractions, and often appear to be on fire when reflecting the sun's rays. Don't miss this MUST SEE NATURAL WONDER!

1100 - Leaving the Valley of Fire State Park to travel back to Las Vegas Premium Outlets South for lunch & shopping (on your own).

1430 - Leaving Las Vegas Premium Outlets and return to the Orleans Hotel & Casino.

Please Note: The cost for the entire trip is \$35.00 per person. Registration form for this day trip is in this PRP. Due to pre-arrangements with the tour bus company, your pre-payment for the above trip is Non-Refundable. Please register early as seats on the bus are limited!

#### **Wednesday, October 21, 2015 - Off-site Musical Dinner Tribute Program:**

As an encore from last year's successful show, a musical/dance/buffet dinner program with the theme "USO for the SOA" will be offered at the newly renamed Ron De Car's Event Center. This is their 2nd annual tribute to our Special Operations veterans by the variety of the best Artists/Celebrities in Las Vegas. Limos will take guests to and from the event. (Please see the full-page ad of this program in our PRP for more details.)

## **The Entertainment Committee Proudly Presents, cont.**

### **Thursday, October 22, 2015 - Banquet:**

1730 This year our 39th Reunion coincides with the 40th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. A special program will be dedicated to all SOA Vietnam veterans and their families/guests including a traditional Vietnamese dance “Khuc Hat An Tinh” (A Melody of Graciousness) that will be performed by the Viet Fountain Valley Dance Group from Southern California.

2030 Immediately following the conclusion of our banquet, we invite you to stay and enjoy the remaining of the beautiful evening with live music and dancing provided by a live band playing good oldies from our era of the ‘50s, ‘60s & ‘70s in the Esplanade Room. A complimentary bar and dance floor will be provided for your enjoyment.

Please contact us anytime at your convenience!

Jimmy Tong Nguyen  
Director  
Chairman of the Reunion & Entertainment Committees  
Telephone: (949) 683-5003  
E-mail: jimmytongnguyen@aol.com

Or my Volunteer Assistant, Leslie, at (949) 683-5012.

**SOAR XXXIX**  
**Entertainment Registration and Payment Form**  
**Day Trip to Valley of Fire & Las Vegas Premium Outlet**  
**Tuesday, October 20, 2015**

*Note: Every effort will be made to ensure your personal financial information is not compromised.*

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Member #: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.00 each = Total Cost of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

x2 = \$70  
x3 = 105  
x4 = \$140

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please Identify Your Preferred Payment Method:

- Online Secured Payment in the Members Only section of the SOA Web Site - *this is the only way to use a credit or debit card to pay for the trip.* Please go to [http://www.specialoperations.org/member\\_login.html](http://www.specialoperations.org/member_login.html) and sign up there.
- Enclosed Personal Check - Please make payable to the Special Operations Association
- Enclosed Money Order - Please make payable to the Special Operations Association

In case we have questions regarding your registration, please provide:

Phone (Day): \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Due to the pre-arrangement with the bus company, there will be **NO REFUNDS** after registration.

Mail Payment and Registration form to arrive  
**No Later Than September 30, 2015** to:

Jimmy Tong Nguyen  
Director/Chairman of the Entertainment Committee  
P.O. Box 621288  
Las Vegas, NV 89162

Remember, you may use your credit/debit card to Register and Pay securely online at [www.specialoperations.org/member\\_login.html](http://www.specialoperations.org/member_login.html)



# 3rd Annual Texas Hold-Em Tournament



The Entertainment Committee is proud to announce our third annual Texas Hold-Em Tournament to be played on Wednesday evening October 21st starting promptly at 1900 hours. This is one hour earlier than in the past to allow for a more reasonable finishing time for some of us old farts who want to be in bed before 0200! **Remember, the tournament will start at 7:00 PM on Wednesday evening.**

Our Texas Hold-Em Tournament is strictly for fun, bragging rights, money and for the contribution to SOA Charities. The Tournament will be in The Orleans Hotel and Casino Poker Room and run by the Casino Management team.

For those who may have forgotten or who didn't play last year here are the details:

- Who:** All Members and Guests - No limitation on the number of players. An Information table will be set at the entrance to the SOAR Vendor area with copies of these rules. **Preregistration is required to play.** (Register at the Casino Tournament Area starting at 6:30 P.M.)
- What:** Texas Hold-Em Tournament using Las Vegas Rules.
- Where:** Orleans Hotel and Casino Poker Room, 1st Floor behind the Food Court (all the way to the rear on the left. We will have a few signs out to help you find it.)
- When:** Wednesday October 22rd at 7:00 PM
- Cost:** Initial buy-in is \$50.00/person, winner take all (after Casino Cut, Expenses, Tips, etc.). The split is 50/50 with the winner taking his/her half in cash and choosing which SOA Charity will receive the other half.
- Note:** **Unlimited additional \$20.00 buy-ins are available for those who bust during the initial 90 minutes of play and want to continue playing.**
- Questions:** Contact C. B. "Cork" Motsett, Director, [cork130@comcast.net](mailto:cork130@comcast.net)



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **THE SOA PERSONAL VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT FUND RAFFLE**

On Wednesday afternoon, 21 October 2015, following the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR XXXIX) General Membership Meeting activities, the SOA will announce the name of the “winner” of the annual drawing in support of the SOA PERSONAL VIDEO HISTORY PROJECT Fund.

The “SOA Riders” have received from KEL-TEC CNC Industries, Inc. in Cocoa, Florida, a 12 Gauge - 3” KEL-TEC SHOTGUN to be raffled at SOAR XXXIX. This is unique in that this is KEL-TEC’s first entry into the Shotgun market. The size, shape and design is similar to the currently available KEL-TEC RFB Rifle, but the KSG ejects downward, instead of forward.



**Retail Value: \$990.00**

**THANK YOU KEL-TEC, and THE “SOA RIDERS”**

**WINNER, IF NOT PRESENT AT SOAR XXXIX WILL BE NOTIFIED NLT  
3 November 2015 via Phone.**

### **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

If you desire to participate in this worthwhile program raffle, tickets are \$5.00 each, or you have the opportunity to purchase the ten-ticket packet for \$45. Dependent on the number of tickets you elect to purchase, you are requested to return the “STUB” portion of the raffle ticket(s) along with your check or money order made payable to the Special Operations Association, or “SOA” in the enclosed “Self Addressed Envelope”.

**If you desire to purchase additional tickets, you are requested to contact:**

**Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., President Emeritus, SOA at:**

**(435) 652-3553 or [sincere@skyviewmail.com](mailto:sincere@skyviewmail.com)**



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FUND RAFFLE**

#### **2014 AMERICAN EAGLE FOUR (4) GOLD COIN SET**

On Wednesday afternoon, 21 October 2015, following the Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR XXXIX) General Membership Meeting activities, the SOA will announce the name of the “winner” of its annual drawing in support of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.

SOA Member, Joseph M. Conlon, SOA # 1833-GA has again donated to the SOA as its annual raffle prize during 2015, a 2014 American Eagle Gold Proof Four-Coin Set. These 2014 American Eagle coins have been struck in 22-karat gold, featuring a breathtaking design of Liberty. These exquisitely crafted coins are collector versions of the official United States Mint American Eagle Gold Bullion Coins. Available in four troy ounce sizes – (one ounce, one-half ounce, one-quarter ounce, and one-tenth ounce). Each of these gold coins were struck at the United States Mint at West Point, and bear the “W” mint mark. They are accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity.



**THANK YOU AGAIN JOE. OUTSTANDING.**

**THE WINNER, IF NOT PRESENT AT SOAR XXXIX WILL BE NOTIFIED NLT:**

**03 November 2015, via Phone.**

#### **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

If you desire to participate in this worthwhile program raffle, tickets are \$5.00 each, or you have the opportunity to purchase the ten-ticket packet for \$45. Dependent on the number of tickets you elect to purchase, you are requested to return the “STUB” portion of the raffle ticket(s) along with your check, or money order made payable **ONLY** to the SOA in the enclosed “Self Addressed Envelope”.

*If you desire to purchase additional tickets, you are requested to contact:*

**Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
President Emeritus, SOA  
(435) 652-3553 or [sincere@skyviewmail.com](mailto:sincere@skyviewmail.com)**



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INCL. BUFFET DINNER\*

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# Video History Project

The SOA Video History Project had a successful year. During SOAR XXXVIII seventeen interviews were conducted, including one with retired Major General John Singlaub, who was Chief SOG for two years. His interview, when added to previous interviews, brings the total number of interviews conducted to 49. While this is a significant number, we still need more. Each of you is a living piece of the SOG mission in Vietnam. Without your stories the history of SOG and its support units can never be complete. Sign up early for an interview time slot at SOAR this year. My contact information is listed at the bottom. Please contact me as soon as possible to reserve your time slot. This year we will be conducting interviews Monday through Friday, October 19-23, for those of you who will be staying in Las Vegas for an extra day or two.

