



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION PRE REUNION PACKET



**SOAR XLII**  
**OCTOBER 15-19, 2018**  
**THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO**  
**LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

*Memorial Celebration  
See Details Inside*

**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSO.**  
IN MEMORY OF KIA'S  
AUG 23, 1968  
CCN FOB 4

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



## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

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

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



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

**APPLICATIONS:** Application packets are available from 15 September of the previous year to 15 February of the year that the grant will be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 April of the year the Grant will be awarded. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Christopher McClure at [cmclure@tech-architect.com](mailto:cmclure@tech-architect.com).

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





Fellow SOA members

On behalf of the SOA board I would like to welcome everyone to SOAR XLII held once again at the beautiful Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. The last year has been very busy so there will be a lot of great presentations and reports for you all to attend.

Our cover photo this year is of guest speaker SOA member Pat Watkins receiving the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on August 23, 1968 while defending Headquarters, Command and Control North, Danang Vietnam from an NVA Sapper force. Pat served multiple tours in Vietnam while conducting operations behind enemy lines for MACVSOG. In addition to his Distinguished Service Cross Pat has received five Bronze star medals, three with "V", two purple hearts, two Army commendation medals on with "V" and as well as four air medals for service while flying Covey. I know all will enjoy his talk.

A memorial breakfast will be held Wednesday morning to honor the 17 MACVSOG soldiers lost on 23 August, 1968 while defending the FOB 4 compound in Danang. Due to the highly classified operations of MACVOG at the time, no unit memorial service was ever held for them. SOA volunteers, many of which were present during the battle have worked diligently this last year to contact surviving family members and invite them to this service and though fifty years has passed many will be in attendance.

You certainly will want to attend the presentation of the joint SOA/SFA committee about his recent trip to Southeast Asia by Committee Chair Mike Taylor in the committee's efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of our missing fellow comrades.

Be sure to find the sign up information for the World famous LE REVE-THE DREAM aquatics and acrobatics show at the Wynn Hotel and resort. We are sure this event will fill quickly so don't delay.

There are great articles inside on the SOA Riders trip to Mount Airy, NC, the great dinner held by SFA Chapter XL honoring MACVSOG warriors, Medal of Honor recipient Mike Rose and Clyde Sincere's induction as Distinguished Members of the Regiment and much more. The schedule of events has other great programs so be sure to review that schedule.

Finally, be sure to vote with the ballot furnished in the PRP with the return envelope. We have outstanding candidates running for office so please take the time to support them by returning your ballot.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Estes*

# Seeking Bright Light Candidates

June 2018

Fellow SOA Members,

Do you know any SOA members who will not be able to attend SOAR XLII 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, 37 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:

Chairman John "Doc" Padgett 702-499-8155 E-mail: [bacsi10@yahoo.com](mailto:bacsi10@yahoo.com)

Tim Schaaf – 951-551-1462 E-mail: [schaaf11t@msn.com](mailto:schaaf11t@msn.com)

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

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

Respectfully submitted,  
SOA Operation Brightlight Committee  
John "Doc" Padgett  
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*

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# SOAR XLII PRP Special Operations Association Board of Directors 2017-2018

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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 XLII PRP**

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# Special Operations Association SOAR XLII Master Events List (MEL)

AS OF 11 June 2018

**Saturday, 13 October:**

TBD: Movement of SOA Items from Storage to Orleans Hotel, Clyde Sincere  
0800-1700: Board and Special Staff Meeting (Board Room), President Estes

**Sunday, 14 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, 15 October:**

0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings  
0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis  
0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar  
TBD: Planning and Budget Committee Meeting (Board Room), Treasurer Buscetto

**Tuesday, 16 October:**

0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings  
0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis  
0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar  
1400-1500: Staying Alive After 65 (Salon H) Doc Padgett  
1900-2130: Le Reve Aquatics Show at the Wynn Hotel, John Russell

**Wednesday, 17 October:**

0800-0930 23 August 68 Remembrance Breakfast  
0800-2100: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings  
0900-1700: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis  
0930-2400: Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar



# **Special Operations Association SOAR XLII Master Events List (MEL)**

0930-1030: SOG/SPAD/COVEY Symposium (Esplanade Room) Don  
Engebreetsen

1030-1200: 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 Tasting (Suite TBD), Bill Werther

## **Thursday, 18 October:**

0700-0830: CCS Breakfast

0800-1200: SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings

0900-1200: Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis

0900-1030: OASIS BOD Meeting (BOD 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, 19 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 XLII Entertainment Event



The year's  
entertainment  
will be  
**“LE RÊVE –  
THE DREAM”**  
*an acrobatics and aquatic  
spectacular hosted at the  
Wynn Hotel and Resort.*

The date of the show is  
Tuesday, October 16, 2018

Cost for the show is \$110.00 per person. The cut off for registration is September 1, 2018. Boarding time for loading air conditioned buses to the Wynn Hotel is 1700. Seating is at 1830 and showtime is 1900-2100. Following the show the buses will transport the participants back to the Orleans Hotel and arrive NLT 2200.

There is no plan for a group dinner prior to the departure for the show. Guests are requested to make their own dining arrangements prior to the 1700 bus boarding time.

LE RÊVE – THE DREAM. Now totally reimagined with all-new music, costumes and choreography, Le Rêve – The Dream welcomes you into a thrilling acrobatic fantasy world, set inside an aqua theater-in-the-round. Follow the show's heroine, The Dreamer, through a suspenseful dream sequence on her journey to choose between the dueling desires of true love and dark passion. From a dramatic high dive to an alluring underwater tango, the powerful new soundtrack, lighting and effects will captivate you in every moment. Voted “Best Production Show” in Las Vegas for an unprecedented eight consecutive years, the gripping narrative and breathtaking feats of strength and agility experienced throughout The Dreamer's story bring this ever-evolving masterpiece to new heights.

*More information and pictures can be found at <http://www.wynnlasvegas.com/Entertainment/LeReve>*

*For further information contact:*

*John Russell, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee email: [zack4000@cox.net](mailto:zack4000@cox.net)*



# Memorial Breakfast

## **Remembrance: 23 Aug 68 FOB 4 at Marble Mountain**

On Wednesday, October 17, 2018 at 0800, the Special Operations Association will host a Memorial Breakfast for the families of the seventeen Special Forces Troopers fallen as a consequence of the NVA sapper attack on FOB 4, CCN, at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, Republic of Vietnam. The cost is \$35 which will cover breakfast and help offset the travel and lodging expenses of the families of our fallen brothers. The single greatest loss of Green Berets in one battle occurred during a highly-organized sapper attack in the early morning hours of 23 August 1968 at FOB 4, Da Nang, in the top secret compound located north of Marble Mountain in the Republic of South Vietnam.

To salute the 17 Green Berets killed during that deadly sapper attack, the Special Operations Association will host a Memorial Breakfast for the families of those fallen Special Forces soldiers. They were casualties stemming from a planned NVA/Viet Cong sapper attack on FOB 4, in the early morning hours of August 23, 1968. More than 100 NVA/Viet Cong sappers armed with satchels of explosives, machine guns and AK-47s invaded the compound assisted by informants and traitors working inside the base.

The SOA will pay homage to the brave Green Berets we lost during that attack and to their families. The Memorial Committee, Co-Chaired by MACV-SOG recon legends, Eldon Bargewell (MG, retired) and Spider Parks (CSM, retired), has been hard at work contacting the families and planning this most solemn event along with SOA members Larry Trimble, Pat Watkins, Doug Godshall and volunteer extraordinaire Bonnie Cooper.

A few words to place 23 Aug 68 in context. 1968 was the worst year for American soldiers in the Vietnam War. We lost more troops than any other year. For Special Forces serving in SOG recon units, it was worse. In 1968 - excluding Khe Sanh/Lang Vei and 23 Aug. at Marble Mountain, CCN lost 18 Americans KIA and 18 Americans MIA – many of whom remain among the 1,597 Americans still listed as missing in action in Southeast Asia from the Vietnam War today. Recon teams, designed to be led by senior NCO's, were in some cases, due to deadly attrition, led by soldiers with less than one year of combat service. Combined with the 199 SOG troopers wounded in Laos, SOG recon casualties exceeded 100%, the highest loss rate since the Civil War.

Additionally, this tragic loss of Green Berets was shrouded in secrecy for nearly three decades before Soldier of Fortune Magazine first reported on the attack in March 1994. Previously, reports on the 23 Aug 68 attack were limited by the Top Secret nature of the cross-border recon missions. In 1968, Top Secret meant Top Secret – no one outside the world of SOG could talk about its missions. There was no 24-hour news cycles, no acknowledgement by the White House or Defense Department of the loss of 17 soldiers.

Our Gold Star families were left to grieve in silence without any knowledge of the incredible service that their boys were performing under horrific circumstances, nor revealing the truth of their demise, either running missions across the fence or the horrific details of 23 Aug.

A few of our own Special Operations writers who have compiled the record of the 23 Aug 68 attack including John S. Meyer and John Peters who co-authored "On the Ground – The Secret War in Vietnam." Both Meyer and Peters ran recon missions into Laos. On that fateful early morning of Aug. 23, Peters and Doug Godshall shared a recon team hootch with William Bric III – who was killed in action shortly after he left his room responding



## Memorial Breakfast (cont)

to enemy attackers outside. Meyer and Peters have painstakingly reconstructed the story of 23 Aug 68. We hope to tell the families of the heroism of their boys as they fought valiantly that awful night.

