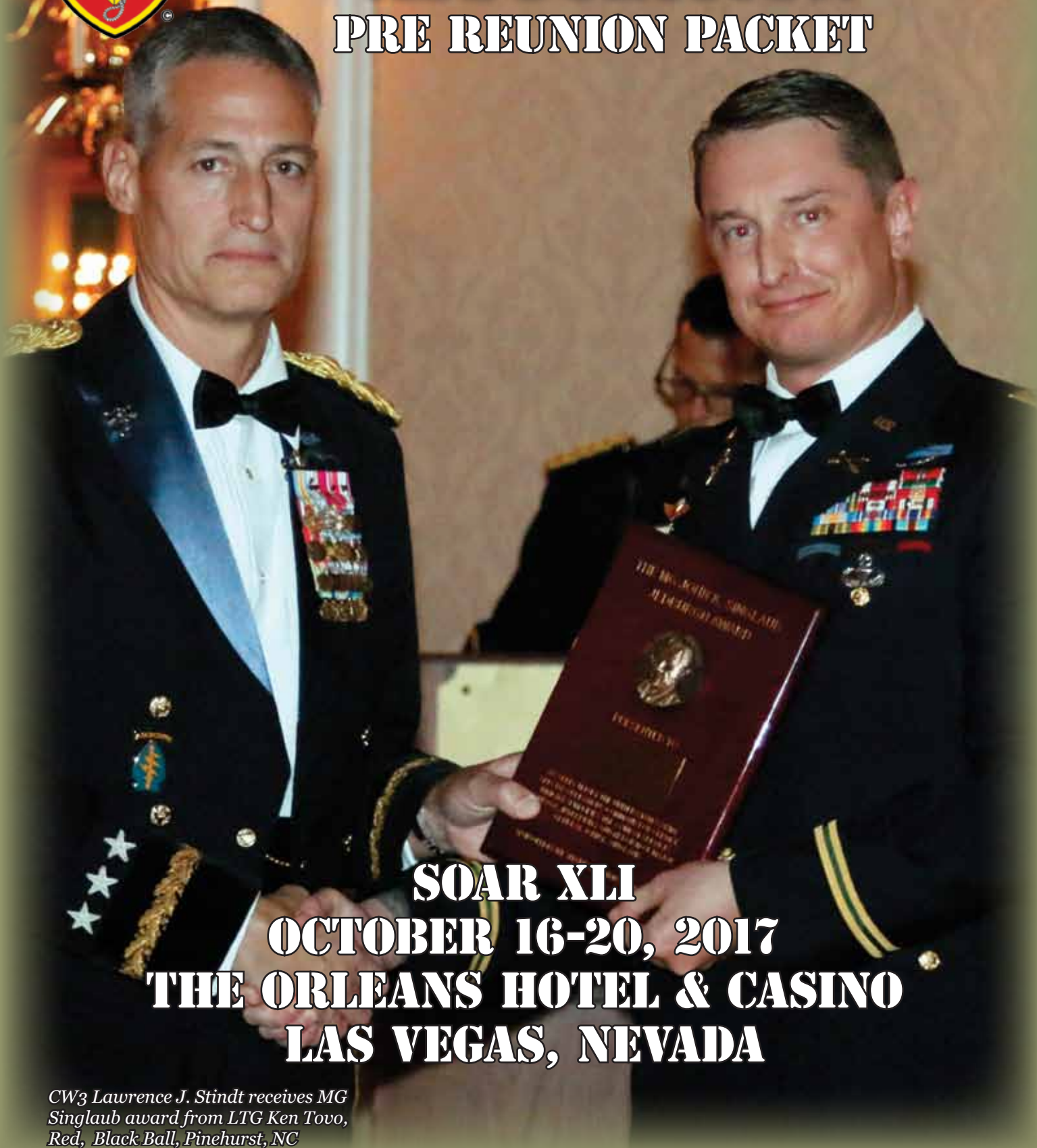




SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION PRE REUNION PACKET



**SOAR XLI
OCTOBER 16-20, 2017
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

*CW3 Lawrence J. Stindt receives MG
Singlaub award from LTG Ken Tovo,
Red, Black Ball, Pinehurst, NC*

The Originals

Special Forces "Originals" at Ft. Bragg, NC in early 1953. From left, Richard Simonian, Charles Neal, Wayne Marchand and an unidentified soldier, pause briefly before getting into a plane to jump at Ft. Bragg. Marchand was one of the first Green Berets killed in S. Vietnam in the early days of the war. *(Photo courtesy of Richard Simonian)*



Two Original SF men who deployed with Colonel Aaron Bank by ship and train to Bad Tolz Germany in 1953: Colonel Vahan Sipantzi and Richard Simonian. *(Photo by Lonny Holmes)*



Richard Simonian and Major Clyde Sincere (R) at the Triple S reunion. Richard was an E-4, Clyde was an E-7 in 10th Group together in Bad Toelz, Germany.



Original and Current Special Forces, Colonel Sully H. de Fontaine of OSS and SF Fame and 10th SFG(A) A-Team 0215 Commander Captain Evan McGhee, a West Point graduate.



Colonel Sully H. de Fontaine of OSS and SF Fame, Richard Simonian and Colonel Othar Shalikashvili the 14th Commanding Officer of 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne). *(Photo by Lonny Holmes)*



Painting of Captain Larry Thorne, famous SF Warrior, an early KIA in Vietnam in 10th SFG(A) Group HQ Hall *(photos by SOA member Lonny Holmes)*



June 2017

Fellow SOA members,

The SOA Board and I are looking forward to seeing you all again at SOAR XLI in beautiful Las Vegas. We had a great and busy year these past months and will have a chance to hear some of our great presentations.

Our cover photo features CW3 Stindt receiving the second USASOC MG Singlaub award from LTG Tovo. The award was presented at the Red and Black Ball in Pinehurst NC in January. The Special Operations Association has the honor to participate in cosponsoring this prestigious award.

The SPAD Symposium will be presenting our first public viewing of the SOA's Living History Project interview of Colonel Mel Swanson who passed away earlier this year. Mel commanded the Da Nang-based OLAA SPAD command whose sole mission was SAR & SOG missions across the fence.

The POW/MIA Committee will be reporting to all on activities this last year and the continuing efforts to locate and return the remains of our MIA comrades. This Committee will again have national leaders who work the forefront of in our efforts to have increased participation of this committee in an area of concern to all SOA members.

Look inside for sign up information for the world famous Mystere dinner and show at Treasure Island Casino with bus transportation provided from the Orleans Hotel. Our banquet will feature world famous Illusionist Patrick Martin for your entertainment.

We have several great articles in this PRP edition on the induction of Ben Baker as an honorary member of the the Special Forces Regiment near his home earlier this year and his many inventions and contributions to SOG operations during the Vietnam War. There's also a story on the SOA Riders memorial presentation in Colorado Springs featured with great photos as well.

Finally, be sure to vote with the ballot furnished in the PRP with the return envelope included in your mailing envelope. Hoping to see you all in Las Vegas!

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Estes
President

Seeking Bright Light Candidates

June 2017

Fellow SOA Members,

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XLI this year due to personal financial problems? If you know an SOA member faced with that dilemma please call or e-mail Operation Brightlight committee members who are listed below. Operation Brightlight was founded in 2005 to help SOA members attend SOAR and is funded through member contributions. The levels of assistance can range from helping to pay for a hotel room, SOAR registration, airfare or travel costs, a stipend for taxi and general costs, or all of the above combined, depending on the SOA member's individual situation at the time of the review by the Operation Brightlight Committee members. Operation Brightlight committee members screen any applicant's request for assistance before any final decisions are made regarding that individual candidate. The names of all Brightlight candidates remain confidential and are not shared with the general membership, only committee members and key personnel on the SOA Board of Directors or SOA Special Staff.

Since 2005, 36 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 and SOA member Joseph M. Conlon specifically.

Please contact one of the following committee members for assistance:

John S. "Tilt" Meyer - 619-892-5983 E-mail: idahoonezero@sbcglobal.net

Tim Schaaf – 951-551-1462 E-mail: schaaf11t@msn.com

Rick Grabianowski - 775-846-1138 E-mail: rick@grabianowski.com

Pete Buscetto – 863-669-7602 E-mail: ccsrecon@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted,
SOA Operation Brightlight Committee
John S. Meyer
Tim Schaaf
Rick Grabianowski
Pete Buscetto

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

Table of Contents

Letter from the President	01
Seeking Bright Light Candidates.....	02
Board of Directors	04
Special Staff/Committee Chairmen	05
SOAR 2017 Schedule of Events	06
SOAR XLI Entertainment Trip/Event.....	08
SOAR XLI Entertainment Banquet Dinner.....	09
Texas Hold’Em	10
Video History Project and Archive Update.....	12
MOH recipient MSG Fred Zabitosky	13
SOA Riders Report	14
MG John K Singlaub Jedburg Award	18
General Members Meeting Agenda.....	20
Standing Rules of Order	22
General Membership Meeting Minutes	24
Candidates for Election	27
Election Ballot	31
Taps.....	34
POW/MIA Report.....	35
OASIS Warning Letter.....	39
SOA Policy Statement Reminder	40
Endowments, Bequests and Wills	41
Planned Monthly Giving Program	43
SOAR 2017 Reunion and Registration Info	45
SOA Annual Dues	49
Contact Information Change Form.....	50
Quartermaster Sales	51
Operation Bright Light	53
SOAR XLI Tenure Pins.....	54
Life Members.....	55
Conrad Ben B. Baker.....	60

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Special Operations Association Advertising Rates



Front Outside Cover is Not Available

Back Outside Cover \$1700

Front and Back Inside Cover \$1500

Interior Full Page \$1400

Interior 1/2 Page \$400

Interior 1/4 Page \$275

All Ads are full color. Camera Ready Artwork is furnished by advertiser. Ads must be approved by publication manager in advance. Ads must be consistent with current SOA guidelines. Ads are based upon space availability.