I am also proud to announce that for the first time we have been able to conduct interviews in California and Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. I want to thank John "Tilt" Meyer and Valerie Alvord for conducting an interview with retired Col. Stephen Cavanaugh, Chief SOG. Without their commitment to this project we would not have been able to record an important part of SOG history. I'd also like to thank SOA Videographer Lisa Allen for making the trip to Ft. Bragg to interview Marshal Hall. Marshal's interview is the first to be conducted with a member who is not able to attend reunions due to health issues. There are many more members who need to be interviewed, but cannot make it to SOAR for the same reason. The costs for obtaining these interviews can be high and for that reason the Video History Project is asking for donations to help with this effort. Without additional funds it will be impossible to interview members who cannot attend SOAR for health related reasons. You can make a contribution to this project by sending a check or money order to "Special Operations Association", please note on the check "for Video History Project." Mail to the SOA Treasurer at the address below:

**Pete "BUS" Buscetto, Treasurer  
Special Operations Association  
934 Ashton Oaks Circle  
Lakeland, Florida 33813**

Your check or money order must be marked Video History Project. Please do not send cash. Your contribution will make a difference in getting the stories told for those who cannot attend SOA reunions.

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



223 Ruritan Drive  
Fayetteville, NC 28314

(910) 867-2973  
16 April 2015

Mr. Rick Estes  
President, Special Operations Association  
P.O. Box 1571  
Wildomar, CA 92595-1573

Dear Mr. Estes,

I served in the United States Special Forces from 1957 to 1977 and in the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Studies and Observation Group in 1968 and 1971. I am reaching out to you, Pete "Bus" Buscetto, and the entire Special Operation Association to say thank you for assisting Dennis J. Cummings and M. Lisa Allen in traveling Fayetteville, North Carolina, to interview me. My personal narrative will serve as another small step in preserving the history of SOG, accurately reflecting the legacy of all those who served during those challenging times.

Although I have been in contact with Dennis for several years, we were both uncertain if a formal interview would be possible. Due to my health, I am not able to travel to a reunion and sit for an interview. However, with the generosity of the association, Dennis and Lisa traveled to my home in North Carolina to conduct the interview. I spent two incredible days engaged with them telling my story. We captured at least five hours of recorded narrative -much of the story had never been shared with anyone. Dennis and Lisa's professionalism and genuine concern for the truth allowed me to relive my time in SOG, recalling my story in my words, all the while being treated with the utmost dignity and respect. That treatment is what made this so meaningful for me.

I extend my deepest respect and gratitude to all for going to these great lengths to capture SOG's illustrious history straight from the men who lived it. To be a part of this historic effort is as important to future generations as it is to those who served. As I reflect on it now, I realize that talking about my experience was both therapeutic and necessary.

I hope that you will print this letter in an upcoming After Action Report so it may serve to entice others to tell their story. We must not hesitate any longer as time is not on our side. Be a part of this effort and know that only history can judge what we have done.

Thank you,

Very Respectfully,

MARSHALL D. HALL  
MSG (RET) USA SF

# SOA Archives

The past year has seen a few more donations such as the tiger stripe boonie hat and cravat worn in Vietnam by Lou DeSeta. We truly appreciate the history that goes along with them. More items are needed to display at SOAR and now is the time to donate them. Each year we see more and more of our members pass away and much of the time their history is lost. It is so important to have photographs, stories and items of uniform and equipment to help keep the memory of our friends alive. Please check those old duffle bags and footlockers for anything the SOA can preserve in the archive. I'd also like to thank Marshal Hall for providing a large number of documents regarding his time in SOG and the early years of Special Forces. They are a very welcome addition to the archives.

During the reunion please stop by the archive table and sign the Code Name sheet and add your code name or call sign to the list. It is helpful to have that information as I look through documents and listen to recordings of radio traffic recorded during SOG missions. While the archives does not have a lot of this material yet, more keeps coming in and I would like to be able to identify the SOG and support personnel who are captured in these recordings. At this time we have the audio from RT Kansas in 1971 and another recording of four or five other RTs. Please note that I am interested in talking to anyone who used the call sign "Joker", "Cadillac" or "Buick" while running missions out of Ban Me Thuot around 1968. The missions are thought to have been supported by the Air Force 20th SOS, but that has not been confirmed. I also need the help of anyone who can convert an audio cassette to CD or DVD. If you can do that or know of someone who can please let me know. The tape is getting old and I'd like to have it transferred as soon as possible to prevent the loss of these historically important missions.

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

# Your attention, please...



## VHP INTERVIEWS

If you have not received your copy of the interview you gave last year, please see Dennis at the archive table. He will have them on hand at this year's SOAR XXXIX.

## Photos for PRP /AAR

If you have photos that you would like to see in upcoming editions of the PRP or AAR, please contact Lisa (mla5472@sbcglobal.net) for details. Photos from CCS and CCC are greatly appreciated, but all photos are welcome.

## RECOGNITION OF 20, 25, 30 and 35 YEAR SOA TENURE PIN AWARDS

20, 25, 30 and 35 Year SOA Pin Recipients:

During the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, 21 October 2015, 20, 25 and 30 Year SOA pins will be awarded.

On Thursday evening, 22 October 2015, during the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX Banquet activities, the President, SOA, will present recipients with their 35 Year SOA tenure pins.

## SOAR XXXIX SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

Each year it is an honor and privilege for the President of the SOA to select two (2) members of the SOA to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual General Membership Meeting, the SOAR Banquet, and for the duration of the Reunion act in the capacity of a Sergeant-At-Arms.

The SOA Board has long established that this small but important gesture provides an opportunity for the SOA Board and the entire SOA membership to recognize two of its members chosen annually for their volunteer efforts during past reunions.

Again, as in past years, the SOA is fortunate to have many individuals who attend every reunion, and contribute to the overall success of each SOAR. It is difficult to thank the many deserving members with an honor such as this, but be assured that the two members selected this year represent all of you. Final selection of the two (2) SOAR XXXIX Sergeant-At-Arms will be determined upon close of Advance Registration on 14 October 2015 by the President, SOA.

**SOAR XXXIX Silent Auction and/or Door Prize Donations**

If you would like to donate an item for the silent auction or door prizes at SOAR XXXIX, and you will be attending the reunion, you are requested to bring the item(s) with you and provide them to Clyde Sincere as early as possible for display. Members are encouraged to participate in as many different Silent Auction items and/or door prizes as possible.

If you cannot attend SOAR XXXIX and you wish to donate either silent auction items, or door prizes, you are requested to mail the items to arrive NLT 14 October 2015 directly to:

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
Co-Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee  
598N 1620W  
St. George, Utah 84770-6691

Again, if timing becomes a problem, contact Clyde at (435) 652-3553, or [sincere@skyviewmail.com](mailto:sincere@skyviewmail.com). He will ensure that your contribution gift gets to the reunion. Your donation of either silent auction items or door prize items are tax deductible. Thank you for your support.

**Lost Souls**

Almost every other day an SOA member contacts a member on the SOA Board seeking the address, e-mail address, or telephone number of a friend who is also an SOA member, but has relocated and failed to provide a forwarding address. If you are in that situation, you are directed to contact Robert L. Strange. Bob has volunteered to be the SOA POC in this arena to assist in locating "lost souls." Call or e-mail Bob and he will forward your request on to the member you are seeking.

Bob can be reached at:  
(248) 935-5431  
[rstrange81@yahoo.com](mailto:rstrange81@yahoo.com)

**Smoking**

There will be NO SMOKING during the SOAR General Membership Meeting, or during the SOAR Banquet.

**Drinking**

The bar in the Hospitality Room will remain open during the conduct of the SOAR General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, 21 OCTOBER 2015 to facilitate the hospitality of SOAR guests.

The attendance of SOA members at the GMM is required .

**SOAR XXXIX Photos**

Any and all photos taken during the conduct of SOAR XXXIX are requested and welcomed. It is also requested that you identify all individuals and activities reflected in the photos on the backside. High resolution digital photos are also greatly appreciated.

Dispatch photographs to:

soasecretary@specialoperations.org

**SOA XXXIX Vendors**

If you are interested in being a Vendor/Exhibitor at SOAR XXXIX, contact Clyde Sincere, Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee at (435) 652-3352 or sincere@skyviewmail.com for details. The Vendor Operations Area will:

1-Be opened at 0900 hours, Monday, 19 October through Thursday, 22 October for your admittance.

2-Be opened at 1000 hours until 1800 hours, Monday, 19 October through Wednesday, 21 October 2015 for business. At 1800 hours the entire Vendor Area will be secured until the next business day.

3-Be opened on Thursday, 22 October 2015 at 0900 hours for business and be closed (AND VACATED) no later than (NLT) 1200 hours. There will be no exceptions. The Orleans Hotel/Casino staff requires sufficient time to prepare the area for Banquet activities.

**Advertisements**

If you have a requirement for an advertisement in the SOAR XXXIX AAR, you are asked to coordinate your requests to include the current rate costs with:

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.,  
Co-Chairman  
SOA Fund Raising Committee  
sincere@skyviewmail.com  
(435) 652-3553

**SOAR XXXIX Silent Auction  
Door Prize Activity**

Following the conduct of the SOAR XXXIX General Membership Meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday, 21 October 2015, Clyde Sincere with assistance from selected SOA Volunteers will:

1 - Award Door Prizes to SOA Members in attendance

2 - Conduct the annual Silent Auction of selected donated items.

3 - Announce the winning recipient of the Kel-Tec 12 gauge shotgun.

4 - Announce the winning recipient of the American Eagle 4 Gold Coin set.