In addition, at the SOA Reunion in October, many of the survivors will be in attendance, including Patrick Watkins, who was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross – the nation’s second highest award for his valor stemming from his actions while wounded and under heavy enemy attack that early morning. Another survivor in attendance will be Recon Team Leader Larry Trimble. Had his recon team ST Rattler, not been posted on top of Marble Mountain that morning, the number of Green Berets killed during that attack would have far exceeded 17 because the men of ST Rattler fought the enemy for several days while destroying all enemy mortar crews and machine gun teams that were on Marble Mountain raining ordnance down on FOB 4. In addition, ST Rattler recovered enemy documents that foretold of a planned enemy attack on U.S. Marines the following day. That intel coup, prevented a similar attack on the Marines.

Among other survivors will be Gene Pugh, who joined the battle from his hootch after pulling a shift in the communications center. Bill Barclay and Mike Byard were young troopers in the commo shack in the first awful moments when the surprise attack exploded in the compound, as enemy sappers – dressed only in loin clothes and bandanas that read: “We came here to die.”

However, the Memorial Breakfast is first and foremost for the families. Steve Bric, whose brother Bill died that morning, and Bonnie Cooper, retired Intelligence NCO, have contacted all 17 families. As of this writing, more than 43 family members have reported that they will attend. We expect more. Larry Trimble has created beautiful carnation wreaths and nametags for the families. Each family will also receive a plaque similar the plaque that each SOG member received upon leaving Vietnam.

To kick off the 23 Aug 68 remembrance, SOG officer Dan Thompson will lead a short ceremony at the Wall in Washington DC on the 50th anniversary of the attack, August 23, 2018, along with Godshall and other SF men and families. Won’t you join them?

Please put this on your SOAR calendar. This event is an opportunity for all Special Operators to thank the families of the earliest Special Operators, whose deaths went unacknowledged by our nation because they fought heroically in the eight-year secret war. Here are the names of the 17 Green Berets lost in that battle:

William H. Bric III	Howard S. Varni
Tadeusz Kepczyk	Harold R. Voorheis
Donald R. Kerns	Donald W. Welch
James T. Kickliter	Rolf E. Rickmers
Charles R. Norris	Talmadge H. Alphin
Richard E. Pegram, Jr.	Paul D. Potter
Anthony J. Santana	Albert M. Walter
Gilbert A. Secor	John E. Miller
Roberyt J. Uyesaka	

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*Doug Godshall*  
*dngodshall@gmail.com*

## **SOA Video History Project and Archive Update**

By now you know the SOA Archives was established to preserve the history of the Special Operations Association as well as the history of the units, missions and operators who conducted Special Operations. As this mission continues, we are still in need of artifacts for the archives. In 2017, Bob Donoghue and the family of Bob Hall donated many items. Through their efforts our display area grew from two tables to six. The SOA thanks them and hope our other members dig out more items for us to preserve and display at SOAR this year. Please contact me if you have items to donate!

A very important part of the mission to preserve Special Operations history is the SOA Video History Project. Last year at SOAR, for the first time, we showed one of the interviews to attendees. The interest and positive comments were overwhelming and the interview with Mel Swanson was well received. Unfortunately, the showing was cut short due to time constraints, but we hope to show it again this year for those who missed it or would like to see it in its entirety. It is also my great hope that we will have the funds available to set up a separate viewing room and show more of the 100+ interviews we have recorded. Due to the efforts of many, we now have a donation button on the Video History Project web page on the SOA site. We operate on donations, so if you have some extra funds, how about donating to the VHP? Every dollar helps and we have a lot more work to do. We are trying to get interviews with as many people as possible and your donations will help that effort. Donations may also be made via check, but must be marked For the Video History Project in order to make sure the funds make it into the correct account. Donations may be sent to me directly or to the SOA Treasurer, Pete "Bus" Buscetto.

If you haven't done an interview yet, please consider doing one this year. I hope to see everyone at SOAR in October. If you are unable to attend SOAR and would like to do an interview, please contact me.

Dennis J. Cummings, SOA Archivist  
3649 Taylor Ave  
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## Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee Delegation to Southeast Asia

by Michael Taylor, Chairman, Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee

For almost 46 years, I vowed my shadow would never darken Southeast Asia again. I had no desire to be a tourist where 38 of my friends and acquaintances lost their lives. But, when Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board/CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families (the League) proposed that a parallel delegation from the Joint Special Operations Association/Special Forces Association (SOA/SFA) POW/MIA Committee accompany a League delegation to Southeast Asia, I realized the POW/MIA issue was the only thing that would have brought me back. I needed to do whatever I, and the Associations, could to advance the effort to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing brothers-in-arms.

I was not up-to-date on the US Government's efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing and unaccounted-for brothers-in-arms when then-President of the SOA John "Tilt" Meyer asked me to chair the SOA POW/MIA Committee in 2013. But, I was moved to accept the appointment and began to educate myself. The best thing I did was attend the Annual Meeting of the League shortly after my appointment. The League meets in Washington, DC, every year and attracts high-level speakers from the Administration, DoD, the State Department, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), etc. I literally went from ignorance to a better understanding of the issue in less than a week at this single conference. Committee member Wade Ishimoto and I have attended every year since and have cemented excellent relations with Ann Mills-Griffiths, the League, DPAA and Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Stony Beach Program.

Shortly after joining the committee, I proposed to Cliff Newman, Executive Director of the SFA, that the SOA committee could represent both the SOA and SFA if SFA desired to participate with us. Cliff and then-President, SFA, John Tobin, accepted the proposal, Cliff joined the committee as SFA's representative and we have been "Joint" ever since. The final key to increasing the scope and pace of our activities was the indispensable financial support the committee has received annually from the Special Forces Charitable Trust

The League and SOA/SFA delegations visited Southeast Asia (Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam) from January 10-30, 2018. Ms. Mills-Griffiths was joined by the League's Senior Policy Advisor, Richard Childress (COL, USA, retired) and MIA daughter Cindy Stonebraker, Secretary and member of the League's Board of Directors. I represented SOA/SFA as Chairman of the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee and Vice President, SOA. I was to be joined in Hanoi, Vietnam, by Robert "Spider" Parks (CSM, USASF, retired), a member of the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee. Sadly, "Spider" was injured prior to travel and was unable to join the delegation. Mrs. Elli Childress and Mrs. Laura Taylor accompanied us and participated in social and cultural events. The League delegation was also accompanied by Brad Taylor, Director, DIA Stony Beach Program, the only US Government agency solely dedicated to seeking information about missing and unaccounted for personnel from the Vietnam War. In Vietnam, Mr. Ron Ward, recently retired DPAA Casualty Resolution Specialist (CRS), assisted the League as an advisor and translator. Ron is a highly-respected veteran of over a decade of DPAA operations in Vietnam and was invaluable to our efforts.

Both delegations met with US Ambassadors and Embassy officials, DIA Stony Beach specialists and DPAA Detachment personnel in each country. The League delegation met with senior host nation government officials to share goals and ideas and discuss topics of mutual interest to ad-



vance the accounting mission. The SOA/SFA delegation met with American and foreign veterans, some of whom fought as enemies during the war, to thank them for MIA eyewitness accounts and materiel evidence in the past and to encourage more similar help in the future.



Stony Beach specialists in Bangkok were already scheduled to meet with Chapter III, SFA, to educate SFA members living in Thailand on who and what Stony Beach is and how to contact them. I was added to the program to brief the members on the purpose of our trip and to stress the importance of assisting Stony Beach

whenever they can.

In Laos, Duffy Spivey (Stony Beach) and I met with Brigadier General (retired) Somphone Keomixay, President of the Lao National Veterans Federation, and four Senior Colonels who are the leadership of the Federation. As with all the local national veterans groups with whom I met, my talking points were:

“I represent two associations of American veterans - the Special Forces Association and the Special Operations Association - but I believe the opinions I will share with you are held by most American veterans.

“War is the worst possible outcome of political relationships between nation states. Soldiers abhor war, but when the political leaders we entrust with command declare war, soldiers are committed to do their duty. While it sometimes appears that personal enmity exists between the combatants, this is a defensive mechanism related to survival in battle. When hostilities cease, it is amazing how quickly this “personal enmity” disappears. I am delighted to meet with you here today to extend my hand in friendship. It is heart-warming to see the partnership between a vibrant [Laos/KOC/Vietnam] and the USA that exists today.

“I want to express the respect and admiration our soldiers held for your courage, skill and perseverance. Your performance of duty, against amazing odds, was truly outstanding.

“I especially want to thank you, other veterans and ordinary citizens who have come forward with testimony and materials which have furthered our efforts to account for our missing and unaccounted for personnel. Please continue to do so and encourage your comrades to do the same. Our two governments are working very hard to achieve the fullest possible accounting for the missing of both our countries. We pledge our total support for this effort and appreciate your doing the same.”

Brig Gen Somphone responded, “There is no need to talk of the past. We very much appreciate US efforts in Laos as a developing nation, especially regarding road-building, unexploded ordnance (UXO) and funding in general.”



One of the absolute highlights of the entire trip was visiting a DPAA Joint Field Activity (JFA) bivouac and excavation site. MIA daughter Cindy Stonebraker, my wife Laura and I accompanied DPAA Detachment 3 (Laos) Commander MAJ Chris Goodrich, USA, and Ops Officer/Linguist "Sammy" Vilaysan to visit Recovery Team 1 at the crash site of an RF4D west of Tchepone, Laos. I thought I understood JFA team operations, having seen PowerPoint briefings at the League's annual meetings. But, those slide shows began with the team already at work at the site. I learned a lot just from the eight-hour drive from Pakse (arrival airfield for C-17s transporting JFA teams) to the village of Vilabuli and then, the next day, four or five hours over an unbelievably bumpy and rutted road, formerly part of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, to the site. Until those two drives, I had absolutely no appreciation for what it took to get the teams in place before the first spade of dirt was moved to the screening stations. An interesting sight along the road was "cobblestone" sections put in place during the War. Crossing the Xe Bang Phai River ford, where I had previously done a road watch out of MACV-SOG, was mind-boggling.