For more information contact:

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SOAR XLI PRP

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Special Operations Association Soar XLI Master Events List (MEL)

As of 17 June 2017

Friday, 13 October:

TBD: Movement of SOA Items from Storage to Orleans Hotel, Clyde Sincere

1500-1800: Planning & Budget Committee Meeting (Board Room), Treasurer Buscetto

Saturday, 14 October:

0800-1700: Board and Special Staff Meeting (Board Room), President Estes

Sunday, 15 October:

0800-1700: Board and Special Staff Meeting (Board Room), President Estes

0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings

0800-1200: Vendor Setup (Vender Area, Mardi Gras Ballroom), Clyde Sincere

Monday, 16 October:

0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings

0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Rick Grabianowski

0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar

Tuesday, 17 October:

0730-0900: Open (Salon TBD),

0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings

0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Rick Grabianowski

0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar

1600-1700: Suicide Awareness Presentation (Salon H) Doc Padgett

1900-2130: Cirque Du Soleil "Mystere" Show at the Bellagio, John Russell

Special Operations Association Soar XLI Master Events List (MEL)

Wednesday, 18 October:

- 0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Rick Grabianowski
- 0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- 0900-1000: SOG/SPAD/COVEY Symposium (Esplanade Room) Don Engebretson
- 1000-1200: POW/MIA Symposium (Esplanade Room) Chairman Taylor
- 1200-1300: Lunch (Mardi Gras Ballroom)
- 1330-1530: SOA General Membership Meeting (Esplanade Room), President Estes
- 1530-1630: Door Prizes and Silent Auction (Esplanade Room), Clyde Sincere
- 1600-1700: Beam Suntory Tequila Tasting (Suite TBD), Bill Werther
- 1700-1730: 23 August 1968 Remembrance (Doug Godshall)
- 1800- TBD: Texas Hold'em Tournament (Cork Motsett)

Thursday, 19 October:

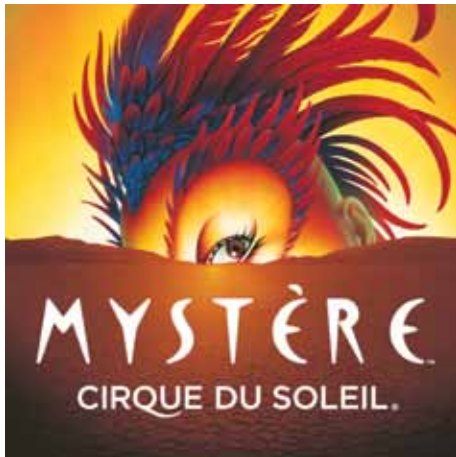
- 0700-0830: CCS Breakfast
- 0800-1200: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0900-1200: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Rick Grabianowski
- 0900-1030: OASIS BOD Meeting (Board Room), Secretary Vines
- 0930-1200: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- NLT 1200: All Vendors must be out of Mardi Gras Ballroom
- 1300-1400: Rehearsals (Mardi Gras Ballroom) President Estes
- 1530-1720: Cocktails (Esplanade Room)
- 1730-2030: SOAR Banquet
- 2030-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- 2100-2300: DJ/Dancing (Esplanade Room), President Estes

Friday, 20 October:

- 0800-1200: Movement of SOA property to Storage Facility, Volunteers
- 0900-1200: Selective SOA Board and Special Staff Meeting (Board Room), President Estes
- 0930-1200: Hospitality Room (Salon H), open bar

1200: Hotel Check-out

SOAR XLI Entertainment Trip/Event



Dinner at Señor Frogs & Cirque Du Soleil “Mystere” at the Treasure Island Hotel and Casino Tuesday, 17 October 2017

Your fun-filled evening will begin by loading an air-conditioned bus at the Orleans Hotel and traveling to the Treasure Island Hotel. Upon arrival, you will experience a delicious dinner at Señor Frog’s Restaurant followed by the acclaimed 90 minute Cirque Du Soleil “Mystere” Show. Afterwards an air-conditioned bus will pick you up and return you to the Orleans Hotel. The all-inclusive price for this event is \$105.00 per person based on 50 attendees.

The World Famous Señor Frog’s Las Vegas Offers Food, Fiesta and Souvenirs, Come and Eat in our Pad... Come for the FOOD Stay for the FUN

Powerful athleticism, high-energy acrobatics and inspiring imagery fill the air. Deemed a theatrical “flower in the desert,” Mystère thrills audiences with an exhilarating blend of whimsy, drama and the unimaginable. It offers the ultimate discovery that life itself is a mystery. The taking of photographs are allowed as long as there is “NO CAMERA LIGHT FLASHING” which may distract the performers.

It is imperative that all registrants understand that no less than 50 paid registrants be recorded by our SOA Treasure, and our Entertainment Committee Chair NO LATER THAN AUGUST 31, 2017.

Please visit the SOA website for updates on times, menu options, and performance videos.

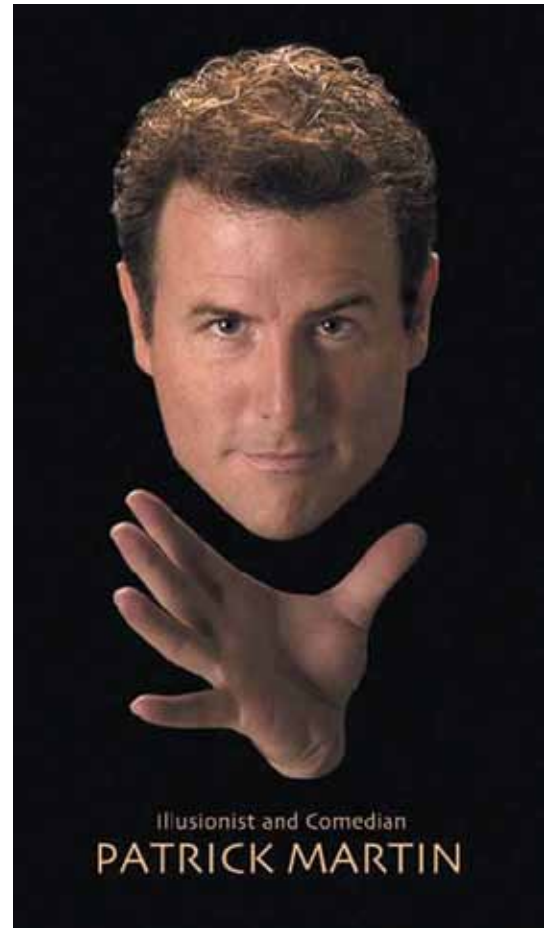
John Russell, Entertainment Committee Chairman



SOAR XLI Entertainment Banquet Dinner



The SOAR XLI Banquet Dinner will feature additional entertainment by Mr. Patrick Martin, a world class magician/illusionist whom have performed for the President and First Lady of the United States of America; Steve Wynn of Wynn International, LLC, and many other Hollywood celebrities. Patrick Martin dazzles audiences with peerless sleight of hand while mingling with guests during his spectacular performance, or enchanting with an elegantly surprising stage show that mixes comedy, amazing magic and startling special effects. Patrick was selected to entertain at the Olympic Arts Festival, at Celebrity Galas, and for top Fortune 100 corporations, Patrick Martin also appears on television specials in Europe, Asia and in the United States. We have no doubt that you will enjoy our banquet festivities.





COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT TIME 5TH ANNUAL TEXAS HOLD-EM

The Tournament will be held on Wednesday Night in the Orleans Casino Poker Room, just opposite the Food Court on the first floor. It will be managed by the Casino with professional dealers, free drinks and other “goodies” thrown in to keep the action fun. The dealers are familiar with novice and professional level players and are excellent at treating each with patience and respect so there is no excuse for not joining us this year.

If you’ve never played before, or just haven’t played in a long time, like since last year’s tournament, don’t worry. The dealers will walk you through your options, tell you what to do, when to do it and you will be made to feel comfortable and at home. Before you know it you’ll be playing like a pro! Besides, you’ll be having a great time with your friends, meeting new members you didn’t previously know and making new friends you’ll come to know for year’s to come at the same time.