**SOG/SPAD/COVEY SYMPOSIUM**

Last year's symposium met its goal to "Close the 50 Foot Gap" between the Spad pilots and the SOG team members we supported. Several of men present told us that "nobody had ever talked to them like that before." It was finally time to explain the personal and emotional side that the A-1 pilots felt about the missions they flew for MACVSOG. It was a two way exchange that included many personal expressions' from the floor and an emotional debate about who had the most dangerous job. The Spads "won" the debate because we will never accept that our risks came anywhere close to being intentionally dropped into the middle of bad guy territory to play serious games with enemy forces...but, we loved the "squabble."

This year we want to exchange thoughts about the USAF contributions to the "World's Greatest Little Fighting Package" that played ball in places that did not exist. We will combine A-1 pilots with Forward Air Control Covey pilots and their covey riders to explain the nuts and bolts of a process that brought air support to teams whenever requested, but especially for PFEs (Prairie Fire Emergencies). It is anticipated that the first 30 minutes will be a presentation followed by an audience dialog. We will have hand held mics to pass around and ease the exchanges. Please come and participate.

**...That is all.**

# Beam **SUNTORY**

## **SIMON BROOKING**

Master Ambassador

**“World peace thro’ whisky one dram at a time.”**

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and a member of the Robertson Clan, Simon traces his roots back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Century and the Celtic Earls of Atholl.

A well-known expert on Scotch whisky, Simon has worked for many of the leading Scotch distilleries, learning the art and science of distilling from the world’s foremost master distillers and blenders.

For over 17 years, Simon has led thousands of Scotch whisky tastings for consumers, bartenders and social organizations. Informative and entertaining, his presentations have made him an in-demand spokesperson for the whisky industry.

Simon’s love of Scotland’s Highlands and Islands has paved the way to his present position as the Beam Suntory Master Ambassador for Laphroaig, Ardmore, Bowmore, Auchentoshan and Glen Garioch Single Malt Scotch whiskies.

2011 Keeper of the Quaich

2011 Icons of Whisky -  
Ambassador of the Year

2012 Icons of Whisky -  
Ambassador of the Year “Commended”

2013 Icons of Whisky -  
Ambassador of the Year “Commended”

2014 Icons of Whisky -  
Ambassador of the Year “Highly Commended”

**Thanks to Tony Bandiera and Bill  
Werther for putting together another  
great event!**



# A Ride to the Other Wall

## SOA Riders 2015 After Action Report

On May 13, 2015, 11 Special Operations Association Riders and 9 guests gathered in Ottawa, Illinois for their 6th annual POW/MIA Memorial ride. Upon arrival there was a lot of back slapping and bear hugs as old friends and comrades made each other welcome. After check in and unpacking, the rest of the afternoon was spent cleaning bikes and catching up on life and getting to know the guests. Early evening we held our ride safety meeting and next day ride briefing. This year's rider captain was Guest Rider Tom Collier. Tom and Sherry Collier, niece and nephew of Larry Trimble, hosted this year's ride and just like the previous 5 rides, put heart and soul into making it a success! That was followed by the longest and most hotly debated subject of the evening. Where to go for dinner? After much discussion, it was decided to order pizza in, as long as it didn't have those little fish on them. Far too many new stories to be told and old ones to be embellished to be wasting time away from the TOC. Laughter was the common theme.

Thursday morning at 0800 we launched our local area rides. First stop was the Middle East Conflicts Wall Memorial, located in nearby Marseilles. This was to be the back drop for our memorial ceremony and wanted everyone to see it before we used it. Next was the Illinois Fallen Soldier Memorial. This park has recently opened and is identified by a small memorial surrounded by 150 Oak trees. It is beautiful now but will be majestic when the trees mature. Then it was off again, along the bluffs of the Illinois River on the kind of roads only riders really appreciate. Lots of hills and curves. It was a short run to Starved Rock State Park and Visitor Center for the scenic views it offered. Our last stop of the morning was the Marseilles Lock and Dam, part of the Illinois / Michigan waterway. While we were stopped, we watched them use the locks to lower several barges of coal headed down river.

Lunch found us at Duffy's Irish Pub, one of the oldest bars in the state. Massive corned beef sandwiches, bigger than average hamburgers, and mounds of French fries and onion rings seemed to be the pick of the day. After a respectful amount of time for rest but not so long as to induce after lunch naps we mounted up again. Several questions had been ask at the Marseilles Locks, so we went to their visitor center. It has both interactive displays and an elevated observation platform to provide a better understanding of the operations and how important this waterway is to the nation. To bring it home they were lifting chemical barges. We stayed for the whole locking process. In hopes of getting some good photos we took a short side trip to Buffalo State Park however the noble beast were in the middle of their spring shed. To say they were a little shaggy would be an understatement. A respectful ride by and we continued our scenic ride back to the hotel. The group was informed that they had all satisfactorily learned the skills of getting on and off their bikes after so many short runs. The next day we could practice our long ride skills.

Dinner found most of us at the Halftime Restaurant. The food was good, the drinks cold, and the waitress a real hoot. Those who have traveled through Chicago know what I mean by the Chicago attitude. If you haven't, I couldn't explain it but trust me she was the mold from which all others were made. She made a good time even better and set the mood for the rest of the night. Upon return to the hotel, the TOC was checked for operations and to insure it was adequately stocked. An adequate supply of shovels were present so war story time could begin. Friday morning everyone was up and at it, as we continued our tour of the local area. Although the weather was threatening and the sun wasn't shining, the scenery was beautiful. The roads continued to be ideal for motorcycles. Nothing too severe. Just enough to put a little challenge into it. This is why we ride.

Lunch was at Lock 6, a turn of the century restaurant and gift shop with excellent food and outstanding service. After lunch the majority boarded a mule drawn packet barge for a short trip back into yesteryear. A good way to relax in the little sun that peaked out, while soaking up a little history and local color. The narrator gave an excellent presentation on the hardships of the early days. A highlight was being able to talk to others on the tour, explaining who we were and accepting their thanks for our service. All too soon it was time to climb back in the saddle for the ride back to the motel.

Early evening we gathered to honor the folks that make these rides a success. A certificate of appreciation to the hotel and staff for all they had done to make our stay a good one. Tom & Sherry Collier were presented a laser engraved wooden plaque of the SOA Rider's logo for their contributions. Not only did they host this ride they have been a real asset on the previous 5 rides. Fresh bouquets were presented to the three ladies that agreed to read names at the memorial. We never get to recognize all the heavy lifters but let it be known that when wives attend things get done. Thanks to all of you and in particular my wife, Mary. You guys make my job easy.

At last it was time for the long anticipated raffle. Again there were a lot of very nice prizes. Thanks to all who donated and just as importantly, thanks to all who bought tickets. Between the raffle, sale of ride patches and window decals, we placed a little over \$600 in the Riders' operational fund. We remain self sufficient, without dues or outside assistance. This is how we pay the cost of doing business to include expenses involved in the memorial service.

On every ride we try to have one special meal and this year was no exception. All 20 of us went out to Hank's Old Barn Restaurant for dinner. Tom and Sherry had made an excellent choice. The food was great, the atmosphere was good, the company was super and the interaction with the staff, other customers and our group could not have been better. All too soon it was time to retire for the evening. It should be noted that all though the TOC was manned and open it was operating at less than minimum capacity.

Saturday morning dawned and like the rest of the week, with the continued threat of bad weather. So far we had dodged the bullet and with the exception of overnight showers had stayed dry. That day started no better. The weather radar indicated a large cluster of thunderstorms just to our west. It wasn't raining on us, so we saddled up. We were going to have our ceremony come hell or high water.

When we first pulled into the Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall parking lot, we noticed a flurry of activity. First thought was they were running late on their set up. It soon became clear that their equipment was going back into the building not out. They got a call about rough weather that was chasing us and they weren't going to chance it. They gave us the choice. We could do it inside where it would be dry and safe or we could do it outside with no support equipment. It was decided we had all been wet before and an inside memorial wasn't what we wanted. We invited them to join us at their Wall.

After welcoming and introductory remarks, we honored all of those listed on this special wall, and all of those who have fallen in the service of this country. Lou DeSeta and Tom Cunningham placed our wreath and the ladies began reading the names of the 110 known MIA from MACVSOG and support units. About half way through the names when I noticed an old Marine standing off to the side trying to get my attention. I walked over to see what he wanted. In a very quiet and humble voice, he ask if he could play taps at the end of our reading. I told him we would be honored. We had lost our sound system and the playing of Taps has a very deep meaning for all of those in attendance. With the thunder and lightning building we tried to speed things up. Then as the last few names were read, it began to rain just a few drops. The last name was read and the bugler blew the first note. As if on cue the sky opened up. Just as strangely, as he blew the last note the rain all but stopped. It was as if we had been given a sign. Was it tears from heaven or the angels crying with us?

We began our tear down and while we waited for the next ceremony to arrive, several of the memorial staff and representatives from other veteran groups commented on how well our group represented the organization and other veterans. They thought it was great that we remembered all the fallen but took time to read the names of our missing.

Shortly after noon the next ceremony got under way as some of the riders manned the flag line to welcome an 88 year old World War II vet to the memorial. Dr. Heiman is on a cross country motorcycle ride that he hopes will get him through all 50 states and allow him to ride at Rolling Thunder in Washington DC on his Harley. Weather and all he looked pretty good rollin' in.

That was the official end to another years ride and like all the rest it was a successful mission. We got another T-shirt and another ride patch, but most importantly was the time spent with friends, comrades in arms, and brothers. That is what the Riders are all about. The rest is nice.