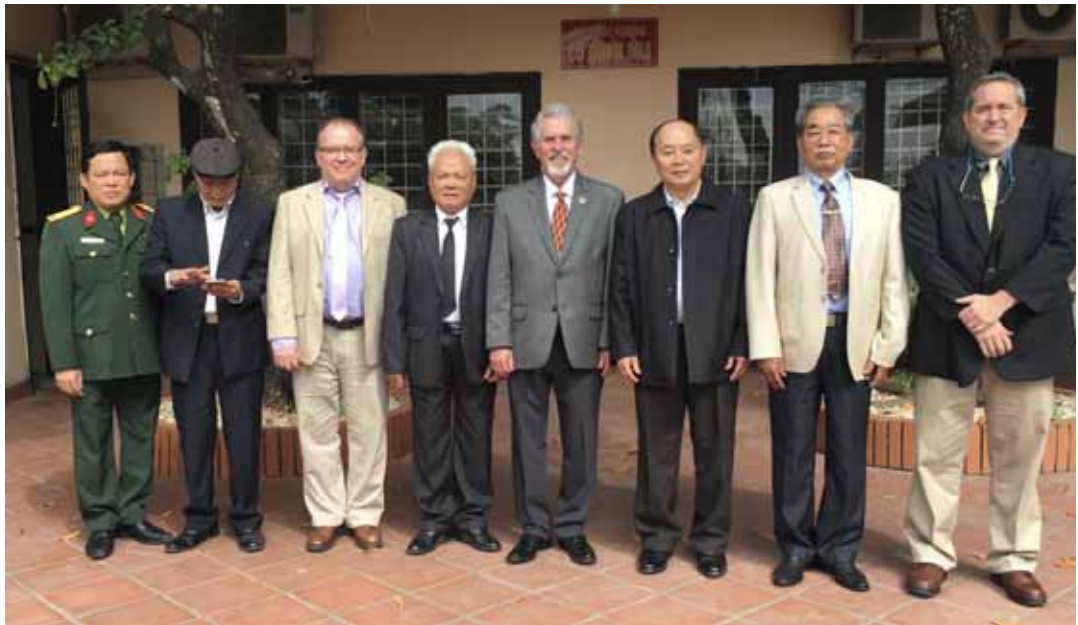
I cannot adequately describe the dedication and professionalism exhibited by each and every recovery team member with whom we had contact. Every member absolutely raved about the importance of and satisfaction derived from the mission. The organization of the search for remains was extremely impressive. Archaeologists direct the digging and screening of dirt for evidence, hopefully leading to recovery of remains. "Life support equipment" (helmet, flight suit, survival vest, etc.) is extremely important evidence as it is obviously located close to the crew member. Such evidence had been found on this site six out of the last eight days. Archaeologist Dr. Owen O'Leary stated, "This site is as 'hot' as it gets. I hate to stop digging at the end of each day." I plan a slideshow presentation at the SFA Convention in June and SOAR in October about this inspiring mission.

In Cambodia, I met with the local VFW chapter for lunch and explained the purpose of our trip. The chapter is named for Koh Tang Island, scene of the Mayaguez Incident, the last official battle of the Vietnam War. The names of the Americans killed, as well as those of three U.S. Marines who were left behind on the island after the battle and were assumed executed by the Khmer Rouge, are the last names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The three MIAs remain classified as "Last Known Alive". These VFW veterans continue to pursue the cases of the Marines whose bodies were not recovered, working with Eric Phillips of Stony Beach.



In Vietnam, we received a briefing by Detachment 2 (Vietnam) Commander, LTC Pajimula. Investigation and recovery operations are mature in VN with 32 years of history. Their 130th JFA is scheduled for March 2018. Only two JFA have ever been cancelled, one due to massive flooding and the other due to the worst disaster in DPAA history. Sixteen U.S. and Vietnamese personnel lost their lives in a helicopter crash while serving as an advance party for a JFA. The men died when their Russian-built Mi-17 helicopter crashed into the side of a cloud-shrouded mountain in Quang Binh Province, Vietnam, early on the morning of April 7, 2001. The detachment has a counterpart organization, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP), comprised of personnel from Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Public Security. SOA/SFA met with Senior Colonel Hai and Senior Colonel Thuong, both impressive, friendly and effective officers who were a pleasure with whom to coordinate. I'm sure they can be tough defenders of their own interests, but I'm glad we have these two officers on our team.

MACV-SOG veterans had often reported activities which we thought to be special anti-SOG units. DPAA and Stony Beach personnel have made this a matter of special interest when working SOG MIA cases. In June 2017, Ron Ward, reported at the annual meeting of the League that they had identified a unit



that might answer our questions, known as C-75. Veterans of C-75 state that they were not "anti-SOG", they were tasked with security of the Trail and related facilities against "whoever might threaten their operations". Since no one else approached the Trail, we're both right! Senior Colonel Hai worked with Kelly Ray of Detachment 2 and Mike Najim of Stony Beach to arrange a meeting between SOA/SFA and C-75 veterans at the offices of VNOSMP. The company commander of C-75, a platoon leader, a squad leader and an NCO participated. One of these veterans served in the tri-border area for ten years. The meeting was a cordial and informative exchange between former combatants who bear no grudges and share the bonds that only soldiers can know.

Highlights of what we learned from the C-75 veterans: C-75's mission was to protect major trail junctions, trucks and warehouses for food, ammunition and materiel along the Ho Chi Minh Trail in the tri-border area. They claim to have been able to predict where recon teams would insert by the behavior of aircraft. (NOTE: As a long time FAC rider, I was particularly interested in this point as we tried very hard not to provide such indicators, but I can see how this is possible. While supporting deployed teams, we would also look for landing zones (LZs) for future operations. There were not all that many good LZs. If a FAC pilot or backseat observer spotted a good LZ, he would tell the other crew member where to look. They might pass over or near the



LZ a couple of times while discussing it. If a C-75 member's only job was watching our air activities and insertions, they could well have predicted use of an LZ. ) C-75 deployed many "watchers" on bamboo platforms high up in tall trees atop tall mountains with a telephone back to headquarters. One was struck and killed by lightning. If a recon team was near a vital area, C-75 would definitely attack. If not, they might just harass them with mortars. They denied the use of tracker dogs. Other headquarters used dogs for hunting and there were wild dogs in the AO. Once, a single C-75 squad detected a recon team, so they requested a squad from a nearby unit, got the support and attacked the team. They claim most combat with teams lasted from the day of attack into a second day. If they smelled cigarette smoke or insect repellent, they lit a lighter to check wind direction and scouted upwind. (NOTE: I cannot imagine a SOG recon team smoking in the field. Perhaps C-75 encountered patrols from A-camps along the border.) C-75 was forbidden boots. They operated barefoot and carried 200 grams of rice, a water bottle, two bandages and a weapon with ammunition. They loved to get our rucksacks to rummage for C4 (for cooking) and cigarettes, usually Parliament and Marlboro. One of the veterans participated in the sieges of Duc Co and Plei Me. He claimed to have seen 30-50 helicopters in the air at one time. They did not bury US KIAs but left them where they fell. They reported the grid references at the time, but do not remember any now. They knew about cut-down M79s and combination M79 with rifle. They were the first such NVA unit to their knowledge, but knew C-58 operated south of them later. C-75 got the highest-available unit award in PAVN. They thought we always RONed on a slope and wanted to E&E downhill. They always felt our rucksacks were too big and heavy. They liked to use B40 rocket grenades against us. They remembered one US KIA with a zippered map pocket on his fatigues. They knew about false insertions of teams and said they knew about Nightingale device fake fire-fights. (But, I realized later that I asked if they knew about the fake fire fights and they may have just said "yes" whether they knew or not. Poor interrogation technique on my part.) Ron Ward told me later about one C-75 vet that told a story about a surrounded US soldier who threw a grenade at him. When it went off, shrapnel hit him in the mouth. He pulled out his dentures to prove it.

These veterans are willing to go to the field and help DPAA Joint Field Activities. They plan to do so this year in a trilateral investigation with the US and Laos. This meeting made my trip worthwhile. It was very moving to share memories with soldiers I respected for their performance of their assigned duties.

Several moments from this trip are etched indelibly in my memory: Entering Laos with a passport and a visa rather than a weapon. Walking a portion of the Ho Chi Minh Trail with my wife by my side and leading her out into the elephant grass. Watching a single small, modern, quiet helicopter fly overhead in the Prairie Fire AO and imagining what we must have looked like with at least two loud troopship helicopters, two gunships or A1 Skyraiders and a FAC fixed-wing aircraft "sneaking" toward the infiltration landing zone (LZ). Everyone in a twenty-mile radius had to have seen us. It's a miracle any of us survived.



# POW/MIA Update



**AMERICANS RECENTLY ACCOUNTED FOR:** Recently, DPAA posted on its website the news that LTC Robert G. Nopp, USA, listed as MIA 7/14/66, was recovered 2/17/16 and identified on 2/1/18. On January 18th, DPAA released notice that Col Edgar F. Davis, USAF, listed MIA in Laos on 9/17/68, recovered 4/29/15 and identified 12/22/17, is now accounted for, the first such announcement since September 11th of last year. At that time, DPAA reported the accounting for CAPT James. R. Bauder, USN, of CA, listed as MIA 9/21/66 in North Vietnam, recovered 6/11/17, and identified 8-28-17.

These announcements bring the number still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/Body Not Recovered) from the Vietnam War to 1,600. Of the 1,600, 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,253 (NVN-458, SVN-795); Laos-292; Cambodia-48; PRC territorial waters-7.