We are currently completing a Survey of our members which will determine if there will be changes to the Starting Time, Buy-in cost and other playing rules. All of this will be posted at the Texas Hold-Em Table as you enter the Vendor area. Still, we will be making every effort to make this tournament as responsive to member desires as possible and make it even more enjoyable than ever before. Our intent is to make this year’s tournament the most successful in terms of number of players and the size of the payout. Because one thing we do know is that when all is said and done, **it’s the cash everyone wants to win! Right?**



2016 Tournament Winner -
Collecting His Winnings

As anyone who has played Texas Hold-Em before knows growing the pot is a factor of the number of players and the size, cost, of the initial Buy-in and if there are additional Buy-in’s allowed. Two of these factors are something we can control, the price of the Buy-in and if additional Buy-ins will be allowed. These will be determined by the results of the Member Survey. The other factor, **number of players is something all of us can influence.**

If you want to see more players involved in this year’s tournament *then talk it up amongst your friends. Ask them to join you.* Ask your wife or girl friend to join in. We’ve enjoyed the company of several wives/girl friends during past tournaments and they’ve played very well. They’ve also been the source of good natured ribbing of some of the guys at their table and the source of much laughter and good times. So spread the word, get other members to join us and *let’s make this year’s tournament the biggest and best yet!*

Winning though also has the pride factor of having your name added to the SOA Hold-Em Tournament Winner’s Troupy. Each year’s winner has his/her name added as a plaque with their name, the year they won and, if appropriate, the Unit they served with while with MACVSOG/Mike Force or one of the Support Units.

As the Tournament continues year-to-year we are creating a “Winner’s Tree” and your name and year you have won will be prominently displayed in perpetuity. The Trophy is large enough to outlast all of

FUN, EXCITEMENT AND AT THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

us going well into the next 50 years. Winning the Texas Hold-Em Tournament is one more way of assuring your legacy continues, if *only in a very small way!*



The winner has the option of taking the trophy home, having it shipped to his/her home, to be shown for bragging rights and returned again for the 2018 Tournament or leaving it with us for safe keeping. Some of our past winners have displayed the trophy in their homes while others have simply brought it out on occasion to prove their story when doubters came forward.

Additionally, each winner will receive their own personal trophy with the same plaque as the one on the SOA Trophy. This trophy is for your own personal keepsake and bragging rights. It is also a reminder of the great time you had and, hopefully, an incentive to join us in future tournaments to see if you can add to your trophy collection.

Joining us in this year's tournament is more than just fun and games though. It's a means of supporting the SOA Charities. Half of each year's winnings, after the Casino takes it's share (which is quite reasonable) is given to one of the SOA Charities as designated by the tournament winner. This is hundreds of dollars each year the Charity would otherwise not have to work with. The winner can also declare who he/she wants to name as the IMO (In Memory Of) for the donation.

SOA Charities are dependent on member donations and rarely receive donation of this magnitude in any one year. Therefore your contribution from the Tournament is very important to each Charity that receives it; they are very grateful for this contribution.

Diverting slightly, if you are interested in supporting the SOA Charities in a "**Painless**" manner consider donating through the SOA **Planned Monthly Giving Program**. You can donate anything from \$10, \$20 or whatever donation is comfortable for you on a monthly basis by signing up just once. From then on the donation will be taken from the Credit/Debit Card you have designation on one of six optional dates that is most convenient for you. You can then increase your donation or stop it whenever you choose. You are in complete control at all times.

To make a donation, go to the SOA Web Site, Members Only Section, and the Donation Tab, this will open the Planned Monthly Giving Program. Then just enter your information once and that's all there is to it. The final step is to identify your IMO. If you want to have more than one IMO you will have to make multiple donations but each can be just \$10 or whatever amount you desire.

Come join us and be one of the winners taking home the big bucks!

This Year We Will Have More Excitement than ever before with a greater chance for an even larger Jackpot and more winners!

Join us Wednesday night in the Casino Poker Room for a great time, excitement, an opportunity to support SOA Charities and be a winner of big bucks!

SOA Video History Project and Archive Update

Most of you know by now that the SOA Archives has been established to preserve the history of the Special Operations Association as well as the history of the units, missions and operators who conducted Special Operations. As this mission continues, we are in need of artifacts for the archives. Many of you have spoken to me regarding items you have stored away that you would like to donate. Now is the time to dig out those old items and send them to the SOA using the information provided below. These items will be on display during SOAR for the enjoyment of everyone.

Recently, we received a donated item from the sons of Robert “Bob” Hall, former member of the 20th SOS. Before his death, Bob was working on a cutaway warhead for the SOA to display during our reunions. His sons, John and Bobbie, found it among the items he left behind and knowing their father intended to donate it to the SOA they contacted us. Archive and Video History Project volunteers, Terry Cadenbach and Kenyon Smith, met with Bob’s sons and were presented with the warhead for display at the next SOAR. In the past Bob donated a number of items including the cutaway rocket that is always on display at the archive table. Please stop by during SOAR to see the new warhead addition. I also want to thank Kenyon and Terry for taking the time to receive the warhead for the SOA Archives.

The Archives also received a donation from Pete “Bus” Buscetto. Pete donated a CCS recon jacket that he had made when he was in Vietnam. It is encased in a beautiful wood shadow box and will be on display behind the Archive table at SOAR. We want thank Pete for donating the jacket and some other items that are of historical value to the SOA Archives.

A very important part of the mission to preserve Special Operations history is the SOA Video History Project. Many interviews were conducted during SOAR XL, but we have a lot more to do, so be sure to schedule your interview at the next SOAR. Funds are also needed to support the project. We would like to thank Shirley Williams for her generous donation and continued support of the VHP. Remember that donations to the SOA are tax deductible. Please make sure your donation is marked for the SOA Video History Project. Your donation should be sent to the address listed below.

I hope to see everyone this October at SOAR XLI.

Dennis J. Cummings, SOA Archivist

3649 Taylor Ave

Bridgeton, MO 63044

314-303-9156

djc106@aol.com

MOH recipient MSG Fred Zabitosky inducted into Army Aviation Association of America Hall of Fame



I had the great honor of receiving the Army Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Hall of Fame award on behalf of Medal of Honor recipient and SOA member Fred Zabitosky. MSG Zabitosky was inducted into the Association's Hall of Fame in Nashville, TN on May 27th at the Association's Annual Convention. Hall of Fame Trustees were unable to locate family members to receive the award and because "Zab" was on a SOG mission when he pulled the Army helicopter pilot from the wreckage and because he was an SOA member, Hall of Fame Trustees asked the SOA if we would accept the award in absence of a family member. The AAAA induction ceremony was superb and performed in the highest military tradition.

I was very proud of the AAAA that night and all they did to properly honor the newly inducted heroes. We will have his medal on display at SOAR.

Sincerely,
Rick Estes,
President, Special Operations Association

SOA Riders Report



After being founded in 2009, the SOA Riders currently have 106 members on the rolls, but sadly, we too are seeing the effects of having older members. We seem to lose as many as we gain. If we are going to survive as an organization we need to reach out to those that followed us. As much as we hate to admit it, they aren't making anymore SOGers or Vietnam era air crews. It is our association, so we are the ones that have to sell it. Please join me in reaching out to the younger generation.

The riders have completed nine organized rides and ride number ten planning is well under way. Each ride has been an adventure in its own rite, with its own memories and stories. However, the reason we ride remains constant. We ride to honor our Brothers who remain missing. There are other good reasons, but they have been, are, and will remain our focus until they all come home.

Every year during the third week in May, just before Armed Forces Day, we gather. We come from across the country to first spend a couple of days riding on day trips planned by the ride host. Days are spent being road warriors, riding the highways and byways, visiting points of interest, selected eating establishments, and the occasional watering hole. After a day in the saddle, evenings are spent sitting around telling tall tales that are always better than last year and get even better the later into the evening. Guests are always welcome and there are no strangers. On Saturday morning, Armed Forces Day, we ride to a predetermined location for a public ceremony to honor each of our missing Brothers from Studies and Observation Group and support units.

We ride for the sheer enjoyment of it. Rain or shine, heat or cold there is nothing better than the rumble of our iron steeds rolling down the highway and byways of America. Many ride from their homes to the location of the annual ride, praying for sun on their face and the wind at their back. What better way to "really" see the country? The air seems fresher, the sights and smells more intense, and the stops more often. Usually Riders will join up along the way, leading to good times at stops for fuel and food, not to mention a few cold ones



at the end of the day to wash the road grime out of the throat.

We ride to represent the Special Operations Association and Foundation. Our distinctive vest is a natural conversation starter. The average citizen is still fascinated by the aura of Special Operations and remains in the dark about its missions. This provides an opportunity to enlighten them as well as hype the organizations and our charities. We have also carried out goodwill missions for the same reason. Vets helping vets.

We ride to support the Association's charities, having raised several thousands of dollars over the years through both internal and external fund raising. Hand salute to the Riders that have spent their time, efforts, and personal treasures on this mission.