Back in 2008 two long time riders came up with the idea of forming the Special Operations Association Riders. Larry Trimble and Doyle Creed, along with the help of Robert Strange, who is a rider and was on the Board, pitched the idea. With some reservations the group was approved. Since that time we have grown to 105 members. We continue to seek riders from the Special Operations community and hope to recruit some of the new generation as they join the Association. There are only two requirements to become a Rider. First you must be a member in good standing and second you must ride. We don't care what you ride. We are just glad you still ride. In fact we have several members who have had to give up their iron horse and they still attend. It isn't so much about the ride as it is about the friendships. If you don't ride but would like to join us, we would love to have you. You can't wear the vest but you can enjoy the company. There are no dues and no membership fees. We are self supporting

and self sufficient through funds raised on our annual rides.

The primary objective of the Riders is comradeship. However the group has taken on an additional mission of raising funds for the various all important but underfunded missions of the Association. In the previous five years the riders have raised over \$13,000 for Operation Brightlight and in excess of \$4,000 to assist SOA member Pat Watkins and his family, when he was awarded the DSC for his actions in Vietnam.

This year our mission is to raise funds for the Video History Project. As the group gets older and fewer can travel to SOAR the cost of gathering the oral and video history becomes more expensive. Why is it so important to record the stories and memories? Because if it isn't done now that history dies with the individual and future generations of both folks in Special Operations and the public at large will never have the opportunity to hear them.

The Riders were very fortunate to receive a very generous donation from Kel-Tec Corporation of a KSG 12 gauge shotgun. With the assistance of the Board of Directors, the Riders will be raffling it off during SOAR. Ticket books are available through this PRP (see page 21) and the Riders have received an additional 200 books, 72 of which were spoken for by the 11 on the ride.

Next year's ride is in early planning. SOA member and Rider, Ron Gavett is hosting the ride out of Ellijay, Georgia. He is calling it "A rider's ride" with several challenging but safe rides through the mountains of north Georgia. If you own a bike and haven't joined us, we would love to have you. It is always a good time and there is nothing better than being in the company of your brothers in arms.

Respectfully Submitted  
Tom "Maverick" Carrell  
Director  
SOA Riders  
SOAR with eagles.







## Tennessee Aviation Museum hosts “Jim Wold Day”

by Don Engebretsen



On 1 & 2 May 15 the Spad pilots of Operating Location Alpha Alpha (OLAA) celebrated General James “Jim” Wold Day at the TN Museum of Aviation. Then Lt. Col. Jim Wold was the initial Commander of the OLAA unit starting on 12Nov69 at the direction of MACVSOG command at the Joint Chiefs of Staff level or above. This was an important reversal of an in-progress program to move all Spads to Thailand at a time when they were desperately needed by SOG for quick response in the Tri-Border, DMZ and all other Vietnam/Laotian shared border areas. As a result of many OLAA pilots having SOA membership, it was decided to invite several SOG Team Members to attend the event with us. George Hunt and Frank Greco attended, but unfortunately two other men (Doug LeTourneau and George Sternberg) were last minute

cancelations due to personal reasons. Jim Wold’s family members were invited as well and we were honored to have 9 of them present: wife, son, daughters, brother, sister, and in-laws included. 12 OLAA pilots attended which was the number of our normal unit manning levels and a likely record post-war attendance at any event.

Neal Melton and his wife Rhonda own and run the Museum. As a result of them attending SOAR last year, the significance of owning and flying A-1 #665 Lt. America for MACVSOG was sealed. We believe this Spad is the only flying A-1 in America, and perhaps the world, that has a documented history of directly supporting SOG teams. This service began as early as Jul69 and continued into 1972 with the USAF and then until 20Apr75 when it was flown by the VNAF. Its last flight was to Thailand with eleven other A-1’s as Saigon fell. Nearly all of the pilots of OLAA flew this airplane and most of us can document those missions. Since about half of all our sorties were flown for SOG, the connection is undeniable.

The setting at the Museum is wonderful and Neal flew his A-1H and P-47 for us on both days. Perhaps the only men on the planet who could possibly appreciate the sound and visual flybys of an A-1 more than even the men who flew her, would be SOG Team Members. Even after 50 years plus or minus, just the startup sights and sounds evoke unbelievable emotions as evidenced in the photos you see.



The Melton's have a growing number of aircraft and displays of interest to SOG. An O-1 Bird Dog is a recent acquisition to join the Spad, OV-10, shot up King Bee, and T-28 at the Museum. Neal is also actively looking for a Bell UH-1B Huey "Slick" to fly, as well. So, anyone traveling on I-40 in East Tennessee should consider stopping in Sevierville at the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport to visit some old "inanimate friends". The location is only 10 minutes off the interstate.



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# MSG Holt Comes Home

May 14, 2015

Arlington, Virginia

In a moving ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, the remains of Master Sergeant James W. Holt were laid to rest with full military honors. Master Sergeant Holt gave his life for his country on February 7, 1968, during a fierce battle at the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp in Vietnam. After 47 years of being missing in action, his remains were recovered and identified through the efforts of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

MSG Holt's widow, Linda, and his two daughters were in attendance along with representatives from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), the Special Operations Association, Special Forces Association, and Dennis Thompson, who was the last man to see MSG Holt alive before being taken prisoner by the North Vietnamese. Ann Mills-Griffiths represented the National League of Families, and there were also representatives from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

A reception followed the burial ceremony at the Fort Meyer Officers club. Major Hefron, Chief Warrant Officer Stringer, and Master Sergeant Clayton from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) presented shadow boxes honoring James Holt to his widow and two daughters.



MAJ Hefron, MSG Clayton, COL (Ret) Scot Crerar, CWO Stringer





MSG Holt's casket on a caisson for the march to his burial site.



A Sergeant Major from the Old Guard preparing to present a flag to the Holt family.





A Sergeant Major from the Old Guard presenting a flag to Linda Holt.



Mr. Matt Kristoff and Mr. Jack Kull from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency



MAJ Hefron, 5th SFG (A) presenting the shadow box to Mrs. Holt.





MAJ Hefron with Mrs. Linda Holt and her daughters and granddaughter.



Unidentified female with Dennis Thompson, the last man to see James Holt alive. Thompson was captured and was a POW for five years.



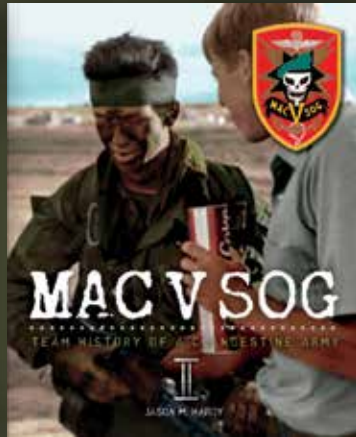
# MACV SOG

## TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY



### VOLUME 1 FEATURES

RT Arizona (CCC)  
RT California (CCC)  
RT Iowa (CCC)  
RT North Carolina (CCN)



### VOLUME 2 FEATURES

RT Krait (CCN)  
RT New Mexico (CCC)  
RT Ohio (CCC)  
RT Washington (CCC)



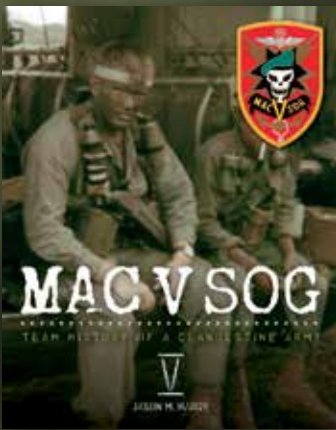
### VOLUME 3 FEATURES

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



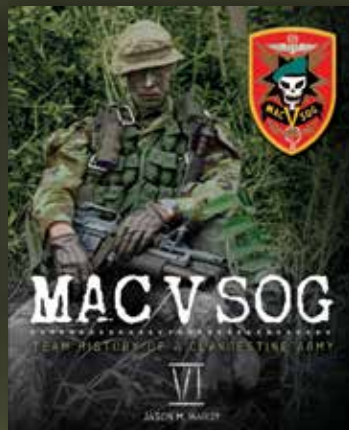
### VOLUME 4 FEATURES

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



### VOLUME 5 FEATURES

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



### VOLUME 6 FEATURES

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



### VOLUME 7 FEATURES

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



### VOLUME 8 FEATURES

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

From Jason Hardy, MACV SOG, 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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# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **DRAFT**

# **General Membership Meeting Agenda**

**The Orleans Hotel and Casino  
(Esplanade)**

**Las Vegas, Nevada**

- |       |   |                  |
|-------|---|------------------|
| I.    | Call To Order   | President Estes  |
| II.   | Pledge of Allegiance:   |                  |
| III.  | Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms  | President Estes  |
| IV.   | Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for Our Fallen,<br>MIAs and POWs:                  | Chaplain Motsett |
| V.    | Roll Call – Introduction of Officers, Directors<br>and Special Staff                | Secretary Lucier |
|       | A. SOA Board of Officers/Directors  |                  |
|       | B. SOA Special Staff Members Present  |                  |
| VI.   | Introduction of Guests  | President Estes  |
| VII.  | Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present<br>and if a quorum has been satisfied | Secretary Lucier |
| VIII. | General Member’s Approval of GMM Agenda   | President Estes  |
| IX.   | Adoption of Standing Rules of Order   |                  |