The total accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1973 is 983: Vietnam – 665, Laos – 273, Cambodia – 42, and the PRC – 3. An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, the formal end of the Vietnam War, for a grand total of 1,045. These 63 Americans, accounted for by US-only efforts in accessible areas, were not due to cooperation by post-war governments in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Combined, a total of 281 have been accounted for from Laos, 720 from Vietnam, 42 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSED H. RES. 129:** On February 12th, the US House of Representatives passed this important resolution by a vote of 411 – 0, calling on the Department of Defense, 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. This bill sent a unified message to the American people – including our Armed Forces serving today and our veterans, as well as foreign nations. Introduced by Representative Sam Johnson (R-TX), a returned POW from the Vietnam War, his strong message on the floor of the House occurred almost precisely 45 years after he and America's other returned POWs were released from many years of captivity in Vietnam. Passage of this resolution reflects true bipartisan, non-political support for the humanitarian accounting mission.

It is the US Senate's turn to act. The identical measure was simultaneously introduced in the US Senate by Senator John S. McCain (R-AZ) as S. RES. 61. Non-partisan, non-political passage by the US Senate would further reinforce our country's support for achieving the fullest possible accounting for those who serve our nation – past, present and future. It needs to happen now!. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATORS ASAP TO URGE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF S. RES. 61.

# George C. Morton Scholarship Report

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (Regular Applicant Category)**

**FACTS:** Special Operations Association Scholarship Grants are awarded by the SOA and must be used at an accredited, Junior College, Community College, Four-year College or University for studies that will lead to a Bachelor's Degree. Each Grant is for \$1,500 per semester not to exceed \$3,000 per year (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at the rate of \$1,500 per Fall and Spring Semesters). For institutions which are on the Quarter system, an adjustment is made such that the award does not exceed \$3,000 per year. From time to time donors will designate additional funds for other scholarship awards to our pool of applicants, and these may also be administered or referred to the donor by the SOA.

**BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY:** An applicant must be a high school graduate or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, under the age of 21 years at the time of application and is a child or grandchild, natural or legally adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit and is a member in good standing of the SOA. Such SOA member must remain a member in good standing for the duration of the scholarship awarded. A child or a grandchild of an individual who was KIA or MIA while serving in a Special Operations unit is also eligible to apply. A student who is already attending an institution of higher learning may apply, provided that they were under 21 years of age at the time that they began their studies at the institution, and have been enrolled full-time and in good standing since beginning their studies, and have not yet received a Bachelor's Degree. Eligibility is reduced by one year for each year (24 credit hours) already attended (earned) at an institution of higher learning.

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

**AWARDS:** On approximately 15 June of that year, selectees/recipients of a Special Operations Association Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** As of May 2018, 162 young men and women have been awarded scholarships since the program began in 1983.



# George C. Morton Scholarship Report (cont)

## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM (Spouse and Widow Applicant Category)**

**FACTS:** Special Operations Association Spouse and Window Scholarship Grants are awarded by the SOA and must be used at an accredited, Junior College, Community College, Four-year College or University for studies that will lead to an Associate or Bachelor's Degree, or in the case of a technical education program, a course of study completion certificate. Each Grant is for \$1,500 per semester not to exceed \$3,000 per year (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at the rate of \$1,500 per Fall and Spring Semesters). For institutions which are on the Quarter system, an adjustment is made such that the award does not exceed \$3,000 per year.

**BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY:** An applicant must be a high school graduate, and is the wife of an individual who is serving in a Special Operations unit and is a member in good standing of the SOA. Such SOA member must remain a member in good standing for the duration of the scholarship awarded. A widow of an individual who was KIA or MIA while serving in a Special Operations unit is also eligible to apply. A wife or widow who is already attending an institution of higher learning may apply, and have been enrolled full-time and in good standing since beginning their studies, and have not yet received a Bachelor's Degree. Eligibility is reduced by one year for each year (24 credit hours) already attended (earned) at an institution of higher learning.

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

**AWARDS:** On approximately 15 June of that year, selectees/recipients of a Special Operations Association Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** The Spouse and Widow category is new, and was authorized by the Special Operations Association Board of Directors for the academic year starting in the Fall of 2017.

**Special Operations Association  
Scholarship Committee  
c/o Christopher E. McClure, Chairman  
715 North Bloodworth Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-1229  
cmclure@tech-architect.com**

Revised: 2 January 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." Anonymous*

# SOA Riders Report

## Join The Special Operations Riders



Do you ride? Do you like to see the USA on two or three wheels? If the answer is yes, then consider joining the Special Operations Association Riders and then joining us on our annual Memorial Ride, when we take time to remember those guys from MACVSOG and support assets that remain missing in Southeast Asia. That ride is held during the week prior to the third Saturday in May (Armed Forces Day) hosted by an existing member near their home. To date we have ridden in DC, California, Colorado, Louisiana, Illinois, Georgia, and Nevada. This year we will ride in North Carolina and next year will be Texas.



What else do we do on our ride? We try to make a group ride every day in that local area to experience the beauty, sights, and sounds of this great country. We also break bread with our Brothers that shared the same experience. We maintain that bond that was forged in combat. We help raise funds for the parent organization. We serve as representatives of the Special Operations Association and Foundation by sharing our story with that segment of our population that asks. We try to recruit new members for the SOA and the SOA Riders by being good will ambassadors. We do what we like to do best – Ride.



How can you become a Rider? It's really easy. Be a member of the SOA in good standing, ride on either two or three wheels, and enjoy riding. If you decide this is for you, contact Tom Carrell, [paintwizard2@comcast.net](mailto:paintwizard2@comcast.net) for additional information and application paperwork.

For those that don't ride consider joining us for the week or a day. We always have a good time, guests are always welcome, and in the future, upcoming ride information will be on the SOA website and Facebook page.



# SOA Riders NC Trip Report



## **Ride through Mayberry**

Another memorable ride in the books as the SOA Riders gathered in Mount Airy, North Carolina for our annual Memorial Ride. Weather, again this year, was not our friend but being with friends, old and new, made up for rainy days.

On day one, we tried to ride but after an hour of pouring rain and a couple of fog banks, it was decided to call the day and return to base. The rest

of the day was spent in fellowship and deep conversations, many of which started with “this is the truth”.

Day two was a highlight as we were able to ride under cloudy but dry skies. Highlights included a tour of NASCAR’s Richard Childress Racing shops and museum and lunch with our comrades at Save the Montagnard People, in Asheboro, NC. Rider, Ron Gravett, was able to meet with and introduce his team interpreter. It was heartwarming to see the strength of that bond even after all these years. We broke bread with their staff and families, talked about the history and future of their project, and toured their grounds. On the way back we stopped on “Mount Pilot” of Andy Griffin” fame. In all, a good and mostly dry day.

On that note, ALL the governments involved in the resettlement of or former allies continue to throw roadblocks into STMP efforts and even the few that have been able to escape continue to face obstacles. Please take time to look into their project, continued efforts and needs. They can use your help. A few dollars go a long way in helping those who gave so much for us.

Day three dawned and the rains continued but the decision was made to give it a try. Most chose to ride, some took four wheels, and some opted to spend the day in town doing the tourist thing. Those that made the trip were treated to beautiful scenery along roads designed with motorcycle riding in mind. Riders put another notch in their belt by riding “The Snake” which is another bucket list ride. We got a little damp but smiles were big and the stories tall. That evening, we were treated to pulled pork barbeque with all the trimmings by this year’s host and hostess, Johnnie and Evelyn Haynes. After the meal, a drawing was held for this year’s Quilt of Valor made by Mary Carrell. The happy winner was Jim Woodberry. Then we raffled off the items donated by the Riders as part of our fund raising efforts. I am happy to report that over \$600 were raised and the group decided that it will go to SAVE THE MONTAGNARD PEOPLE to help them out. Between that effort and passing the hat for them on site, we left them more than \$800 for use in their efforts. It may not sound like much but it is enough to get the paperwork completed for one more of our friends.

The big day is always our last day when we honor all of the MIA’s from MACVSOG and known and unknown from units lost in direct support of that mission. The wreath was laid and a carnation was left for each name read at the Mount Airy War Memorial, which honors the county losses in all wars since the Revolutionary War. In addition to the Riders, their wives, girl friends, and friends, we were honored to have the SOA President Rick Estes and his wife and Membership Committee Chairman, Ray Frovarp and his wife in attendance. A somber but necessary event to keep their names fresh until they all come home. May the day come soon we no longer have to stand for them.

Next year we plan on riding in the Frisco, Texas area. If you’re in the area stop in and say hello or better yet join us.



## **MG John K. Singlaub Jedburgh Award**



The third annual MG Singlaub Award was presented to First Sergeant Jarrid Collins, a Special Forces Soldier assigned as the HHC First Sergeant for the Special Warfare Medical Group (A), at the 2018 U.S. Army Special Operations Command's Red and Black Ball. The award was presented by LTG Ken Tovo (USASOC, Commanding General), SGM/R Billy Waugh (SOG Legend), and SOA President Rick Estes. 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 First Sergeant Collin's citation reads: "First Sergeant Jarrid Collins' contributions to Special Operations Forces over the last two years truly embody the physical bravery, visionary leadership, and strong intellect associated with the John Singlaub Award."

In 2004, First Sergeant Collins completed the Special Forces Qualification Course and was assigned as an 18D, Special Forces Medical Sergeant, to the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). While assigned to 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne), he participated in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM as well as multiple deployments to the SOUTHCOM Areas of Operation. In 2009, he was assigned to a Special Missions Unit,





...serving as a Senior Medic and Team Sergeant. While assigned to the Special Mission Unit, First Sergeant Collins participated in deployments to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and OPERATION NEW DAWN. In January 2014, First Sergeant Collins was assigned to Walter Reed National Medical Center to rehabilitate from a below the knee amputation. In July 2014, First Sergeant Collins was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Command's (A) Office of Special Warfare directorate, where he developed the Non-Standard Medical Team, SOF Austere Care Course (SOFACC), and Regional Support Medic (RSM) Course. In April of 2017, First Sergeant Collins assumed duties as HHC First Sergeant for the Special Warfare Medical Group (A).