We are more than guys on motorcycles. For those who are Riders but haven't made a ride in a while or ever, please give serious consideration to joining us on our next one. Time is marching by and is no longer our friend. If you ride but haven't joined the Riders, contact Tom Carrell (812) 537-2818 or paintwizard2@comcast.net for an application. Even if you don't ride, but would like to join us in the future, that invitation is extended.



Ride to the Rockies

This year's Memorial Ride will go down in the books as one that reminded us that Mother Nature is really in charge. Most Riders experienced rain or severe weather as we made our way to Colorado Springs for the eighth annual ride. As we arrived on Wednesday, the next day's forecast was for below freezing temperatures and the possibility of snow in the city and up to two feet of snow in the high country. To ride or not to ride was the question.

Thursday dawned as forecast and a unanimous decision was made – we will take cars.

Our first stop of the day was Ft. Carson, home of the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), where we were greeted and briefed by the commander and his staff. Briefing is probably an overstatement and better phrased as warriors discussing changes in the Special Operations, past and present.

After the briefing, we were escorted to a team building, where we were given the opportunity to interact with the guys who are boots on the ground. We discussed their mission, their equipment, and the differences between their time and ours. It was very apparent that these guys not only know their trade but love what they are doing. Talk about toys, these guys



Rick Estes, Tom Carrell, Robert Noe Viet Nam Traveling Wall



10th SFG Tactical Human Optimization, Rapid Rehabilitation and Reconditioning (THOR) Program briefing

have them all. And if they don't they will find something close and modify it to meet their mission needs. Are they ready? Three hours from warning order to wheels up. No brag - Just fact. Everyone was very businesslike and highly professional.

All too soon it was lunch time and we were treated to a meal with the Commander and troops in the Group Dining Hall. It was interesting to see how closely their diet is monitored and how different the menu was from our

time. SOS has been removed from the menu as unhealthy. Our comment was that is almost a crime. They count calories, carbs, protein, and all the stuff we didn't know or care about.

With a full stomach, we went to their conditioning facility to be briefed by their staff doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, physical therapist, and "sports medicine" trainer. Missing was the Chaplain who rounded out their complete warrior training group. There was discussion on the whole soldier concept of body, mind, and spirit. A concept foreign to most of us, but a good sign that today's Army goes to great lengths to protect their assets and investments. I think we all walked away in awe and more than impressed with the caliber of individual we had the privilege visiting. What a day.

The rest of the day was spent lamenting the weather and the weather forecast. Dinner was at "Texas Roadhouse" followed but an evening of storytelling and indulging in adult beverages.



Lunch with the Command Group, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Ft Carson, Colorado.

Friday dawned drier but cold. Riders put on all the clothes they could and still ride. After scraping the frost off the bikes and heating the chase vehicle we were off to Garden of the Gods. I cannot begin to describe the natural beauty but it was breathtaking when viewed with a snow covered Pike's Peak as a



Bekke and Rick Estes, Paul Merchant, Ron Gravett, Liz Curry, Robert Noe, Marcus Whitt II, Terry Curry, Sherry and Tom Collier, Mary and Tom Carrell, Ralph Keith



Statue of SSG Drew Dix (MOH)



Home of Heroes Monument, Pueblo, Colorado, Om Collins, Ron Gravett, Terry Curry, Marcus Whitt II, Tom Carrell, Rick Estes



Leathered up and ready to ride, Rick Estes, Marcus Whitt II, Terry Curry, Tom Collier, Ron Gravett, Tom Carrell



Today's warriors and some of their toys,



Old warriors sharing with the new generation.



SOA Riders at the Traveling Wall Colorado Springs May 2107

backdrop. No wonder this area inspired the song, "America the Beautiful".

After a quick cup of coffee and a trip through the souvenir shop we headed south to Pueblo to visit the Home of Heroes. Part of the convention center, it houses information on their four Congressional Medal of Honor recipients from World War II, 2 from Korea, and Vietnam. Even Eisenhower wondered if there is something in the water to have had that many heroes from one small city. To say the display is well done would be an understatement.

After dinner at a local eatery, Johnny's Navajo Hogan, we returned to the hotel for our business meeting and drawings. Marcus Whitt II was the winner of this year's "Quilt of Valor" and almost everyone walked away with something from the donation table. Four hundred dollars were raised and will be donated to the Special Operations Association Foundation to be used in support of today's troops.

Saturday the weather had moderated as it was above freezing and the sky was clear. Everyone leathered up and we rode to the site of this year's memorial. We were very fortunate that one of the local churches was hosting one of the traveling walls and allowed us to use it as we remembered all of those who remain missing from MACVSOG and aviation assets lost in their support. We were greeted by their volunteers, many of whom also attended our function. At the conclusion we were invited to stay for their public "Welcome Home" celebration. Several of us attended and several departed having many miles to make so they could get home for work on Monday. Those that stayed were interviewed by the local press, acknowledged by the guest speakers, and warmly treated by those in attendance. A suitable end to another great ride with great friends and comrades. Preparations are already underway for next year in Mt Airy, North Carolina.



Pikes Peak with a fresh coat of snow from Garden of the Gods.

MG John K. Singlaub Jedburgh Award

The second annual MG Singlaub Award was presented to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Lawrence K. Stindt, a Special Forces Soldier assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) on 21 January 2017 at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Red and Black Ball. The award was presented by LTG Ken Tovo (USASOC, Commanding General).

The Singlaub Award is an award created in honor and recognition of retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub's courageous actions on and off the battlefield as well as his significant contributions to U.S. Army Special Operations Forces.

Part of CW3 Stindt's four-page citation reads: "From 2001 to 2015, CW3 Stindt served across the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility including the initial invasion of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), as well as seven tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), applying focused leadership at the tactical and operational levels in the fight for the future of both countries."



Two noteworthy combat accomplishments included the formation of the Iraqi 36th Commando Battalion and participation in 86 precision Special Operations raids that captured numerous high value targets and the valorous defense of the Golden Domed Mosque in Samarra, Iraq against Sunni extremists. CW3 Stindt excelled in combat as a Special Forces Non-Commissioned Officer and as a Warrant Officer.

CW3 Stindt received a rosewood plaque with a two-dimensional medallion bearing the raised likeness of Maj. Gen. Singlaub, donated by the Special Operations Association, and a USASOC certificate recognizing him as this year's Maj. Gen. Singlaub Award winner. In addition,

MG John K. Singlaub Jedburgh Award (cont)



CW3 Stindt's name will be engraved on a command plaque displayed in the USASOC Headquarters building commemorating all future winners of the award.

Maj. Gen. Singlaub is a legend among SOF warriors, a forefather of the modern day Green Beret, and has had a long and distinguished career and history in Special Operations. He served in the office of strategic services (OSS) in WWII in both France and China. During the Korean War, he helped to create the Ranger Training Center at Fort Benning, GA and served with the CIA. During Viet Nam commanded an infantry battalion and commanded the Military Assistance Command Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group (MACVSOG).”

The SOA is proud to be the sponsor of the award that exemplifies the courage and character of our “SOG Boss.” Congratulations to CW3 Stindt.

General Membership Meeting Agenda

18 October 2017

The Orleans Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, Nevada

- Call to Order President Estes
- Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms (Spider Parks, Bill Barkley)
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs Chaplain Grabianowski
- Roll Call Secretary Vines
- SOA Board of Officers/Directors (President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Vines, Treasurer Buscetto, Director Godshall, Director Binford, Director Cunningham, Director McClure, and Director Day).
- SOA Special Staff Members Present
- Introduction of Guests President Estes
- Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum has been satisfied
- General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda.
- Business Meeting:
- Regular Business:
1. Approval of SOAR XL General Membership (Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XLI PRP).
 2. Financial Report and Budget Treasurer Buscetto.
 3. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. Chairman McClure
 4. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Meyer
 5. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report Chairman Cummings
 6. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report. Chairman Werther
 7. SOA Chaplain's Report. Chaplain Gabrianowski
 8. SOA Riders Committee Report. Chairman Carroll
 9. SOA QM Sales Report Chairman Strange
 10. SOA Membership Committee Report Chairman Peterson
 11. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report. Chairman Keele

General Membership Meeting Agenda (cont)

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 12. By Laws Committee | Chairman Cunningham |
| 13. Nomination Committee Report | Chairman Meyer |
| 14. Special Operations Association Foundation Report | Director Godshall |
| 15. MG Singlaub Award Report. | Secretary Vines |
| 16. Farewell to SOA Board Members | President Estes |
| 17. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors | President Estes |
| a. President: | |
| b. Vice President: | |
| c. Director: | |
| 18. Non Valor Awards Presentations | President Estes |
| 19. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members | President Estes/MG Bargewell |
| 20. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members | President Estes/MG Bargewell |
| 21. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: | President Estes/MG Bargewell |
| 22. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members: | President Estes/MG Bargewell |
| New Business: | |
| For the Good of the Order | President Estes |
| Meeting Adjournment: | |

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

Standing Rules of Order

Special Operations Association Reunion XLI 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

Standing Rules of Order (cont)