X. BUSINESS MEETING:

A. Regular Business:

1. Proposed Bylaws revisions Director Vines
2. Minutes of SOA Annual General Membership  
Meeting, 22 October 2014, SOAR XXXVIII AAR,  
Pages: 35-36 Secretary Lucier
3. Financial Report and 2016 Budget Treasurer Buscetto
4. Approval of 2016 Budget President Estes
5. SOA Scholarship Committee Report Chairman McClure
6. SOA Brightlight Committee Report Chairman Meyer
7. SOA Personal Video History Committee  
Report Chairman Cummings
8. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report Chairman Werther
9. SOA Chaplain's Report Chairman Motsett
10. SOA Riders Committee Report Chairman Carrell
11. SOA QM Sales Report Chairman Strange
12. SOA Membership Committee Report Chairman Calafell
13. SOA Nominating Committee Report Chairman Vines
14. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report President Estes
15. Swearing in newly Elected SOA Officers  
And Directors President Estes
  - a. Secretary, SOA: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Directors (2): \_\_\_\_\_
16. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Estes
  - a. Director David Lucier
  - b. Director Bill Werther
17. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members Chairman Calafell
18. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members Chairman Calafell

19. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: Chairman Calafell

20. SOAR XXXIX Status Report Chairman Nguyen

B. New Business:

1. SOAR XXXIX Report: Chairman Nguyen

2. MG Jack Singlaub Jedburgh Award Director Vines

3. \_\_\_\_\_

X. For the Good of the Order

XI. Call for Motion to Adjourn President Estes

There being no further business to conduct at this time, the President adjourns the Annual Special Operations Association General Membership Meeting at: \_\_\_\_\_ hours, 22 October 2015.

Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee will present a number of silent auction items to their respective highest bidders and award door prizes following the official adjournment of the GMM.



# United<sup>®</sup> CUTLERY

It has been our privilege at United Cutlery to work with the special men and women of the Special Operations Association. We are blessed to be able to work with some of the most professional and courteous people that ever served in the United States Armed Forces. We have been thrilled at the response from knife enthusiasts with our selection of SOA products thus far. We especially enjoy working on projects that commemorate brave individuals like Col Aaron Bank, CSM Chuck Petry, and CSM Don Devere; and believe a knife dedicated in their honor is just a very small portion of thanks that they are owed from our country. We hope that our relationship with SOA will continue to grow and the profits from each endeavor will help to honor not only the soldiers who fought and died for our country, but the family members who also made sacrifices for the whole of the United States. We'd again like to thank the entire SOA family and hope you'll continue to enjoy greater SOA licensed products to come.

## **Special Operations Association Reunion XXXIX Annual General Member Meeting Standing Rules of Order**

### **Preamble:**

*The Board of Directors has created the following Standing Rules of Order in accordance with the directions and guidelines established in Chapter XIX of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (RRNR).*

*The purpose of these Standing Rules of Order are to assure members' rights are fully protected, simplify what otherwise are sometimes confusing and contradictory Parliamentary Procedure options, establish order, and to capture the exact wording of proposed Topics of Discussion (TODs), Resolutions and Motions for the record.*

*These Standing Rules require approval by the General Members before they will be implemented and adhered to for this GMM. These Standing Rules of Order are Temporary and apply to this one single GMM only. Their authority ceases on the adjournment of the GMM.*

*We ask every General Member to read these proposed Standing Rules and to approve them with his vote.*

Admission into the General Member Meeting room requires all members to wear or prominently display the Badge/Name tag issued by the Secretary/Registration Committee. General Members will be seated in the area designated by the Sergeants-at-Arms for "voting" members.

The Secretary, directly after the opening ceremonies, shall report the number of General Members registered at this year's SOAR and/or exclusively for the GMM and the number of those currently present in the meeting room. The number present at the beginning of the business meeting shall be the number used to determine if the SOA's quorum requirements have been met per Article VII Section C of the Bylaws. If the quorum requirement is met the number of members reported present shall be the base number for determining a majority for all votes conducted during this GMM.

All voting will be by physical count of hands or ballots. When voting, members are requested to raise their RIGHT hand over their heads in order that the Sergeants-at-Arms can facilitate a proper count.

General Members who desire to present a Topic of Discussion (TOD), Resolution or Motion from the floor that was not previously submitted to the Secretary per SOA Bylaws Article VII Section E must first submit a legibly written or typed copy to the Secretary prior to the opening the GMM but no later than the opening of New Business. If the request is in compliance with the Bylaws it will be added to the agenda under New Business in the order it was received by the Secretary.

At the appropriate time on the Agenda, the Secretary will request the Member who desires to open a TOD, make a Resolution or Motion to rise and request their TOD, Resolution or Motion to be read by the Secretary. In lieu of the President stating the question, the Secretary will

read the TOD, Resolution or Motion as presented and entered into the record at which time the Chair will call for a Second. If a Second is made, the Chair will then acknowledge the originating member who may then speak as defined in Rules 5 & 6, and, if appropriate, a vote will follow.

Two (2) microphones are available to members during debate. Any person wishing to speak during debate must do so from one of the microphones or he will not be recognized by the Chair. As designated, one microphone will be for those members who wish to speak in support of the question and the other for those opposed. When recognized, the member is requested to state his name and membership number prior to speaking.

Members are limited to two (2) three (3) minute periods of debate per question and a member will not be permitted to speak a second time until all other members who wish to speak to the question have spoken once. Total time for Debate will be limited to 12 minutes per question.

General Members may make a motion to set aside Rule 5 and substitute new requirements which will become the temporary Rule for that specific TOD, Resolution or Motion if passed by a 2/3rds majority (as is detailed in RRNR, page 253) of the quorum requirement as defined in Rule 2.

The Chair will rule out of order TOD(s), Resolution(s) or Motion(s) and not approve for discussion, debate and/or vote those subjects that violate the SOA Bylaws and those where the SOA Attorney and/or Attorneys for Association's Insurance Carrier have directed they not to be discussed beyond what has been previously posted by the BOD.

General Members may make a motion to set aside Rule 7 and if seconded and passed with a 2/3rds majority (ref. RRNR, page 253) of the quorum as defined in Rule 1. Prior to the vote, the Chair will provide the reason for his ruling, and if appropriate, either read or pass out copies of the board's posting(s). If the topic is one which the SOA's Lawyer and/or Insurance Company's Lawyer(s) has stated should not be discussed the Chair and the BOD will not answer questions or become involved in the debate. They will, however, participate in the vote if there is one.

General Members may appeal the President's rulings as stipulated in Section 24, pages 247-252 of RRNR. As stated on page 252, a majority or tie vote sustains the decision of the President. The President is authorized to vote in order to create a majority or tie decision.

The Chair will rule on all Parliamentary Questions in accordance with the authority granted in RRNR (pages 432 - 435 and elsewhere). At his discretion, as defined on page 243, the President may temporarily suspend the meeting, stand at ease, to obtain confidential advice from the Parliamentarian or other accepted parliamentary authority prior to making his ruling. Special attention is to be placed on "Decorum" specified on pages 379 - 384. A professional Registered Parliamentarian, (Mrs. Solveiga Unger) has been retained by the SOA Board to assist the President in the interpretation and application of parliamentary procedure.

All members and guests are required to turn off cell phones and pagers during the conduct of the General Member Meeting. Cell phones may be used to record the meeting if the ring and buzzer notifications are turned off. The use of recording devices is authorized.



# **General Membership Meeting Minutes October 22, 2014**

Call to order – President @ 1337 hrs

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence - Chaplain

Invocation – Chaplain

Introduction of Officers, Directors and Special Staff:

- Officers: Tilt Meyer, President; Ty Furbish, VP; Dave Lucier, Secretary; Pete Buscetto, Treasurer
- Directors: Cork Motsett, Bill Werther, Brian Vines, Doug Godshall, Jimmy Nguyen
- Special Staff: Chris McClure, Clyde Sincere, Dennis Cummings, Ray Calafell, Ray Frovarp, Mike Taylor, Mike Keele, Bob Worley, and Ladies of the SOA were presented Awards.

Quorum: 1) All SOA BoD; 2) Eligible voting members by the Sergeants at Arms by physical headcount in the room.

123 members present (100 required for a quorum) and the BoD were all present. The secretary reported that both a quorum of members and a quorum of Board members were present.

The GMM Agenda Approval

A motion was made to accept the Agenda, it was seconded and Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote (AUVV)

The GMM Special Rules Approval as published in the PRP.

Motion made to accept the GMM Special rules, it was seconded, and AUVV.

The General Membership Meeting Minutes of the SOA GMM of 24 October 2013 Approval as published in the PRP.

Motion was made to accept the GMM minutes for 2013, it was seconded and AUVV.

Presentation of the Service Pins.

Ray Calafell called the names of all those SOA members who were eligible for service pins and they were presented by President Meyer.

## Election Results

Mr. Rick Estes was elected President and will be sworn in at the Banquet on Thursday evening. Director Ty Furbish was reelected as Vice President and took the oath of office as administered by President Meyer. Mr. Tom Cunningham was elected a Director replacing Cork Motsett whose term expired. Director Cunningham took the oath of office that was administered by President Meyer.

## Swearing in Ceremony

Director Cunningham took the oath of office that was administered by President Meyer.

Treasurer's Report – Pete Buscetto: 1) Financial Statement which will be posted on the SOA Website which is secured and encrypted; 2) Budget – 2015 are based on 2014 actuals plus any adjustments based upon new input.

A motion was made to accept the budget, it was seconded and AUVV.

Scholarship Committee Report - See the report.