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 First Sergeant Collins.



# General Membership Meeting Agenda

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA  
17 October 2018  
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 Padgett
- Roll Call Secretary Vines
- SOA Board of Officers/Directors (President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Vines, Treasurer Buscetto, Director Godshall, Director Binford, Director Padgett, 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 XLI General Membership (Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XLII PRP).
  2. Financial Report and Budget was presented by Treasurer Buscetto.
  3. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. Chairman McClure
  4. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Padgett
  5. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report Chairman Cummings
  6. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report. Chairman Werther
  7. SOA Chaplain's Report. Chaplain Padgett
  8. SOA Riders Committee Report. Chairman Carroll
  9. SOA QM Sales Report Chairman Strange
  10. SOA Membership Committee Report Chairman Frovarp
  11. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report. Chairman Keele



# General Membership Meeting Agenda (cont)

By Laws Committee.	Chairman Cunningham
Nomination Committee Report.	Chairman Day
Special Operations Association Foundation Report.	Director Godshall
MG Singlaub Award Report.	Secretary Vines
Farewell to SOA Board Members	President Estes
Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors	President Estes
Secretary:	
Director:	
Director:	
Non valor Awards Presentations	President Estes
Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members	President Estes/MG Bargewell
Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members	President Estes/MG Bargewell
Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members:	President Estes/MG Bargewell
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 XLII Annual General Member Meeting Standing Rules of Order**

### **Preamble:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the appropriate time on the Agenda, the Secretary will request the Member who desires to open a TOD, make a Resolution or Motion to rise and request their TOD, Resolution or Motion to be read by the Secretary. In lieu of the President stating the question, the Secretary will read the TOD, Resolution or Motion as presented and entered into the record at which time the Chair will call for a Second. If a Second is made, the Chair will then acknowledge the originating member

## **Standing Rules of Order (cont)**

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

The Orleans Hotel & Casino  
Las Vegas, Nevada

Call to Order 1333 PDT President Estes  
Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms (Spider Parks, Bill Barkley, Chuck Woodson, Cleat Sinyard, and Doug Le Tourneau )

Pledge of Allegiance led by John Padgett.

Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs Chaplain Grabianowski

Roll Call Secretary Vines

SOA Board of Officers/Directors present were: President Estes, VP Taylor, Secretary Vines, Treasurer Buscetto, Director Godshall, Director Binford, Director Cunningham, Director McClure, and Director Day.

SOA Special Staff Members Present.

Introduction of Guests President Estes

Credentials Report: Sargent At Arms Robert Parks reported 119 members in attendance which satisfied quorum requirements in accordance with the By Laws.

General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda. Motion to approve made by George Metz, seconded by Robert Pruitt and unanimously approved.

## **Business Meeting:**

### **Regular Business:**

1. Approval of SOAR XLII General Membership (Meeting Minutes as contained in the SOAR XLI PRP). Motion to approve made by John Padgett, seconded by Joe Lopez and unanimously approved.
2. Financial Report and Budget: Treasurer Buscetto presented the profit and loss statement and 2018 Budget (all are posted on the SOA website). Motion to approve the budget was made by Kurt Garloth, seconded by George Metz, and unanimously approved.
3. SOA Scholarship Committee Report: Chairman McClure briefed that the details of the Scholarship Committee Report will be posted in the AAR. He summarized that the committee had received nine applications and two were awarded \$1,500 scholarships. The current total is three Seniors, two Juniors, one Sophomore, and three Freshmen receiving SOA scholarships.
4. SOA Brightlight Committee Report: Chairman Meyer briefed that they had one fully funded SOAR XLI attendee.
5. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report: President Estes explained that the Video History Project currently has \$25,000 including a generous \$5,000 check received during SOAR XLI.
6. SOA Warriors Family Committee Report: Chairman Werther reported that they had one family member supported by the Warrior Family Fund to attend SOAR XLI.
7. SOA Chaplain's Report: Chaplain Grabianowski highlighted that 33 members had deceased during 2017 then solemnly read their names. He concluded with a moment of silence.
8. SOA Riders Committee Report: Chairman Carroll reported about the SOA Rider's trip to Colorado Springs, CO and highlighted their upcoming ride (May 2018) to Mount Airy, NC. He presented President Estes with a check of \$400 collected by the SOA Riders.
9. SOA QM Sales Report: Chairman Strange explained that sales were going well and extended his appreciation for those that assisted with his setup. He also highlighted that he had a Buck Knife at

QM Sales for pre-order with the proceeds going to the Warrior Family Fund.

10. SOA Membership Committee Report: President Estes reported that he had received 19 new membership applications for the 57<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Squadron, which was having their reunion at the same time.
11. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report: Chairman Keele explained the importance of writing SOA numbers on envelopes to expedite the ballot vetting process. He also asked for members to not send him raffle tickets or registration forms in the mail.
12. By Laws Committee. Chairman Cunningham
13. Nomination Committee Report. Chairman Meyer
14. Special Operations Association Foundation Report: Chairman Godshall briefed the SOAF fundraising activities and highlighted the importance and appreciation of the Gas Card Program. John Padgett read some examples from 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group how they had used the Cards to assist Active Duty Special Forces Soldiers and their families. George Sternberg also commented on the effectiveness and heartfelt appreciation of 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and the local SFA Chapter and asked that we tie these types of programs to SG Group picnics for better outreach and recruiting.
15. MG Singlaub Award Report: Secretary Vines briefed the GMM on CW3 Lawrence Stindt's citation and receiving the MG Singlaub Award from USASOC CG, LTG Tovo.
16. Farewell to SOA Board Members: President Estes presented outgoing Director Tom Cunningham with an Eagle
17. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors  
President: Rick Estes  
Vice President: Mike Taylor  
Director: John "Doc" Padgett
18. SOAR XLI Report: Chairman Hetrick briefed there are 525 people registered for the banquet and that he had negotiated a cost savings to members for the 2018 and 2019 SOAR. Daily rates will be \$44 per night plus a \$12.99 daily resort fee and weekend rates will be \$94 per night plus a \$12.99 resort fee.
19. Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members President Estes
20. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members President Estes
21. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members: President Estes
22. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members: President Estes
23. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members: President Estes
24. Entertainment Committee: Chairman Russell highlighted the excellent SOAR XLI Entertainment Event to Treasure Island Hotel for dinner at Gilley's and seating for the Cirque Du Soliel Mystere' Show. The membership unanimously applauded the event. Chairman Russell asked that members to consider making donations in addition to purchasing tickets for future entertainment events.

**New Business:**

For the Good of the Order President Estes

Director Doug Godshall reminded members of the 23 August 1968 Reunion Planning Committee Meeting at 1800.

Joe Lopez invited the membership to the 2018 Special Forces Association to be held in El Paso, TX in June.

Chairman Werther invited the membership to the 1600 Beam Suntory Tequila Tasting to be held in Salon G.

Meeting Adjournment: 1508 PDT.

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



## Candidates for Election

### **Candidate for SOA Secretary**

### **Richard “Duffy” Jensen SOA 3137-GA**

In Vietnam, 1969-70, I served with the 195<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company in support of CCS.

Having joined the Special Operations Association in 2013, I am a newcomer to the organization. As I have become more familiar with the SOA, I am captivated by the goals and objectives of the association, and the esprit de corps that is ever present as the membership works to achieve those goals. Inspired by a suggestion to take an active role in the furtherance of the association’s objectives, I am seeking your support for the position of SOA Secretary. As Secretary I will work closely with the Board of Directors in the continuation of Secretary Vines’ efforts to modernize and streamline the conduct of SOA administration. To date, my direct involvement with SOA related activities includes organizing the CCS Breakfast, and I am currently seated on the Board of Directors of CCS-SOG, Inc.

Upon completion of my military service, I returned to my home in Alaska and began flying the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands with a small bush carrier. In 2011, I retired as chief pilot from the company which had become the state’s largest regional carrier. Along the way, I spent many years engaged in support of youth sports, from volunteering and officiating, to serving two terms on the board of directors.

I am a married father of 6 wonderful children of whom I’m very proud. My oldest son, U.S Army (ret), served with the 160<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Aviation Regiment.



## Candidates for Election

### **Candidate for SOA Director**

### **Don Haase SOA 1683 GL**



I served with the 195<sup>th</sup>. Assault Helicopter Company as an original member forming at Ft. Carson, Colorado and moving with the company to Vietnam in October 1967. In March of 1968 I became a Huey Crew Chief in support of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Special Forces, MACV-SOG special projects (Sigma, Omega), Project Delta, CCS and other units. With the 195<sup>th</sup> our AO was from Nha Trang in the north to Can Tho in the south and into Cambodia on the west. I was based at Plantation Army airfield, Long Binh where I took part in the battle of Long Binh during Tet 1968.