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

19 October 2016
The Orleans Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

- Call to Order 1334 PDT President Estes
- Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms (Spider Parks, Bill Barkley)
- Pledge of Allegiance Virgil McVickers
- Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs Chaplain Grabianowski
- Roll Call Secretary Vines
- SOA Board of Officers/Directors (President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Vines, Treasurer Buscetto, Director Godshall, Director Binford, and Director Day were present).
- SOA Special Staff Members Present.
- Introduction of Guests President Estes
- Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum has been satisfied: The Sergeants-at Arms counted 149 members present which constituted a quorum.
- General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda. Motion to approve was made by Mike Keele, seconded by Virgil McVickers, and unanimously approved.
- Business Meeting:
- Regular Business:
1. Approval of SOAR XXXIX General Membership (Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XL PRP). Motion to approve was made by Lonnie Holms, seconded by Bulldog Smith, and unanimously approved.
 2. Financial Report and Budget was presented by Treasurer Buscetto. The financials are posted on the SOA website.
 3. Motion to approve the budget was made by Rick Gabrianowski, seconded by George Metz, and unanimously approved.
 4. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. Chairman McClure briefed the membership that there are 10 SOA Scholarship recipients and the scholarship fund exceeds the 80/20 requirements. He also briefed BOD decisions to increase semester stipends to \$1,500 beginning in 2017 and to add spouses to eligible recipients. Charles Berg recommended the BOD consider increasing current recipients' stipends to \$1,500.
 5. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Meyer briefed the membership that he had six applicants, however four had to withdraw for health and one was not eligible.
 6. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report Chairman Cummings
 7. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report. Chairman Werther briefed that he had three applicants. One for a full ride and two for registration fees only.
 8. SOA Chaplain's Report. Chaplain Grabianowski reverently read the list of SOA members that passed or remains returned since the last SOAR followed by a moment of silence.
 9. SOA Riders Committee Report. Chairman Carrell highlighted the SOAR Ride Across America ride and the excellent visit of the SOA Riders to the Ft Sill/Lawton VA to the Yellow Wing, which is named the Special Operators. A plaque was presented to the ward on behalf of the SOA. Lastly, Tom presented a check for \$687 to the Brightlight Fund from the SOA Riders.

10. SOA QM Sales Report Chairman Strange
 11. SOA Membership Committee Report Chairman Peterson
 12. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report. Chairman Keele briefed there were three open positions and three candidates. He received 53 votes during the election. He requested that all envelopes containing ballots have a return address to aid in validating.
 13. By Laws Committee. Secretary Vines briefed the proposed By Laws change on behalf of Chairman Cunningham. The proposed By Laws changes were reflected in the SOAR XL PRP per the SOA By Laws. A motion to approve was made by Rick Grabianowski, seconded by Ralph Lawrence, and approved by the majority. Virgil McVickers voted against the change and requested the amendment be amended to be considered a loan from the Life Membership account rather than a grant.
 14. Nomination Committee Report. Chairman Vines briefed that three positions will be up for election next year: President, Vice President, and Director Place #1.
 15. Special Operations Association Foundation Report. Director Godshall briefed the membership on Fundraising, the SOAF, and the SOAF Gas Card Program.
 16. MG Singlaub Award Report.
Secretary Vines highlighted the awarding of the first MG Singlaub Award to CW2 Valdez, 7th Special Forces Group at the USASOC Red and Black Ball.
 17. Farewell to SOA Board Member Jimmy Nguyen (not present). President Estes
 18. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Estes
 - a. Treasurer: Pete Buscetto
 - b. Director: Chris McClure
 - c. Director: Rand Binford
 19. Non valor Awards Presentations President Estes
 20. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members President Estes/MG Bargewell
 21. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members President Estes/MG Bargewell
 22. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: President Estes/MG Bargewell
 23. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members: President Estes/MG Bargewell
- New Business:
- For the Good of the Order President Estes
- Montagnard Update (Tom Turney)
- A member proposed that we add USAF Pararescuemen assigned to the Jolly Green Giants to the approved member list for SOA membership.
- Eldon Bargewell announced an initiative to find new members through internet data mining. He asked SOA Members to provide names of friends who are not members. Leonard Tilley responded that he had the names of those that served in FOB 2 in Kontum. Cliff Newman pledged the assistance of the SFA once they recover from the recent floods.
- Cliff Newman gave an update on the SFA National HQ in Fayetteville, NC. Rock Creek had risen 45' and most of the 20 acres was under 4 1/2'. The floods destroyed records and memorabilia. The anticipated cost for cleanup is \$30,000 and the HQ will be down for six months.
- Motion to Adjourn was made by Mel Hill, seconded by Virgil McVickers, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 1550.

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

SOAR XLI

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION REUNION

REL-TEC PLR-16



YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

The Winner, if not present at SOAR XLI,
will be notified NLT:

01 November 2017, Via Phone

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 pack for \$45. Depending 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 SOA in the enclosed Self Addressed Envelope.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE ADDITIONAL TICKETS, CONTACT:

CLYDE SINCERE, JR.

President Emeritus, SOA

(435) 680-4476 or cjrsincere@gmail.com

Candidates for Election

Candidate for SOA President

**Pete Buscetto
(1813-GL)**

Email: ccsrecon@gmail.com



Fellow SOA Members,

Several members have asked me to run for the position of SOA President.

After serious consideration, I have decided to seek your vote to serve as your next President. I have served as Treasurer, since past-SOA President John Meyer asked me to volunteer in 2011, was elected in 2014, for 6 years.

If elected, I'll devote the necessary time, energy, and due diligence to move our organization and its foundation forward while enhancing the fraternal camaraderie of our association. I shall continue to work with the committees we support: POW/MIA, Scholarship, Archive and Living History, Brightlight, and Family Warrior.



I served in Vietnam with CCS/CCC, where I ran recon missions as a One-Zero and One-One.

In the private sector, I served as President, CEO, General Manager and COO of several publicly traded billion dollar companies. I also served on several Public/Private company boards.

Respectfully,
Pete "BUS" Buscetto

Candidates for Election

Candidate for SOA President

**Rick Estes
(597-GL)**

Email: rickestes92595@gmail.com



I have served as President these past three years. My service in Vietnam was with CCN, serving at Khe Sanh, Mai Loc, Phu Bai and DA Nang, completing service as a one zero with RT Crusader. I served in Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and 2004 with the Special Operation Command.

I am a married retired real estate broker living in Southern California, father of 5 grown children and have 13 grandchildren.

If elected to a second term as president my highest priority the next three years will be the SOAF Foundation and building programs and relationships to increase young members while continuing outreach for older members as well. I consider SOAR a top responsibility as president and hope to increase attendance at SOAR as it has increased the last two years. Seeing as many old friends as possible getting together each year will continue to be my top priority.



Candidates for Election

Candidate for SOA Vice President

Michael E. Taylor

(698-GL)

Email: captmike.mt@gmail.com



Mike served in the II Corps Mike Force, CCS, MACV-SOG OP 35 and CCN. Initially an Infantry officer, he was selected as an original member of Special Forces branch. The latter portion of his career was spent as a Middle East FAO in SF-coded assignments in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. Mike is a veteran of the Vietnam War and Desert Storm. After retirement from active duty, he served as a DA civilian working force protection and antiterrorism in Saudi Arabia. During his civil service, Mike received several national antiterrorism awards from Assistant Secretary of Defense - Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, including the DoD Antiterrorism Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mike has been a Charter Member of the SOA since SOAR I. He has served as Chairman, Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee, and as Vice President, filling out the unexpired portion of Tyler Furbish's term after his untimely death.

Candidates for Election

Candidate for Director

**John Padgett
(404-GL)**

Email: bacsi10@yahoo.com



John Padgett, a former SF medic, has A-team experience (A221, 227), Mike Force (4th BN, II Cps) 68-69, 46th SF Co. 69-70, and SOA/CC from 70-71.

Education: University of Washington Physician Assistant (PA) Program, 1973, masters from St. Francis University in 1994 and doctorate from St. George University in 2001. After practice in Washington, he joined the University of Hawaii, training health care providers in the U.S. Trust Territories. After medical service on the Alaska Pipeline in 1975-76, he was recruited by USAID to develop a rural health program for Nicaragua. He practiced in clinical medicine for 25 years.

After years of Special Operations USAR duty, he was activated by SOCOM in 2003 for Iraq. Returning from Iraq, he helped open the PA School at Touro University Nevada, serving as clinical coordinator. Currently retired, his board experience includes Refugee Relief International, Inc., the Veterans Caucus and Army PA Society.

SOA Official Election Ballot

SOAR XLI 2017

Please indicate your vote by placing a check mark or an X to the left of your candidate then sign the bottom and indicate your SOA number.

Please put your name and SOA# in the return address space on the envelope.