Brightlight Committee Report - See the report.

Personal Video History Committee Report - 39 interviews total to date

SOA Warriors' Family Committee Report- See the report

Chaplain's Report- Bill Werther introduced the father and son members and asked for help in recruiting members. 26 members passed.

SOA Riders Report - 6 years in existence and that next year's ride was to dedicate and honor the fallen in Ottawa at the Middle East conflict memorial.

The SOA Quartermaster Report- indicated that the Website store is operational plus they have 50th anniversary MACV SOG Coin available.

Nominating Committee/ByLaws Committee/SOAF Director Vines reported to the members using a power point Presentation

Registration Desk: 355 members 317 guests total 672.

Director Motsett received thanks from President Meyer.

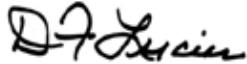
Mr. Charles Berg: Mr. Berg questioned whether all the BoD minutes of monthly electronic meetings had been approved. The President indicated that they were approved and that all minutes from Jan 2014 to date have/will be published on website.

Good of the Order: Jim Beam Tasting in Salon G at 4pm: Texas Hold 'em commences at 2000 hrs; Make sure you get table assignment. President Meyer indicated that a members directory

will not be published nor be put on the web. Silent auctions time immediately following adjournment.

Call to Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, seconded, and AUVV. The 2014 General membership Meeting adjourned at 1447 hrs.

Certified by:



David F. Lucier, Secretary  
December 15, 2014

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# Proposed By Law Amendments

1. Following the last SOAR, the current SOA By Laws were sent to Mrs. Tina Izadi, a practicing Texas Attorney specializing in Nonprofit Organizations to review and determine compliance with applicable Texas Law, mainly the Texas Business Organizations Code (TBOC). Mrs. Izadi's recommendations were incorporated into the following amendments to the SOA By Laws.

2. The SOA By Laws Committee consisting of Brian Vines (Chairman), Ty Furbish, Pete Buscetto, and Tom Cunningham met in Orlando, FL on 14 and 15 January 2015 to review the current SOA By Laws for scribe errors and to incorporate the recommendations of Mrs. Izadi, in order to make the SOA By Laws consistent with Texas Law.

3. The following amendments were discussed and unanimously approved by the By Laws Committee. These amendments are presented to the SOA membership in accordance with the SOA By Laws for review to facilitate a General Membership vote during the SOAR.

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, paragraph D. Terms, changed paragraph to read: "Board of Directors shall be elected every year for a three year term by absentee ballot and within 60 days prior to a scheduled reunion of the Association." Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting.

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, paragraph E. Election, added: "4. Upon election or appointment, officers, directors, and Committee Chairmen shall sign a Conflicts of Interest Policy Statement and Code of Ethics Statement, which will be witnessed and maintained by the Secretary" Reason: recommendations from Texas Law Firm that reviewed the SOA By Laws.

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, paragraph L. Audits, changed paragraph to read: "At the end of the accounting year, the books of the Association shall be closed and a financial statement prepared for such year. If directed by the Placed Board of Directors, such financial statement shall be reviewed and certified by an independent firm, the partners of which are certified public accountants. Such financial statement shall be promptly mailed to each Director and shall be submitted to the Board of Directors at the Annual or a Special Meeting." Reason: ensure appropriate oversight of SOA financial statements.

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, paragraph Q. Bequests, changed paragraph to read: "Whenever the Association shall receive a gift or bequest it shall be deposited or invested in such a manner as the Board and the Association's Treasurer may determine, except as otherwise specified in the gift or bequest. The income from any such gift or bequest may be expended from time to time in furtherance of the Association's purposes. The Board from time to time by resolution, may add any accumulated income to the principal, in which case it shall become part thereof and its expenditure shall be subject to the same restrictions as the original principal." Reason: provide clarity and eliminate redundancy,

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, added paragraph S. Financial Records and Annual Reports, new paragraph reads: “The SOA shall maintain current and accurate financial records with complete entries as to each financial transaction of the corporation, including income and expenditures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The board of directors of the SOA shall annually prepare and approve a financial report for the association for the preceding year. The report must conform to accounting standards as adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and must include: (1) a statement of support, revenue, and expenses; (2) a statement of changes in fund balances; (3) a statement of functional expenses; and (4) a balance sheet for each fund.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.352 Financial Records and Annual Reports.

ARTICLE V, Board of Directors, added paragraph T. Fiscal Year, new paragraph reads: “The fiscal year of the SOA shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day in December in each year.” Reason: recommendation from Texas Law Firm that reviewed the SOA By Laws.

ARTICLE VI, Duties of the Board of Directors, paragraph A. President, deleted “CEO as defined by Texas statutes.” Reason: the TBOC, does not define a CEO.

ARTICLE VI, Duties of the Board of Directors, paragraph C. Secretary, changed third sentence to read: “He will also ensure the Association’s non-profit status is maintained with each state where filed and the IRS.” Reason: recommendation from Texas Law Firm that reviewed the SOA By Laws.

ARTICLE VI, Duties of the Board of Directors, paragraph D. Treasurer, added a sentence which reads: “The Treasurer is responsible for preparing a financial report for the year preceding and presenting the report to the Board of Directors for approval on an annual basis.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.352 Financial Records and Annual Reports.

ARTICLE VII, Reunion And Special Membership Meetings, paragraph A. Reunions, new paragraph changed to read: “The Annual Reunions (SOARs) of the Members of the Association shall be held at a time and place selected at a previous Board of Directors Meeting. Notice of such Annual Membership Meetings shall be mailed to the Members at least 90 60 days prior thereto.” Reason: compliance with Texas Business Organizations Code, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting.

ARTICLE VII, Reunion And Special Membership Meetings, paragraph A. Reunions, added two new subparagraphs: “1. The SOA shall provide written notice of the place, date, and time of a meeting of the members and, if the meeting is a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called. The notice shall be delivered to each member entitled to vote at the meeting not later than the 10th day and not earlier than the 60th day before the date of the meeting.” and “2. After setting a record date for the notice of meeting, the Association shall prepare an alphabetical list of the names of all its voting members. The list must identify: (a) the members who are entitled to notice and the members who are not entitled to notice of the meeting; (b) the address of each voting member; and (c) the number of votes each voting member is entitled to cast at the meeting. The list will be maintained by the Membership Committee Chairman and the Talley Committee Chairman. Not later than the second business day after the date notice is given of a meeting for which a list was prepared and



continuing through the meeting, for inspection by members entitled to vote at the meeting for the purpose of communication with other members concerning the meeting. A voting member or voting member's agent or attorney is entitled on written demand to inspect and, at the member's expense, copy the list at a reasonable time during the period the list is available for inspection. The SOA shall make the list of voting members available at the meeting. A voting member or voting member's agent or attorney is entitled to inspect the list at any time during the meeting or an adjournment of the meeting.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting and Section 22.158 Preparation and Inspection of List of Voting Members.

ARTICLE VII, Reunion And Special Membership Meetings, paragraph B Special Meetings, changed to read: “Special Meetings may be called by the President or by four Members of the Board, or when requested in writing by twenty five percent (25%) of the General Members of the Association for a specific and limited purpose. Notice of a Special Meeting shall be given by the Secretary in the same manner as notice of an Annual Membership Meeting. Such notice must designate the time, place and purpose of such meeting (no other business may be transacted) and must be given at least three (3) weeks in advance of the date for which the meeting is called. ” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting.

ARTICLE VII, Reunion And Special Membership Meetings, paragraph C. Quorum, changed to read: “One Tenth of the General Members attending an Annual or Special Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.159 Quorum of Members.

ARTICLE VIII, Committees, changed first paragraph to read: “The Board of Directors and/or President may appoint committees and their chairmen as may be necessary from time to time, consisting of such number of its members and with such powers as it may designate, consistent with the Association’s Articles of Incorporation, these By-Laws, and the law. Committees such as, but not limited to the following, shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. All Committee members must be in good standing and have attended at least one of the last three reunions. be approved by the BOD by majority vote.” Reason: allow greater flexibility in choosing Committee Members.

ARTICLE VIII, Committees, paragraph A. Membership Committee, subparagraph 2. Duties, added “4. The Membership Committee Chairman is responsible for maintaining all member’s names and addresses.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting by identifying person with primary responsibility for maintaining the list of members.

ARTICLE X, Amendments, changed second sentence to read “Prior to the adoption of any amendment(s) the Membership will be given prior notice of the proposed amendments in writing in the Pre Reunion Packet (PRP) prior to the regularly scheduled Annual Membership Meeting at a SOAR and in writing at least 60 days in advance of Special Meetings.” Reason: compliance with TBOC, Chapter 22 Nonprofit Organizations, Section 22.156 Notice of Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Vines, Chairman of the SOA By Laws Committee

## Candidate for Secretary



**Brian Vines**  
**SOA # 3120 GL**

My name is Brian Vines and I am running for the office of Secretary. In my brief time in the SOA, I have served as a Director and as the Chairman of the Nomination and By Laws Committees. I retired from the Army in 2012 after 28 years of Active Duty military service, mostly in Special Forces assignments including combat deployments to Desert Storm and Iraq (2).

As the Secretary, I will modernize how the SOA conducts its correspondence and keeps its records. I am trained in Microsoft Office and I am proficient in writing official correspondence, recording meetings, and hosting electronic meetings. I am easy to get along with and I feel every SOA member should be treated with dignity and respect.