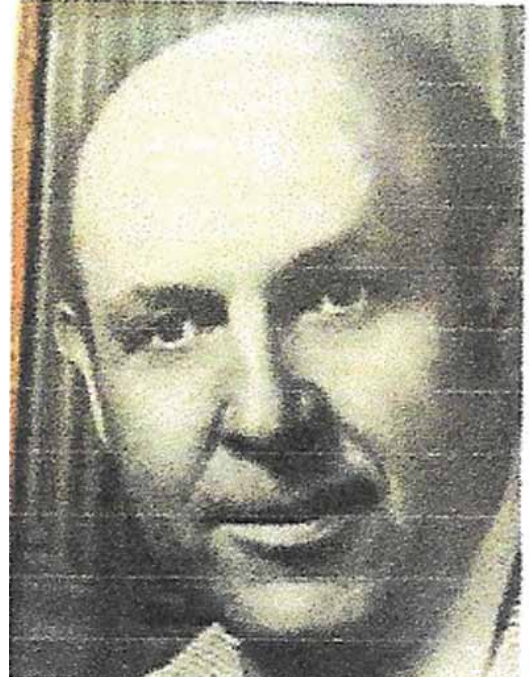
I retired after 37 years in the Real Estate and Building industry in 2006. I served as a director, vice president and twice the president of the multiple listing service of Eugene, Springfield, Oregon. During my last term as president we transitioned into RMLSweb of the National Association of Realtors, which is still in use today.

I have been a Life member of SOA since Tyler Furbish dug me out of the woodwork in 1999. Now I would like to give back to this organization by serving on the board of directors.

# Candidates for Election

## **Candidate for SOA Director**

**Robert L. Leites, SOA  
(053-GL)**



**I have been a member of the SOA since December 1978 when I had the opportunity to attend SOAR II at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, and have enjoyed attending the yearly reunions, and meeting with many old Comrades-in-Arms.**

**The last Twelve of my 25 years military service were with Special Forces. My first tour in Vietnam, 1964, I served as the A-Detachment Commander of A-23, (Tan Thu), in IV Corps. I served two (2) tours with MACVSOG. During the first tour in May '66, I was in Da Nang for six (6) months followed by six (6) months in Kontum. During my last tour commencing in May '69, I initially served as DCO for Colonel Fred Abt at CCC, and following his departure I served as CO for four (4) months.**

**After enjoying the annual reunions for the past 40 years, I believed it was time for me to serve you, the members of our great organization. If elected to fill a Director position on the SOA Board of Directors, I will do my utmost to continue the camaraderie established by my predecessor who occupied the position for which I am competing. Thank you.**



# Candidates for Election

## Candidate for SOA Director

### Alfonso “RT” Rivero (1573-GL)

Email: [rriverosog@gmail.com](mailto:rriverosog@gmail.com)

Fellow SOA Members,

Some Members suggested that I run for a Director position with our organization. After a very brief consideration I have decided to seek election to that post. I would consider it a great honor to serve and assist the Organization in whatever manner I can.

I served with the 20<sup>th</sup> SOS “Green Hornets” from 1969 to 1972 accruing over 1,000 combat hours supporting SOG missions at CCS, CCC and CCN.

Education: Bachelor’s degree in History (Magna cum Laude) from Weber State University, MBA from Pepperdine University, member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

In the private sector I worked for several large printing and publishing concerns in Los Angeles where I held positions as General Manager and CFO.

If elected I pledge to work hard to improve our Association and serve our Members.



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**2018**

*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

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

- ( ) Richard "Duffy" Jensen
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ write in

**DIRECTOR: There are 2 vacancies open. You may vote for 2.**

- ( ) Don Haase
- ( ) Robert Leites
- ( ) Alfonso "RT" Rivero
- ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ write in

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

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

*"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".*

# TAPS

The following are our brothers who have passed since the last TAPS reported in the 2017 AAR, and those who departed earlier, but were not previously identified.

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

May they rest in eternal peace:

<b><u>Member's Name</u></b>	<b><u>Member Number</u></b>	<b><u>Date of Death</u></b>
Gene Adcock	G-925	11/1/2012
Andrew S. Alexander	G-222	9/12/2017
Gary M. Betterton	G-2409	11/26/2017
William T. Browder	G-645	11/8/2017
Daniel P. Cook	G-2554	11/5/2017
Ray Dawson	G-657	10/30/2017
John C. Fernandez	A-263	11/23/2017
George Gaspard	G-350	1/30/2018
Andrew L. Irzyk	G-101	1/12/2018
David P. Keating	G-1761	4/13/2018
Michael Eddy Ladue	G-464	4/11/2013
Walter J. Martin	G-2374	2/25/2018
John R. McClaskey	G-621	11/9/2017
Hiep C. Nguyen	O-2094	7/8/2017
Lloyd G. O'Daniel	G-1469	3/22/2018
Charles L. Petry	G-1738	4/19/2018
Dicky D. Pirtle	G-2962	3/9/2018
Jerry R. Pond	G-2085	3/1/2018
William C. Roderick	G-1064	1/14/2018
Edward P. Roscoe	G-2741	12/10/2017
Vaughn R. Ross	G-1101	3/5/2018
Thomas P. Skaug	G-2137	4/26/2018
Andre J. St. Laurent	G-2000	4/8/2018
Lance E. Trimmer	G-117	11/29/2017
Jose E. Vasquez	G-173	3/17/2018
Robert F. Williams	G-3237	7/28/2016
Larry G. Williams	G-1937	3/16/2017

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

## SOA 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, mail or e-mail it to the Treasurer; e-mail [soatreasurer@specialoperations.org](mailto:soatreasurer@specialoperations.org) or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR XLII.

\_\_\_ Monthly Contributions to be made by:

\_\_\_ Payment by Check (Personal or Corporate): Checks Mailed to SOA Treasurer: P.O. Box 335461 N. Las Vegas, Nv 89033

If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely

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



**Monthly donations by credit card can be made on the SOA WEB-SITE:  
[www:specialoperations.org](http://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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

# M14-A Custom Sniper Rifle Drawing

This weapon has been modified for 308 and the barrel has been NAS certified at 2000 yards. It comes with two magazines. Additionally, it also has the original scope mount hardware which is very difficult to locate. The stock has been completely reworked. This weapon was created by Gunnery Sgt. Johnson USMC who is well known for his craftsmanship and quality work. All funds raised will be donated to the SOA scholarship program.





**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**Pre-Reunion Information**

- What:** SOAR XLII
- When:** 15-19 October 2018
- Who:** SOA Members in good standing and their guests are eligible to register.  
  
If you have questions about your status, contact  
  
Ray Frovarp, Membership Chair, 910-425-1425, or email,  
membership@specialoperations.org
- Where:** The Orleans Hotel and Casino  
4500 West Tropicana Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420  
Phone: 800 675-3267  
<http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>
- Group Code:** A8SOC10 (Alpha-Eight-Sierra-Oscar-Charlie-One-Zero)  
Use this code when making your reservations.
- Accommodations:** Room rates and availability are guaranteed through 14 September 2018.  
Sunday through Thursday daily - \$44 per day plus tax and resort fee.  
Friday and Saturday - \$94 per day, plus tax and resort fee.
- Guests:** Guests are always welcome; however, sponsors are expected to be in attendance when their guests arrive.
- Banquet Seating:** Reserve your banquet seat after you check-in.
- End of Reunion:** All SOAR activities will cease at 1200, Friday 19 October 2018.

**Special Operations Association  
Registration Information**

- Register:** There are two (2) ways to register:  
1. PREFERRED - Online on the SOA website; specialoperations.org.  
2. Complete enclosed forms and mail USPS:
- Reunion Fees:** Registration Options, choose FULL or DAILY:  
Full - if you plan to attend the entire reunion (all days)  
Daily - if you plan to attend on specific days
- Full Registration - \$180.00 per person:  
Includes Hospitality (All days), Luncheon and Banquet.  
OR;  
Daily Registration - \$70 per person per day  
Monday – Hospitality  
Tuesday – Hospitality  
Wednesday – Hospitality and Luncheon  
Thursday – Hospitality and Banquet.
- Memorial Breakfast** A Memorial Breakfast will be held for the families of the seventeen (17) Green Berets killed in action on 23 August 1968, in an NVA sapper attack on FOB 4, CCN at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, Vietnam.
- All Members and guests are encouraged to attend.
- Fee - \$35 per person.  
Information Contact:  
Doug Godshall, 330-603-5942; or email, dngodshall@gmail.com
- Name Badges:** Name badges must be displayed at all times.  
Temporary badges will be available at the security desk for late arrivals.
- Refunds:** All requests for refunds must be approved by the Registrar.
- Volunteers:** Volunteers are vital to the success of the reunion. Please indicate your willingness to help at the bottom of the registration form.
- Questions:** If you have questions about registration, contact:  
Ivan Davis, SOAR Registrar  
541-543-1073; or email, registrar4soar@gmail.com

SOAR XLII REGISTRATION  
 Special Operations Association Reunion  
 15-19 October 2018  
 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

REGISTRATION OPTIONS/FEES: Place a v beside each name indicating their registration option/fee.

1. FULL - \$180 per person: Attending all days, Monday through Thursday. (includes the Banquet); OR, DAILY - \$70 per person per day. (Thursday includes the Banquet).
2. MEMORIAL BREAKFAST - \$35 per person.

MEMBER AND GUEST(S) BADGE NAMES	FULL REGISTRATION \$180.00 per person	DAILY REGISTRATION \$70 per person per day				MEMORIAL BREAKFAST \$35 per person	Total \$
		Mon – Thurs ✓	Mon ✓	Tues ✓	Wed ✓		
Print first and last names for Badges:						✓	
Member - First and Last name							
Guest - First and Last name							
Guest - First and Last Name							
Guest - First and Last Name							

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

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

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

Complete the Registration and Payment Information forms and return in the enclosed envelope:

Ivan Davis, SOAR Registrar                      2933 Van Ave.                      Eugene Oregon, 97401-6932

If you have questions, contact the Registrar: 541-543-1073 or email, registrar4soar@gmail.com.

Volunteers are vital to the success of the reunion. Indicate your willingness to help as needed: \_\_\_\_\_ YES; \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**PAYMENT INFORMATION FORM**

You will receive an acknowledgement from the Registrar confirming your registration within 10 days. If you do not receive it, contact the Registrar directly.