Mail your ballot to:

Tally Committee

C/O Mike Keele

8301 La Senda Road

Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701-1340

President: Vote for one only (1) only

() Pete Buscetto

() Rick Estes

() _____ write in

Vice President: Vote for one (1) only

() Mike Taylor

() _____ write in

DIRECTOR, Place 1: Vote for one (1) only

() John "Doc" Padgett

() _____ write in

Signature: _____ SOA# _____

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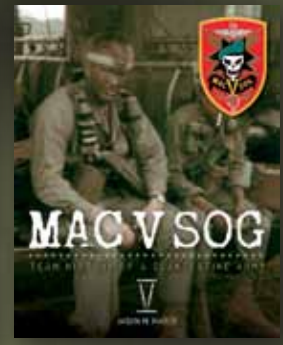
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RT Le Loi (CCN)
RT New Hampshire (CCC)



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)



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RT Pick (CCS)
RT Intruder (CCN)



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Mike Force	\$500 to \$1,000
Other SF Plaques	\$250 to \$500

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Indig Set	\$500 to \$1,000
Tiger Stripe Set	\$250 to \$500
1-0 Jackets	\$1000 and up
Modified Fatigues	\$250 to \$750
Standard Uniforms	\$250 to \$500
Other Camouflage	\$250 and up

HEADGEAR

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

LIGHTERS

Zippo® w/ Presentation	\$250
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SOG ID's	\$250
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Others	\$75

FIGHTING KNIVES

SOG Knives	\$800 to \$1,400
Presentation	
SOG Knives	\$1,500 to \$2,000
Gerbers	\$350 to \$500
Buffalo Bill	
Presentation Knives	\$500
Randalls	\$500 and up

EQUIPMENT

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

CAPTURED ITEMS

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

INSIGNIA

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

TAPS

<u>Member's Name</u>	<u>Member Number</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Anderson, Anthony	3253-GA	2-Feb-17
Aycock, Charles A.	2399-GL	24-Oct-13
Barlow, Gregory P.	656-GL	4-Jul-13
Blankenship, Bennett L.	784-GA	30-Mar-16
Craig, James A.	2572-GL	4-Apr-17
Gammons, Edward	1251-GL	20-Mar-17
Gow, William M	955-GL	5-Mar-17
Gullet, Robert	2526-GL	22-Jan-17
Hetzler, Walter M.	2816-GA	2-Jun-17
Hinkel, Rick	1670-GL	3-Mar-17
Kerwin, Joseph R.	1297-GL	6-Mar-17
Loggins, William G.	1030-GA	25-May-17
Morse, Edward D.	2120-GL	21-Feb-17
Nguyen, Na	2169-OA	13-Jun-17
Nissley, Bob L.	359-GL	22-Feb-17
Paccerelli, George	208-GA	24-Jan-17
Pickett, Neal	1508-GA	30-May-17
Schenkelburger, Joel	2078-GA	11-Sep-16
Swanson, Melvin G.	3161-GL	12-Mar-17
Tack, Keith R	1959-GL	17-Jan-17
Uemura, Glenn M.	1767-GA	15-Jun-16
Wilson, Samuel	130-GL	10-Jun-17
Williams, Larry	1937-GA	16-Mar-17
Wunderlich, Fred	89-GL	21-Feb-17
Yost, Walter L.	2081-GL	8-Mar-17

POW / MIA Committee Report 2017

POW/MIA Activity: Since SOAR 40 and Preparing for SOAR 41

GENERAL UPDATE

Sadly, little has occurred to address or lessen the concerns we highlighted at SOAR 40 and in the After Action Report: The position of Director, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), remains unfilled despite the availability of an eminently qualified candidate, Maj Gen (USAF, retired) Kelly McKeague. Adequate funding for DPAA operations in FY 2017 and beyond has not been secured. There is still a shortage of qualified DPAA Vietnam (VN) War analysts. Disinterred WWII and Korean War remains from US-controlled cemeteries continue to dominate identifications announced by DPAA.

As a result, the SOA and SFA leadership sent a letter to Secretary of Defense Mattis (reprinted here in the PRP) highlighting our concerns yet again and asking for his personal intervention. At a recent interment ceremony at Arlington Memorial Cemetery, Defense Secretary Mattis assured a senior DPAA official of his determination to get DPAA the best director he can. We trust he is a man of his word. Time will tell. Getting the right Director in place is the first step in addressing all of the concerns outlined above - and we need it sooner, rather than later.

CONGRESSIONAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON POW/MIA AFFAIRS?

US Representative Mark Walker (NC) recently introduced a resolution to establish a Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs. SOA/SFA leadership, along with the leadership of the National League of POW/MIA Families, respects his well-meaning intent; however, we feel such a select committee would actually be counterproductive and a distraction from DOD's accomplishment of the accounting mission. We sent a joint SOA/SFA letter to Mr. Walker stating our position.

ONGOING SOUTHEAST ASIA (SEA) OPERATIONS

Due to funding constraints, DPAA dramatically reduced the scope of the VN Joint Field Activity (JFA) that began in March 2017. Initial plans were to conduct multiple recovery operations and investigations; but only one Investigation Team (IT) and one Recovery Team (RT), as well as a team to handle a Field Forensic Review and a Joint Forensic Review, were deployed. VN provided one Unilateral Recovery Team and one Research Investigation Team to supplement USG efforts.

A JFA in Laos was postponed due to an aircraft breakdown and delay in Guam, causing three RTs and one IT to lose several days. A trilateral investigation (US/Laos/VN) began as scheduled. Significantly, for the first time, DPAA teams were able to camp near recovery sites (increasing time on target) and to deploy teams in excess of the previous 53-person cap, both major initiatives DPAA successfully negotiated with Laos recently. The VN JFA was reduced, in part, to capitalize on this progress with the Lao.

In Cambodia, one site was excavated, but, cut from 60 to 30 days. This team was attempting to

account for two US servicemen from an aircraft crash site in northern Cambodia. SOA and SFA member James Shorten, who participated in a Brightlight mission at the crash site shortly after the incident, accompanied the DPAA teams to assist in their operations. We plan for James to brief us on his experiences at SOAR.

AMERICANS RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR IN SEA

In early 2017, USMC 1st Lt William C. Ryan, was the first person announced as accounted for from the VN War since June of 2016. On March 7th, DPAA announced that Captain Daniel W. Thomas, USAF, a Prairie Fire Forward Air Controller flying an OV-10 out of Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, listed as MIA on July 6, 1971, supporting a SOG team in South VN, had been accounted for. Remains were recovered by a Vietnamese Unilateral Excavation Team (UET) in August, 2014, and identified in August, 2015. Danny's FAC rider, Major Donald G. Carr, USA, CCN, had been identified in April 2016. Also, thus far in 2017, DPAA accounted for three USMC personnel lost in South VN in 1967: Capt John A. House, Cpl Glyn L. Runnels, Jr., and LCpl John D. Killen II; Col William E. Campbell, USAF, listed as MIA in Laos January 29, 1969; and Capt Robert R. Barnett, USAF, listed as KIA/BNR on April 7, 1966, while piloting a B-57B over Laos.

As of 1 April, the number still missing and unaccounted-for from the VN War was 1,611. Hopefully, by the time you read this, additional VN IDs may have reduced this number.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Representative Sam Johnson (TX) and Senator John McCain (AZ) recently introduced identical resolutions in their respective Houses of Congress calling on the DOD, other elements of the Federal Government and foreign governments to intensify efforts to investigate, recover and identify missing and unaccounted-for personnel of the United States from previous wars and conflicts. Our Associations have endorsed passage of these resolutions; but, it would also be extremely helpful if each of you will write three letters, one to your representative and one to each of your two senators, endorsing passage, seeking co-sponsors, and encouraging them to vote for the resolution in their House. Sample letters are available on the SOA website "Members Only" page and can be edited to reflect your service. You can easily obtain the email address of your elected representatives on the Internet. (If not, get your kids and grandchildren to help you!) THIS IS IMPORTANT! Our attempts to motivate a letter-writing campaign have not been impressive in the past. Please help me combat apathy on this important issue.

Members with knowledge of cases involving missing comrades-in-arms, please interview with DPAA reps at SOAR. Bring maps, notes, other support materials, etc.

We plan an informative and interesting POW/MIA Seminar at SOAR 41. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. Mike Taylor, Chairman, Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

"The Green Berets"

Post Office Box 41436

Fayetteville, North Carolina 28309-1436

Phone: 910-485-5433 • Fax: 910-485-1041

<http://www.specialforcesassociation.org>

Email: stahq@aol.com

The Honorable James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

February 27, 2017

Subject: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) - Leadership, Funding and the "Numbers Game"

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of over 16,000 special operations veterans, the majority of whom are Vietnam War veterans, we express our grave concern with the obvious lack of attention being devoted to ensuring the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) has the necessary leadership and resources to effectively pursue the fullest possible accounting for our brothers-in-arms still missing and unaccounted for from our nation's past conflicts, especially the Vietnam War.