My goals as Secretary are to streamline decision-making, improve transparency, accurately record meetings, and to boost membership by making the SOA relevant to today's Special Operators.

## Candidate for Director



**Doug Godshall**  
**SOA# 2806 GL**

My spirit of hardwork, selfless service, and volunteering is forged by my combat service with MACVSOG in 1968 and 1969. I served in CCN running recon out of Phu Bai, Mai Loc, Danang, and Ban Me Thuot. Following recon, I served on a Hatchet Force in Danang until I returned home in 1969.

After completion of Law School, I met my talented wife, Cathy and settled down to be a Trial Lawyer, husband, and father. In recent years I have transitioned to a mediation and arbitration practice.

I have served on many non-profit boards including church, children's schools, and several bar associations.

I enjoy being an SOA member, connecting with past friends and families, and representing the SOA at memorial events. I am passionate about the standing up of the new Special Operations Association Foundation to help our less fortunate mates and their families.

Thank you for your service.

## Candidate for Director



### **David "Bulldog" Smith SOA # 1242 GL**

LTC Smith was born 5-10-33 in Stoughton, Massachusetts. He was married to Shirley Holmes in 1952 and they have one son, David, and one daughter, Cheryl. They also have five grand-children.

LTC Smith entered military service in 1950. His career included completion of Airborne School, qualification as a Ranger and a commission from OCS at Ft. Benning in 1957, and several Career Oriented Schools.

LTC Smith retired in 1975.

As a completely retired individual, I feel I could spend as much time as the Board needs to be an effective Board member.

If elected I will ensure that I pass on to the Board any complaints or recommendations from the members and ensure they get an answer. To ensure the recommendations that come before the Board are for the good of the members before they are enacted. To ensure all meetings and discussions are open to all members. (With the exception of personnel matters which are handled confidentially).

## Candidate for Director



**Tim Schaaf**  
**SOA # 549 GA**

I've been a member of SOA since the mid 1980's and have always felt honored to be associated with some of the greatest military heroes in U.S. History. While assigned to SOG from 1967-1969, I saw duty on ST Anaconda, ST Krait, RT Alabama, and a no name Bru team.

I later became an attorney and enjoyed a career as a Deputy District Attorney for Riverside County, California. I'm mostly retired now and feel this is the perfect time for me to serve the SOA.

If elected, I promise the membership that I would not only help continue the Association's present mission, but attempt to make sure the SOA continues to prosper and endure into the next generation of special operators.



# Candidate for Director



**C.B. "Cork" Motsett**  
**SOA # 2537 GL**

I am asking for your trust and your vote to allow me to serve as your Director on our Board of Directors.

During my last term, 2013-2015, I pledged to accomplish 3 specific goals: 1) To open the Board to our members and break the veil of secrecy; 2) To help make the Association Fiscally Responsible and no longer hide the specifics; and 3) To operate strictly within the Bylaws. I also promised to be a one term Director.

Each of these was accomplished thanks to Pete Buscetto's efforts and our new web site.

During that term, I also worked to:

- Update the Bylaws
- Introduce Sponsor and Advertising Programs
- Introduce Integration with the other Spec Ops Associations; I am the POC for the SOA
- Introduce the Entertainment Committee and the first Family Entertainment Day Trips
- Texas Hold-Em Tournaments with half the earnings going to SOA Charities
- Work on the Budget and Planning Committee
- Work on the SOP Committee

I currently serve on the POW/MIA Committee and as the SOA Chaplin.

I again pledge to work in the best interest of the Association and the members. As in the past, I will be available to any member at any time.

Your vote is much appreciated.

**THIS IS THE BALLOT**



**PLEASE DETACH**

**IT IS PERFORATED FOR EASY REMOVAL**

**FILL IT OUT**

**PLACE IN ENVELOPE MARKED  
"BALLOT ONLY"**

**PLACE THAT ENVELOPE IN  
ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO  
"TALLY COMMITTEE"**

**C/O MIKE KEELE  
8301 LA SENDA ROAD  
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91701-1340**

**PLACE A 1<sup>ST</sup> CLASS STAMP  
ON THE ENVELOPE  
AND MAIL IT TODAY**

**BALLOT MUST BE POSTMARKED  
NLT 22 SEPTEMBER 2015**



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION OFFICIAL BALLOT**

**SOAR XXXIX 2015**

**SECRETARY: Vote for only one (1) candidate.**

- Brian Vines SOA# 3120 GL
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write In

**DIRECTOR: Vote for only two (2) candidates.**

- Doug Godshall SOA# 2806 GL
- David Smith SOA# 1242 GL
- Tim Schaaf SOA# 549 GA
- Cork Motsett SOA# 2537 GL
- \_\_\_\_\_ Write In

**ELECTRONIC COPY**

# Taps

Our Deceased Brothers since our last SOAR:

Jim Ringland III, SOA# 1498, 6/11/2014  
Francis (Frank) Quinn, SOA# 1451, 20/11/2014  
Fredrick Forrest (Fred) Mentzer, SOA# 1725, 12/12/2014  
Thomas Cook, SOA# 95, 3/2/2015  
William (Bill) Miller SOA#1276, 3/6/2015  
Arthur T. Fields, SOA# 310, 3/17/2015  
Henry J Cook III, SOA# 331, 3/17/2015  
Tommy Tucker, SOA# 652, 3/18/2015  
Bob Ledellaytner, SOA# 782, 3/31/2015  
Don ("Sluggo", "De Smurf") Murphy, SOA# 790, 4/21/2015  
Walter T. Hawley, SFA# 1029, 4/22/2015  
James (Jim) Burton, SOA# 4427, 4/27/2015  
Donald L. Green, SOA# 719, 4/28/2015  
William (Bill) Shelton, SOA# 890, 5/15/2015

As you read these names, please say a prayer for the repose of their souls with our Almighty  
Father.

# **POW / MIA Committee Report**

The Special Operations Association (SOA) POW/MIA Committee has had a very active year. The committee has expanded to include:

- Mike Taylor, Chairman
- John “Tilt” Meyer, Vice Chairman
- Wade Ishimoto, Liaison to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) - East (former DPMO) and Washington, DC, activities
- Jim Wheeler, Liaison to DPAA - West (former JPAC)
- Cork Motsett - Liaison to other special operations associations and veterans groups

Early in the year, our emphasis was on establishing good contacts and relationships with DPAA personnel and keeping a close eye on the DoD reorganization of POW/MIA agencies and activities. We have forged very cordial and effective working relationships with action officers and the Deputy Director, DPAA. We believe the newly-reorganized DPAA, if adequately funded, can be an effective agency if provided dedicated and motivated leadership from its new Director (to be appointed soon) and the higher-ranking officials in the Office of the Secretary of Defense who oversee the accounting mission.

In February 2015, SOA was joined by the Special Forces Association, the UDT/SEAL Foundation, the USMC Force Recon Foundation, and the USAF Forward Air Controllers Association in a joint letter to senior leaders of Congress, the Executive Branch and DoD. The purposes of this letter were to:

- express our support for fullest possible accounting and adequate budgetary support for that mission
- press for continued priority to recovery efforts in Southeast Asia
- recommend exemption from any future sequestrations for DPAA and accounting activities

SOA has recently begun participating in a series of bi-weekly telephone conferences conducted by DoD to inform family groups and veterans service organizations of any developments related to accounting activities and to seek input from our groups. It is a positive and major step that we are included in this forum. It provides an important opportunity to have our voices heard.



Both Mike and Wade have established an important relationship with Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board, National League of POW/MIA Families, the preeminent group that has pushed for fullest possible accounting of Southeast Asia missing personnel over the past decades. The synergies possible between our two groups will benefit us both.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Taylor  
Chairman, POW/MIA Committee

### **A Note to the Membership: The Last Bright Light**

Working with the SOA POW/MIA Committee for the last two years, I have come to equate the efforts of the Defense Personnel Accounting Agency (DPAA) with the last Bright Light that will be conducted for our comrades still in the AO. DPAA is the new agency created in the recent reorganization of DoD's accounting operations. The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) and Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) are deactivated and their missions and personnel subsumed into DPAA. The key players with whom we have worked well continue in place and no one has missed a beat. In my opinion, the DPAA folks, both in Washington and Hawai'i, are doing a great job under trying bureaucratic and political circumstances, but there are a couple of things we (meaning YOU) can do to help them.

1. Attend SOAR, attend the POW/MIA briefing and have an interview with DPAA representatives if you have any information or connection to an operation from which someone is still unaccounted for.
2. Write a letter to your Congressmen, both of your Senators and the Representative from your district, supporting DPAA and accounting efforts. The SOA was joined by the Special Forces, UDT/SEALs, USMC Force Recon and USAF Forward Air Controllers associations in a letter to senior USG officials, but a letter from you, as an individual constituent, also carries a great deal of weight. The following recommended letter can be edited as you see fit or sent as-is. If you don't want to type it, email me at [sfmike@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:sfmike@hawaii.rr.com) and I will send it to you digitally for cut-and-paste convenience.

Thanks and hope to see you at a SOAR,  
Mike Taylor, Chairman, POW/MIA Committee

## **Recommended Letter**

Dear Senator Last Name (or Mr/Mrs/Ms Last Name for members of the House):

The purpose of this letter is to voice my concerns and express my interest in and support for the United States Government's efforts to locate, recover, identify and account for our fallen brothers still missing from the conflict in Southeast Asia, more popularly known as the Vietnam War.