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

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

CHECKS /MONEY ORDERS: # \_\_\_\_\_ Make payable to SOA

CREDIT CARD:

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)*

Complete registration and Payment Information Forms and send in the enclosed envelope to:

Ivan Davis, Registrar  
2933 Van Ave  
Eugene Oregon, 97401-6932  
541-543-1073  
registrar4soar@gmail.com

THANK YOU!



**CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM**

If your person or emergency contact information has changed, complete this form and return it to the Membership Chairman. Keeping your information up to date ensures you will receive SOA information and publications in a timely manner.

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

**MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**EMERGENCY CONTACT**

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

This form may be completed and submitted online at [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org), or you can print, scan and email or send USPS:

Ray Frovarp  
Membership Chairman  
4072 Ardenwoods Drive  
Fayetteville, NC 28306  
(H) 910-425-1425; (C) 910-850-6023  
[membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)

**ATTENTION: ANNUAL MEMBERS**

**2018 Membership dues**

SOA Annual Membership renewals are due on **January 1** of each year:

\$30 If paid before January 31

\$35 If paid after January 31

Dues may be paid online at [www.specialoperations.org](http://www.specialoperations.org) (preferred) or mailed.

If you are not sure of your status, or need additional information contact:

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

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

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Make checks payable to SOA, complete the following information, detach and send USPS:

SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amt Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## Quartermaster Sales

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

Quartermaster: Bob Strange (248-935-5431)

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

All 2X and above add \$2.00

ITEM	PRICE	#	TOTAL
Ring, SOA 10ct gold W/ design options (includes shipping & insurance)	\$1500.00	_____	_____
Ring, SOA Sterling Silver, w/design options (includes shipping & insurance)	\$500.00	_____	_____
<u>Rings are Special Order through Quartermaster</u>			
MACVSOG Commemorative MOH print (includes shipping and insurance)	\$165.00	_____	_____
SOA Buck Knife (Proceeds go to the SOA Family Warrior Fund)	\$60.00	_____	_____
Book, "When Terror Comes To Main Street" by Joe Ruffini	\$20.00	_____	_____
Tie, Official SOA 58 " _____ 64" _____	\$25.00	_____	_____
Vest, Fleece, Nylon Reversible, Black W/SOA logo S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$55.00	_____	_____
Vest, concealed carry W/SOA logo (black or tan ) S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$75.00	_____	_____
Jacket, Polyester shell, mesh upper back, and nylon lower back, front and back vents W/SOA log Embroidered S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$65.00	_____	_____
Denim Shirt, Long sleeve, w/SOA logo Embroidered S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$36.00	_____	_____
Denim Shirt, Short sleeve, w/SOA logo Embroidered S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$33.00	_____	_____
Polo Shirt, Dry fit W/SOA logo Embroidered, white _____ black _____ green _____ S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$35.00	_____	_____
Sweatshirt, black W/SOA logo Embroidered S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$25.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, Black W/ SOA Red Shield logo on back S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$14.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, cool dry camo Iron Gray W/ SOA logo S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$20.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, cool dry Black W/ SOA script S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$20.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield logo on back W/pocket S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$16.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$14.00	_____	_____
T-shirt, Black W/SOA Red Shield left chest W/pocket S _ M _ L _ XL _ 2X _	\$16.00	_____	_____
Baseball Hat suede W/SOA logo Embroidered Black _____ Khaki _____ Camo _____	\$16.00	_____	_____
PUC Certificate Set	\$12.00	_____	_____



Belt Buckle Brass New addition raised skull	\$30.00	_____	_____
Coin SOA 2008 edition bronze and enamel	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin MACVSOG PUC Commemorative edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin SOA 2012 edition	\$12.00	_____	_____
Coin 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary MACVSOG 1964 -2014	\$12.00	_____	_____
Field Hat W/ SOA logo – Rider	\$16.00	_____	_____
License Plate W/ SOA logo Black or camo	\$16.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- Bullion, SOA Crest	\$25.00	_____	_____
Patch Blazer- felt background, SOA Crest, sew on	\$15.00	_____	_____
Patch, Prairie Fire gold embroidered on black background	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch square SOA logo embroidered on black background	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 4" tall	\$5.00	_____	_____
Patch SOA Red Shield logo embroidered 9" tall	\$25.00	_____	_____
Life Member Pin SOA round Gold _____ Pewter _____	\$5.00	_____	_____
Hat Pin SOA Red Shield 1 ½ inches	\$6.00	_____	_____
Tie, Lapel Pin, SOA Red Shield	\$5.00	_____	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 2 ¼ X 3 ¼ inches	\$4.00	_____	_____
Decal SOA Red Shield logo, outside 3 x 4 ½ inches	\$5.00	_____	_____

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

ORDER INSTRUCTIONS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST. \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 40 Year Pin List

**The following have achieved 40-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 40-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2018 SOAR Banquet:**

Antonio Aquiningoc	GL-100	Harold Jacobson	GL-69
Charles Berg	GL-31	Ralf M. Miller	GL-60
Robert K. Brown	AL-45	Travis Mills	GL-44
Marion Bush Jr	GL-96	Walter E. Nader	GL-67
Fred E. Downey	GL-85	H Ross Perot	HL-91
James E. Foster	GL-46	Charles Pfeifer	GA-40
Al Greenup	GL-28	John P. Silk	GL-70
Bo Gritz	GL-42	Frank Vecchiarello	GL-47
James F. Hetrick	GL-36		



## 35 Year Pin List

**The following have achieved 35-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 35-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2018 SOAR General Membership Meeting:**

Charles Almy	GL-576	Roger Jepson	HL-569
Ronald Brockelman	GA-568	Marcus E. Reed	GA-599
Paul L. Brubaker	GL-596	Jerry Roush	AL-591
Gary D. Crossman	GA-517	Steven R. Schofield	GL-586
Tommy Daniels III	GL-584	Clayton S. Scott	GL-571
Richard L. Estes	GA-597	B. Ya Tiak	HL-581
Richard Freeman	GL-573	Steven B. Wilson	GL-588
Raymond D. Harris	GA-577	Thomas E. Wilson	AL-595
Richard L. Higgins	GL-574	Y Nie Wing	HL-582



## 30 Year Pin List

**The following have achieved 30-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 30-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2018 SOAR General Membership Meeting:**

Romeo Buonya	HL-837	David Nie	HL-834
Harry L. Claflin	GL-845	Eban Y-ky Nie	HL-839
Richard Conte	AA-821	Y-mao Kdam Nie	HL-848
Sresang Dim	HL-843	Y Thien Nie	HL-844
Y Juen Eban	HL-828	John D. Ochtyun	GL-823
Jerry Fletcher	GL-849	Ronald Schrupf	GL-842
Gene D. Hamner	GL-833	Jesse M. Simmons	GL-812
Melvin Hill	GL-832	Kenneth Snyder	GA-816
Kenneth W. Holmes	GA-822	Howard B Sugar	GA-840
Thomas E. Johnson	GL-851	Donald R. Taylor	GL-820
James Jones-Shorten	GL-841	Frank F. Thornton	GL-847
Y Jon Kbour	HL-824	James B. Walker	AL-846
Leon Wes Kouns	AL-831	Laurence Wicorek	GL-819
Robert E. Locker	GL-817	Scott Worsham	GL-838
Y Djuih Mlo	HL-836		





## 25 Year Pin List

**The following have achieved 25-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 25-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2018 SOAR General Membership Meeting:**

James W. Bailey	GL-1111	Max E. Newman	GA-1116
Joseph M. Bilitzke	GL-1139	An Quy Nguyen	HL-1120
John Billings	GA-110	Richard T. Norris	GA-1132
Denis Chericone	GA-1166	John C. Owens	GL-1143
Robert Coates	GL-1156	Joe Sottile	GL-1119
George S. Crawford	GL-1115	Stanley Steenbock	GL-1118
Roger Donlon	HL-1108	George Sternberg	GL-1164
Sheridan S. Elliott	AL-1123	Harlow Stevens	GL-1176
Pedro B. Estrada	AL-1125	Stephen R. Sullivan	GL-1104
Don Feeney	GL-1113	Grenville G. Sutcliffe	GA-1154
John L. Frescura	GA-1137	Norman C. Taitano	GL-1161
Jonathan D. Gibson	GL-1170	Tom Tatten	AL-1153
G. William Heiser	GL-1138	C. J. Unruh	GL-1103
Dennis Craig Lansing	GA-1145	Alvin H. Young	GA-113
David Mohler	AL-1146		



## 20 Year Pin List

**The following have achieved 20-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 20-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2018 SOAR General Membership Meeting:**