DPAA was created in 2015 to correct a dysfunctional situation caused by two disparate organizations being involved in command, control and execution of DOD's mission to account for US personnel missing from past conflicts. By direction of former SECDEF Chuck Hagel, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) in Washington, DC, and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) in Hawaii were merged and placed under a single Director, along with the USAF Life Sciences Equipment Lab in Dayton, OH. The high hopes among POW/MIA family groups and veterans' service organizations generated by the formation of DPAA have largely dissipated for several reasons:

- DPAA reports to the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (USDP), the selecting official for Director, DPAA. The first Director pledged to serve in that position for ten years; but, before the first anniversary of his appointment, he resigned. The Director's position has remained vacant since June 2016. USDP's failure to name a new Director in a timely manner is symbolic of the paucity of attention USDP has been devoting to actual recovery of missing and unaccounted for personnel. It certainly hinders DPAA's ability to effectively execute its mission. The first Deputy Director, Maj Gen (USAF, retired) Kelly McKeague, served as the last Commander, JPAC, with great distinction. He corrected many systemic problems he inherited and earned the respect and support of POW/MIA families and veterans service organizations. When he applied for the vacant Director's position, his application was endorsed by many of these groups. Another candidate was selected, but withdrew at the last minute. In our opinion, Kelly McKeague should have been selected and on duty long ago.
- DPAA budget requirements were not met in FY16 and long-planned missions were cancelled or reduced. It now appears DPAA will *not* have the funding in FY17 required to "increase the pace and scope of operations," as has repeatedly been requested by Vietnam and planned by DPAA. Despite the lack of a permanent director, DPAA had been proceeding well since becoming fully operational in January of 2016. Now, the lack of a permanent director and

funding issues are impacting the mission. It is our understanding that a known \$20 million plus-up needed to reach the necessary FY17 budget of \$132 million for planned operational requirements was not requested. Further, even had the funding been requested and approved, these funds would be available too late for use in the 3rd and 4th quarters of FY17.

- The lack of a new director and the failure to take advantage of opportunities to increase the pace and scope of operations can only raise doubts among host nation partners to America's commitment to the mission. The USG is sending absolutely the wrong message to counterparts in foreign governments. We ask partners to increase cooperation, then fail to fund our own planned activities.
- Congress has directed DPAA to develop the *capability and capacity* to accomplish 200 identifications of remains per year. Some in DPAA purposefully or inadvertently misinterpret the intent of Congress to mean that they must identify 200 annually, starting now. A strategy has been adopted to disinter commingled remains of the known dead, buried as unknowns in US-controlled cemeteries, then use new DNA techniques to identify personnel who are not truly missing. It is much cheaper, faster and easier to rack up ID numbers this way, than to fund field operations to locate and recover the truly missing. More difficult and expensive Vietnam War investigation and recovery operations are at a disadvantage in the competition for resources if identifications become a "numbers game".

It is our urgent request that you direct the current acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy to move as quickly as possible to fill the DPAA director position with a qualified leader and take measures to ensure that DPAA receives the necessary funding in order to pursue its worldwide mission, especially the fullest possible accounting for our personnel lost in the Vietnam War. This will require that better leaders be put in charge of USDP who understand and support the accounting mission. DPAA's career civil servants are mainly dedicated professionals in dire need of the leadership, policy support and funding they deserve. Their mission fulfills a sacred obligation from this country to the personnel it sends into harm's way. We urge you to commit the necessary time, energy, and resources of the Department of Defense to fulfill that obligation.

POC: Michael Taylor, captmike.mt@gmail.com, 360-588-4756
Chairman, Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association POW/MIA Committee



Michael Taylor
Vice President for
Rick Estes
President
Special Operations Association



Cliff Newman
Executive Director
Special Forces Association

OASIS Warning Order



The OASIS Group

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

The OASIS Group assists the Special Operations Warrior through its comprehensive understanding of the Veterans Administration processes and systems to ensure fair and thorough evaluation.

OASIS Group will provide its unique services to SOA members at SOAR XLI from October 16th to the 20st.

To assist OASIS Group to help you we request you bring copies of all pertinent VA decisions and medical evidence in connection with your VA claim. We will be able to develop viable courses of action based on this information.

To schedule an appointment send an e-mail to OASIS Group at customersvc@oasisgrp.org.



SOA Policy Statement Reminder

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

- a. **VENDOR/EXHIBITOR:** The SOA has a policy relating to items sold to attendees at any SOAR. Vendors and/or Exhibitors must ensure that all items offered, are in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value” and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA”. Vendors and Exhibitors agree to withdraw from display and/or sale of any items deemed unacceptable and/or not in good keeping with SOA policy. Unless previously approved, items bearing the SOA Logo will not be displayed, nor offered for sale. No Vendor or Exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or share allotted space with another Vendor or Exhibitor unless prior approval has been obtained. Vendors and/or Exhibitors are solely responsible for their wares. Neither, the Orleans Hotel/Casino or the Special Operations Association will assume responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

- b. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** The SOA has a policy relating to any Advertisement placed in either the SOAR AAR or SOAR PRP. Any prospective Advertiser desiring to place an Advertisement in either the AAR or PRP must ensure that the Advertisement is in “good taste”, “not of questionable moral value”, and “will not reflect negatively on the SOA, or any of its members”.

- c. **SOA RESPONSIBLE AGENT:** The Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee is the responsible “Agent”, acting on behalf of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in all matters relating to acceptance, or rejection of prospective Vendor/Exhibitor requests, or Placement of Advertisements in either SOA annual publications.

- d. **SOA BOARD:** Finally, in the event a prospective Vendor/Exhibitor or Advertiser does not agree with the decision of the Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee, the SOA Board is the final arbitrator. Anything that it deems is inappropriate will not be allowed for display or publication.

Endowments, Bequests and Wills

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

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

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

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

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

I. General language for a Bequest

- A. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 847 Coleman Drive The Villages, FL 32163, for its unrestricted use.” Or,
- B. “I give all my real and personal property to the Special Operations Association, a veteran’s fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 847 Coleman Drive The Villages, FL 32163, for the specific purpose of supporting (one of the following specific projects):
 - 1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
 - 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
 - 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
 - 4. The SOA Warrior’s Family Fund.
 - 5. The SOA General Fund.

II. Specific Bequest language:

- A. "I give _____ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property - home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 847 Coleman Drive The Villages, FL 32163, for its unrestricted use." Or,
- B. "I give _____ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property – home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Brian Vines, Secretary, SOA, located at 847 Coleman Drive The Villages, FL 32163, for the specific purpose (one of the following specific projects):
1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
 2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
 3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
 4. The SOA Warrior's Family Fund.
 5. The SOA General Fund.
- C. If at any time in the judgment of the governing body of the Organization, it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the stated purpose of the bequest, the governing body of the Organization shall determine a purpose as near as possible to the purpose stated in the bequest.

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

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

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Planned Monthly Giving Program

Registration Form

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

___ Monthly Contributions to be made by:

___ Payment by Check (Personal or Corporate): Checks Mailed to SOA Treasurer: 934 Ashton Oaks Circle Lakeland, FL 33813

If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely

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



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

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

___ 1st of Billing Month ___ 10th of Billing Month ___ 15th of Billing Month

___ 20th of Billing Month ___ 25th of Billing Month ___ 30th of Billing Month

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

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

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

IMO (In Memory Of) Assignment:

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

___ George C. Morton Scholarship Fund IMO: _____

___ Brightlight Fund IMO: _____

___ SOA Warrior Family Fund IMO: _____

___ Video History Fund IMO: _____

___ General Fund IMO: _____

___ Special Operations Association Foundation: _____

Monthly Charge/Withdrawal Authorization:

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

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

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

Authorizing Signature: _____



"Battle Hardened:
Veteran and Family Focused"

Home Our Causes + Store Blog Founders Club About Us + Contact Us **DONATE**



THEY GAVE ALL
We are giving back

WHAT WE DO

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

EDUCATION



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

WELL-BEING



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

SUICIDE PREVENTION



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

SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE



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

[Read More and Donate](#) [Read More and Donate](#) [Read More and Donate](#) [Read More and Donate](#)

**HOW
YOU
CAN
HELP**

DONATE

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



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

www.SOAFoundation.net

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Pre-Reunion Information

- What:** SOAR XLI
- When:** 16-20 October 2017
- Where:** The Orleans Hotel and Casino
4500 West Tropicana Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420 Phone: 800 675-3267
<http://www.orleanscasino.com/special-operations-association>
- Group Code:** A7SOC10 (Alpha-Seven-Sierra-Oscar-Charlie-One-Zero)
Give this code to the hotel when making reservations.
- Accommodations:** Room rates and availability are guaranteed through 16 September 2017 at \$40, 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, 0930 – 2400 hrs.
- SOA ID Badges:** At 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 XLI.
- 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 1200 on Friday 20 October.
- Refunds:** All refunds must be requested through the Registrar via email, registrar4soar@gmail.com or call (775) 881-8069



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

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 to the Registrar NLT 11 October 2017.

If you do not receive an acknowledgment of your registration within 10 days, contact the Registrar directly

NOTICE: On 12 October Registrar will be traveling to SOAR.

Fees:

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

Full Registration is \$180.00 per person – This includes entry into the Hospitality Room Monday through Thursday, Wednesday's Luncheon and Thursday's Banquet.

Daily Registration is \$70 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 – 0930 – 1700; Th – 0930 - 1200

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, Rick Grabianowski, (775) 881-8069, registrar4soar@gmail.com.