I am familiar with and applaud the efforts of the National League of POW/MIA Families to seek the fullest possible accounting for our missing from that conflict. The members of the League are bound to their missing relatives by blood and DNA. I feel no less connected to our missing brothers-in-arms through our shared experiences in the combat missions of that war. As a surviving veteran of the Vietnam War, I believe I have earned the right to have my voice added to discussions of this very important issue.

The 2013 budgetary sequestration had a devastating effect on the personnel accounting mission in Southeast Asia, and I am concerned that any future sequestration will further damage the accounting mission. These operations require lengthy coordination with our Southeast Asian host nation partners. These missions must be conducted in narrow weather windows or else be delayed for lengthy periods. The last minute cancellation of missions due to sequestration are devastating to the mission and a national embarrassment. Further, they call into question America's commitment to the mission on the part of our host nation partners and the American public. I recall that operations of the Veterans Administration were exempt from sequestration in 2013. So, too, I believe, should be the accounting mission in any future sequestration. Our missing personnel are veterans who were unable to return home. They deserve equal respect and support to that provided their more fortunate comrades. I respectfully request exemption for the accounting mission from future sequestration, should it occur.

The ongoing reorganization and unification of the Department of Defense's personnel accounting community appear to be based on sound principles of unity of command and are, no doubt, needed and well intentioned. I realize the effort is a work in progress and the final product should not be judged until it is in place. Much good work has been and is being accomplished by hard-working and dedicated professionals in this arena. I sincerely hope their on-going efforts and contributions are recognized and they are not only protected, but also nurtured, in this reorganization. I intend to monitor this reorganization closely and will not hesitate to share my views as it unfolds.

*(Continued on next page)*

The Vietnam War was arguably the least-supported by our citizenry, and most contentious, conflict to which our government committed our military. There are still approximately 1,620 US personnel still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Time is running out as Southeast Asia's acidic soil conditions are destroying the remaining remains. Additionally, urban, industrial and agricultural developments are destroying loss sites and host nation requirements complicate our ability to gain access even to known locations of our missing brothers.

As a concerned citizen and veteran, I respectfully request your increased support to ensure the POW/MIA accounting mission in Southeast Asia remains a priority of the Department of Defense and is adequately staffed and resourced to ensure the fullest possible accounting for our missing brothers from the Vietnam War.

Sincerely,

Name

Address

Telephone

E-mail

1815 - 2015  
**200**  
YEARS OF  
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# Operation Brightlight

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

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

**ELIGIBILITY:** All SOA members are eligible for assistance once approved by the committee. Since 2005, 32 SOA members, and in unique cases, three (3) family members, have received some level of assistance from the Operation Brightlight fund. All SOA members who received Brightlight assistance remain anonymous to the general membership. Members who have candidates for Operation Brightlight assistance are requested to contact committee members: John "Tilt" Meyer, (idahoonezero@sbcglobal.net) (619) 892-5983, Tim Schaaf, schAAF11t@msn.com, 951-551-1462, Rick Grabianowski, (rick@grabianowski.com), (775) 846-1138, or Pete Buscetto, ccsrecon@gmail.com, 863-669-7602.

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

Attn: Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
President Emeritus, SOA  
598N 1620W  
St. George, Utah 84770-6691  
sincere@skyviewmail.com

Revised: 7 June 2015



# PLANNED MONTHLY GIVING

This is by far the easiest way to support the Special Operations Association, the Special Operations Association Foundation and their charities.

This Program is **up and running** now and all you need to do is just log in on the member side, open this page and then decide which of the SOA Charities you want to donate to and in whose memory *you want* your donation to be dedicated to, if *you want* to include this information. Then, it's just a matter of how much *you want* to donate; \$10.00, \$20.00, or whatever amount you are comfortable donating on either a monthly or one time basis.

Just as in the past each of us leaned to depend on each other when the s\_\_t hit the fan and needed that helping hand to get out of that jam or even to survive; we've come to depend on each other to support the SOA Charities these past years.

**E x c e p t** now it's a bit easier... and we are even letting others pitch-in who want to help out. Instead of making the mega-donation once a year or every two or three years you can now make *small monthly donations that you'll hardly even notice*.

**Every Dollar Counts!** It is not how much you give that is important; what is important that *you care enough to give something* every month. \$10/month becomes \$120/year; \$20/month becomes \$240 a year; \$30/month becomes \$360/year; \$40/month becomes \$480/year; \$50/month become \$600/year -- \$100/month becomes \$1,200/year; you do the math for larger donations.

Think of what you can afford to give and *imagine if every member* and someone in their family, a friend or someone they knew also donated the same amount what that would mean to *our ability to reach out and help our brothers and their families in their time of real need*. Just a little bit every month adds up to major dollar contributions that helps in a major way. Start with just \$10.00 or \$20.00 a month and see if you're comfortable, then increase it if you can and want to.

**Every Dollar Counts!** It's as easy as filling in your name and clicking on a few buttons, filling in some minimal information *just one time* and that is all there is to it. From then on your donation will be taken from either your authorized Debit or Credit Card until you tell us to either increase the donation amount or stop your donation all together. *You choose* how much to donate, in whose memory if *you choose*, when you want the donation taken out, when it will start and then when it will end. You are *fully in charge at all times*.

As of now\* you can elect to donate to the:

- SOA General Fund
- SOA Video History Fund
- SOA Brightlight Fund
- SOA Scholarship Fund
- SOA Warrior Family Fund

\*As additional Charities are brought on-line they will be added to this list

**We encourage you to start donating now; Every Dollar Counts!**

**THE SOA's MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT**

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



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

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

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

**NOTE: Colonel Howard passed away on 23 December 2009.**

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

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

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

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

**NOTE: SGM Cavaiani passed away 29 July 2014.**

**PRINT IMAGES**

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

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

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

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

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

Lower Right: A Navy SEAL Recon Team.



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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SOA Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

SHIPPING: \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Options: \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please Print Check or Money Order Number)

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

Credit/Debit Card: VISA \_\_\_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_\_\_ AMEX \_\_\_\_\_ DISC \_\_\_\_\_

ACCOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME AS PRINTED ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (DAY): \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

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NOTE: Administrative Use Only

Date Order Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Payment Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Shipped: \_\_\_\_\_

Print # Requested and/or Available: \_\_\_\_\_

Form available on SOA website: [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org)





# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **Quartermaster Sales**

**Quartermaster: Bob Strange (989-202-2736) Email: bobstrange@QMSales.org**

**All 2X and above add \$2.00**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ring, SOA, 10 ct gold w/design options (includes shipping & insurance)	\$1500.00	x ____	= \$ ____
<i>Rings are Special Order though Quartermaster call Bob @ 989-202-2736</i>			
Tie, Official SOA, 58" ____ 64" ____	\$ 25.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Vest, Fleece, Nylon Reversible, black w/SOA logo S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 55.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Vest, concealed carry, black __ tan __ w/SOA Logo M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 60.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Jacket, Polyester shell, mesh upper back, nylon lower back, front and back vents w/SOA logo embroidered S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 60.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Denim Shirt, Long Sleeve, w/SOA logo embroidered S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 36.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Denim Shirt, Short sleeve w/SOA logo embroidered S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 33.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Polo Shirt, Dry fit w/SOA logo embroidered white __ black __ green __ S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 35.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Sweatshirt, black, w/SOA logo embroidered, S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 25.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Tshirt, black, w/SOA Red Shield logo on back S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 14.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Tshirt, black, w/SOA Red Shield logo on back w/pocket S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 16.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Tshirt, Black, w/SOA Red Shield left chest S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 14.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Tshirt, Black, w/SOA Red Shield left chest w/pocket S __ M __ L __ XL __ 2XL __	\$ 16.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Baseball hat, black suede, w/SOA logo embroidered	\$ 16.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Hat, military style short brim, black __ tan __	\$ 16.00	x ____	= \$ ____
PUC certificate set	\$ 12.00	x ____	= \$ ____
Belt Buckle, Brass, New Addition, raised skull	\$ 35.00	x ____	= \$ ____

Item	Price	#	Total
Coin, SOA 2008 edition, bronze and enamel	\$ 12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
MACVSOG 50th Anniversary money clip and wallet	\$ 12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Coin, MACVSOG 50th Anniversary	\$ 12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Coin, MACVSOG PUC Commemorative edition	\$ 12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Coin, SOA 2012 edition	\$ 12.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, Blazer, Bullion, SOA Crest	\$ 25.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, Blazer, Felt background, SOA Crest, sew on	\$ 15.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, Prairie Fire gold embroidered on black background	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, Square, SOA logo embroidered on black background	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, SOA Red Shield logo embroidered, 4" tall	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Patch, SOA Red Shield logo embroidered, 9" tall	\$ 25.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Life Member Pin, SOA, round Gold__ Pewter__	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Hat Pin, SOA Red Shield, 1 1/2 inches	\$ 6.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Decal, SOA Red Shield logo, outside 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches	\$ 4.00	x _____	= \$ _____
Decal, SOA Red Shield logo, outside 3 x 4 1/2 inches	\$ 5.00	x _____	= \$ _____
License Plate, black w/SOA logo	\$ 16.00	x _____	= \$ _____

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Shipping flat rate USPS	SUBTOTAL \$ _____
SM \$6.50 MD \$12.35 LG \$16.85	SHIPPING \$ _____
	HANDLING \$ _____ <b>\$3.00</b>
	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





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