SOAR XLI REGISTRATION

Special Operations Association Reunion

16-20 October 2017

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.	Full Registration*	Daily Registration*					Total \$
	Enter full reunion rate beside each person's name. Wednesday's Luncheon and Thursday's Banquet is included.	Enter the daily rate beside each person's name indicating day(s) attending. Daily rate is \$70 per person per day. Wednesday includes the Luncheon; Thursday includes the Banquet.					
First Name Last Name	Mon - Thurs \$180.00 per person	Mon \$70	Tues \$70	Wed \$70	Thurs \$70		
Member							
Guest							
Guest							
Guest							

*Liquor provided is complimentary

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:

Rick Grabianowski, SOAR Registrar. PO Box 1165, Sparks, NV 89432-1165.

You will receive an email acknowledgement of your registration within 10 days, if you do not receive it, contact the Registrar: 775-881-8069 or registrar4soar@gmail.com.

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

PAYMENT INFORMATION FORM

(FOR SOAR 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: _____

Name as Printed On Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Cell) _____

*Signature: _____

*(*Signature required for Credit Card Transactions)*

Submit completed form to the Registrar:

Rick Grabianowski

SOAR Registrar

PO Box 1165

Sparks, NV 89432-1165

(775) 881-8069, registrar4soar@gmail.com

THANK YOU



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

TO: Annual Members
FROM: Membership Committee Chairman - Felix Peterson
REFERENCE: Annual Dues

In order to register for the reunion, your dues must be current. If you have not yet paid your 2017 dues, submit \$35 online or by U.S. First Class mail.

Online: www.specialoperations.org. The Membership link is on the top right of the SOA webpage. Click to open and click on the green Dues tab on the right and follow the prompts to pay your dues.

By US Mail – Complete your payment information on the form below (make checks payable to SOA) and mail to the SOA Treasurer; 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 Treasurer to determine the amount necessary to bring your membership 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: Membership Committee Chairman - Felix Peterson
112 NE Dunlop St
Lawton, OK 73507-1441

Contact info: Phone: 580-248-0837
Cell: 580-504-2703
Email: pete73112@yahoo.com



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

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

MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

SOA# _____ Date of change _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

EMERGENCY AND/OR NEXT OF KIN

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

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Complete and return to:

Ray Frovarp
4072 Ardenwoods Dr
Fayetteville, NC 28306
910-425-1425
rmfrovarp@gmail.com

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

Shipping flat rate USPS	SUBTOTAL \$	_____
SM \$6.50 MD \$12.35 LG \$16.85	SHIPPING \$	_____
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Form available on SOA website: www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

John S. Meyer, Chairman
SOA Operation Brightlight Committee
619-892-5983

THE SOA OPERATION BRIGHTLIGHT COMMITTEE FACT SHEET

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, 36 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, (idahoonzero@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:

Pete "Bus" Buscetto
636 Battery Edge Drive,
Summerville, SC 29486
863-669-7602
soatreasurer@
specialoperations.org

Revised: April 6, 2017

"You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know".

SOAR Attendees/SOAR XL 40 Year Pin Eligibility

The following members are eligible for their 40 year pins in 2017.

James D. Bath GL-589

David A. Maurer, 721-GL

Samuel D. Hernandez, 61-GA

James W. Slatton, 25-GL

Lemuel D. McGlothren, 443-GL

Herb Siugzda, 30-GL

Robert L. Leites, 53-GL

Jesse Siglow, 38-GL

Robert Masterjoseph, 51-GL



**The following inactive members have achieved 40 year tenure.
Please reach out to them and let's get them to attend SOAR XLI.**

Barbara A. Garner, 21-AA

Ferdinand Hanczak, 35-GA

James R. Izawa, 15-GA

Tim G Kephart, 56-GA

Larry Krusee, 601-GA

William A. Thomas, 63-GA



LIFE MEMBERS

The SOA needs your assistance, and just as on your last Brightlight you can jump on-board to be the one to lend the helping hand our members need.

By becoming a regular monthly contributor to the General Fund or one of your favorite SOA Charities you can be the one to assure your Association is able to continue to support our members and reach out and do even more than ever before.

You *know* the need is growing. Most of our members are growing older and as this occurs their medical needs increase. This puts a major burden on them and their families and the SOA wants to be able to be there for them in an even bigger way than we have in the past. But we can't provide this help and meet our other obligations without additional funding. Even meeting our normal expenses is becoming increasingly more difficult as our costs continue to rise. The truth is we can't do it with only annual dues to support our on-going expenses. The cost of publishing the AAR and PRP, of putting on our SOARs and just about everything else we do is increasing even though we are doing all we can to contain these costs. But without new revenue sources we are going to be soon running out of financial resources.

This is where you and the SOA's Planned Monthly Giving Program comes in. By giving just \$10, \$20, \$30 or whatever you're comfortable giving each month your donations quickly mount up. And if enough Life Members do the same these funds together will make a significant contribution to the SOA's ability to meet our current and future financial responsibilities. You can choose which fund to contribute to: The General Fund which is used for the routine expenses of operating the SOA or any of the SOA Charities. Regardless of which fund you elect, you can dedicate your contribution to be In Memory of (IMO) anyone you choose. Additionally, you can make multiple contributions if you want to have more than one IMO or contribute to one Charity or fund.

As by now you most likely know, your contributions through the Planned Monthly Giving Program can be scheduled to be withdrawn from your bank account or your Credit/Debit Card on your schedule (there are six optional withdrawal dates). Additionally, you can choose to add to your contribution or stop your contribution at any time. This is your program and you are in complete control at all times.

Just as jumping aboard the choppers when a Brightlight was called was voluntary so too is this program. But we believe you, as a Life Member are one of those who didn't hesitate to grab your gear and run to the pad when the whistle blew (figuratively speaking) and we also know we can count on you to contribute just \$10, \$20, \$30 or whatever you can each month. Just go to the SOA Web site, <http://www.specialoperations.org> and look under the members only tab for the donations tab. It will open onto the Planned Monthly Giving Program.



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John Stryker "Trit" Meyer, with Lynne M. Black, Jr., MACV-SOG Vietnam.

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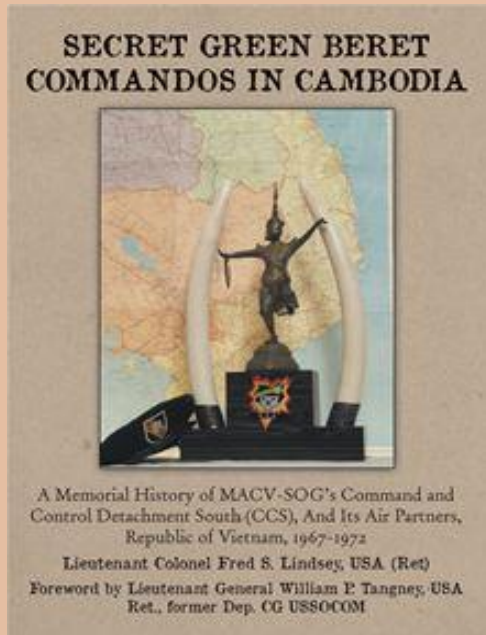
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SECRET GREEN BERET COMMANDOS IN CAMBODIA

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, or unsigned from Amazon.com. ©2012



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The Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute Pistol

A Handsomely Decorated Browning Hi-Power Pistol

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



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

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

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

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

A Trusted Military Sidearm – A Fitting Tribute

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

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

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



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

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

A Limited Edition of 250

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

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



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

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

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

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Conrad "Ben" B. Baker was inducted as the 12th Honorary Member of the Special Forces Regiment on April 27, in Northern California. Amongst the many achievements Baker accomplished as the deputy director for the Counterinsurgency Support Office that served SOG and other agencies during the Vietnam War was the research and development of specially designed rations for the indigenous troops who support Special Forces and other agencies during the Vietnam War. Under Project PIR, Baker is seen holding a box of Indigenous Rations used by Montagnard, Nung, Vietnamese and other indigenous personnel during the war. Baker estimated that 66 to 86 million Indigenous Rations were purchased and provided to troops supporting the U.S. war effort.



Conrad "Ben" B. Baker, 88, stands in his Hillsborough, CA home after receiving induction into the Special Forces Regiment as an honorary member for his years of service to Special Forces and other government agencies. Colonel Nestor A. Sadler, the Special Forces Regimental Commandant of the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School flew in to make the presentation. Baker pointed out to visitors that he and Sadler had served together in Vietnam in 1968.



Ben hugging his wife Shirley

SOA Member Conrad Ben B. Baker (SOA # 897-GL) Inducted into SF Regiment April 27th, South San Francisco



The Special Forces Regiment approved the induction of Mr. Conrad Ben Baker as an Honorary Member of the Regiment (HMOR), the highest Regimental honor bestowed on a civilian. Mr. Baker's induction plaque, along with a picture, will be placed in the Special Forces Hall of Fame at the US Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School permanently.

Ben received an honorary Green Beret by BG Healy in 1971 for his work in Vietnam. Ben worked as a DA Civilian for the Counterinsurgency Support Office (CISO), and was liaison between the SOG and ODA's throughout the Republic of Vietnam where he traveled extensively during the Vietnam War. See article.



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October 16-20, 2017



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