James E. Acre	GA-1652	Henderson Marriott	AL-1635
James L. Adkins	GL-1657	Donald L. Martin	GL-1592
William Brinton	AL-1602	John R. Martin	GA-1656
Lawrence Burbridge	GL-1591	James McLuckie	GL-1587
Jesse Campbell	GL-1663	Grady F. Miles	GL-1603
Robert J. Castillo	GL-1662	Ned L. Miller	GA-1684
Randolfo Cesani	GA-1632	Robert W. Mitchell	GL-1595
John R. Couch	GA-1631	Floyd D. Mull	GA-1650
Homer R. Dawson	GL-1673	Kiet Van Nguyen	GL-1671
R. Henry Di Giacinto	GL-1665	Robert L. Noe	GL-1620
Luther Dove, Jr.	GL-1572	Michael J. O'Shea	GL-1661
Darrell G. Elmore	GL-1611	John D. Parry	GA-1651
Henry Eskins	GA-1600	Jon C. Potter	GA-1634
Warner D. Farr	GL-1574	Richard Richardson	AA-1565
Russell File	GL-1693	Alfonso Rivero	GL-1573
Theodore S. Fleser	GL-1666	Dennis E. Rodgers	GL-1590
Gerald Fontana	GL-1613	James P. Sallee	GA-1637
Edgar E. Foshee	GL-1601	Calvin Y. Sasai	GL-1655
L. David Foster Jr	GL-1555	David G. Savage	GL-1599
Wolfgang G. Gartner	GA-1628	James Savell	GL-1604
George R. Givens	GL-1584	Donald G. Schneider	GA-1596
James N. Glerum	GA-1624	Richard H. Sell	GL-1588
James W. Graves	GL-1664	Robert J. Sepi	GL-1554
Donald W. Haase	GL-1683	John N. Spain	GL-1579
Audrey L. Hagedorn	AA-1669	Gordon D. Sparling	GA-1647
Ronald T. Hanna	GA-1668	John M. St. Martin Jr	GA-1654
Allen V. Harinck	GA-1597	Gregory J. Stock	AL-1577
Keith A. Hendricks	GA-1667	Robert Twichell	GA-1681
Chester B. Howard	GL-1609	Lee A. Van Arsdale	GL-1575
Emery P. Johnston	GL-1586	Floyd D. Washburn	GL-1672
Michael P. Kim	GL-1677	Paul R. Wilson	GL-1660
Lawrence L. Little Jr	GL-1610	Gary L. Wright	GL-1593
David F. Lucier	GL-1649	Leon H. Buck Yancey	GL-1690
Tom Lum	GL-1580	Steven J. Yevich	GL-1552
James C. Madison	GL-1581		

## **SOA Warrior's Family Fund**

**The SOA Warrior's Family Fund was established in 2012 to assist SOA family members who couldn't afford to attend SOAR.**

Family members who need assistance can apply for financial help by contacting Bill Werther, Chairman of the Warrior Family Fund Committee or any other Committee Member.

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

The Warrior Family Fund Committee can approve up to a \$500.00 cash stipend for widows and family members to cover funeral expenses following the death of a SOA member.

Any and all contributions to this fund should be made payable to the SOA Warrior's Family Fund. The SOA Treasurer will maintain a separate bank account for this fund.

The deadline for requesting assistance for SOAR XLII is 1 September 2018.

Bill Werther  
Chairman, SOA Warrior's Family Fund  
102 Lightning Springs Road  
Protem, MO 65733

Home Phone: 417-251-5216  
Cell Phone: 417-785-1020  
Email: SOGRT4@gmail.com

# Texas Hold-Em

## *Texas Hold-Em Tournament Cancelled*

**The Special Operations Association Board of Directors have decided to cancel the continuation of the Annual Texas Hold-Em Tournament due to dwindling participation.**

The 2017 Texas Hold-Em winners were Stan Shank (CCC) and his wife Carol. In addition to donating their winnings to SOA Charities, they also donated an additional \$100.

Thanks Stan. What a great “Boxsi” Attitude!

We extend our sincere thanks to all who have participated in this event over the past six years and who made this a successful event for the SOA Charities. Without your participation we would not have been able to raise the more than \$2,500 over this period for our SOA Charities.

Again, our thanks to all who have joined us in this tournament. We hope you had an enjoyable time and found it to be a worthwhile endeavor.



## **SFA CHAPTER XI honors SOG**



*Honored guests included Veterans of MACV-SOG (L-R): SFC Cliff Newman & Mrs. Karen Newman (Gold Star Sister of SSG Dale Dehnke ); MAJ Bruce & Mrs. Denise Person; COL Gary J. Rohen & COL (Dr.) Esther Childers; Col Mike & Mrs. Chan Eiland; SFC Donald MacIver; CW5 Frank & Mrs. Patricia Komorowski; COL Gerard & Mrs. Young-Lan Landry; COL Ed & Mrs. Ann Burke; SSG James Hooker & Ms. Claudia Enriquez; and MG Ken Bowra; Top (L-R) SGT Rick & Mrs. Bekkee Estes; LTC Thomas L. Groppe & Ms. Shirly Canup; Mrs. Paula Spear (Wife of MAJ Jim Spear); SGT Doug & Mrs. Cathy Godshall; and MAJ Daniel Thompson & Mrs. Mary McLean-Thompson; and not shown-Dr. Virginia Norton (Wife of COL Charlie Norton).*

*Photos and names are courtesy of SFA chapter XI President Ray Oden and SFA chapter XI officers and members. A full article and lists of guests covering the entire Dinner Dance will appear in the next issue of the SFA DROP.*



*Clyde Sincere & MG Vic Hugo at the OSS Congressional Gold Medal Award Ceremony at the U.S. Capitol Building.*

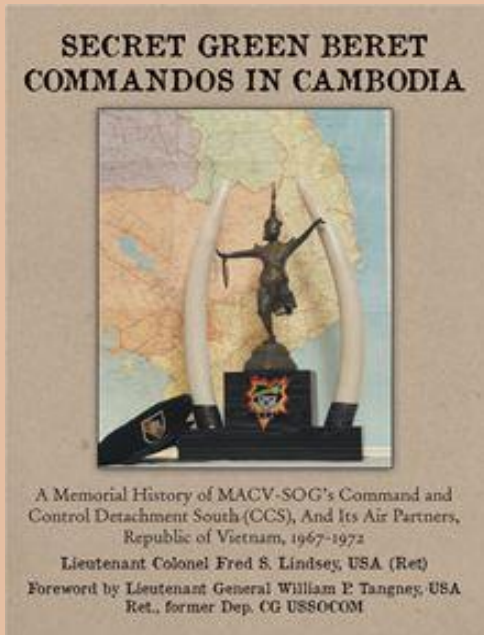
### **SFA Chapter XI hosted a black tie Dinner Dance honoring veterans of MACVSOG**

SFA Chapter XI hosted a black tie Dinner Dance honoring veterans of MACVSOG at the Army Navy Country Club in Washington D.C. This year's Chapter XI SF Birthday Black Tie Dinner Dance honored the Veterans of MACV-SOG at the Army Navy Country Club.

# **SECRET GREEN BERET COMMANDOS IN CAMBODIA**

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

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



## **About the Book**

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

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

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

## **About the Author**

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

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



# MAC V SOG

TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY

**NOW AVAILABLE FROM HARDY PUBLICATIONS**

The Award-Winning Series Chronicling The Team History Of Ops-35



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



#### VOLUME 2 FEATURES

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RT Washington (CCC)



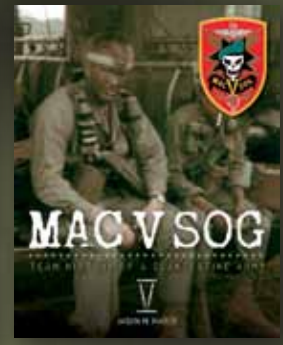
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From Jason Hardy, MACVSOG, Team History of a Clandestine Army delves into the murky world of OPS-35 and the Recon Teams that manned this project. Rare, full color photographs, team members in chronological order, notable missions, equipment, knives,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

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Buffalo Bill	
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Beer Can DIs	\$150 to \$250



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

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## **Two SOA Members Inducted into the Special Forces Distinguished Members of the Regiment**

On 4 May 2018, SOA members, retired Captain Gary “Mike” Rose (Medal of Honor Recipient) and retired Major Clyde Sincere, Jr. (Distinguished Service Cross Recipient) were inducted as Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Special Forces Regiment by Colonel Gilberto Barrera, the Special Forces Commandant at a ceremony held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Over a four-day span in September 1970, Mike Rose is credited with saving numerous lives as a Special Forces medic serving in Operation Tailwind amid fierce fighting against a much larger enemy force. Portions of his MOH citation include: “Capt. Rose distinguished himself while serving as a Special Forces Medic with a company-sized exploitation force, 5th Special Forces Group. Between 11 and 14 September 1970, Sergeant Rose’s company was continuously engaged by a numerically superior hostile force deep in enemy-controlled territory. Sgt. Rose continuously exposed himself to intense fire as he fearlessly moved from casualty to casualty, administering life-saving aid. On Sept. 14, during the company’s eventual helicopter extraction, the enemy launched a full-scale offensive. The helicopter carrying Sgt. Rose crashed several hundred meters from the evacuation point, further injuring Rose and the personnel on board. Despite his numerous wounds from the

past three days, Sgt. Rose continued to carry unconscious and wounded personnel out of the burning wreckage and continued to administer aid to the wounded until another extraction helicopter arrived.

Clyde Sincere, an original member, 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, also served in the 77<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, the 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group, and the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. Clyde was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in connection with combat operations during the period 8 – 11 Nov. 1966 while participating in a combined 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group/4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Division operation in the Plei Trap Valley. Portions of his DSC Citation reads: “Engaged in search and destroy operations, he personally led a forward element to attack an NVA anti-aircraft gun position. His men killed four (4) insurgents, captured their weapons, and 35 packs of information concerning future enemy operations. While separated from the II Corps Mike Force unit, it received an attack from a large NVA force. Upon learning that the unit Commander had been seriously wounded, he returned to the ravaged landing zone, entered the bullet swept field, and reaching his own lines, he took command, distributed ammo, called in air strikes, and enabled the unit to break contact with the enemy.” Clyde is a past-President of the SOA, and remains active in SOA Fundraising and Veteran’s causes. The SOA is very proud of Mike and Clyde. We congratulate them and all of the SOA Members that have been recognized as Distinguished Members of the SF Regiment.







# Special Operations Association Membership

Keeping your membership current and in good standing allows unrestricted access to the website, AAR, PRP and other member benefits. In addition, dues allow the SOA to carry on normal business throughout the year, and, more importantly, fund programs that support the SOA's purpose, our members, and their families.

– Ray Frovarp, 2018 Membership Chairman

## APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOA

Applicants for membership in the SOA must provide supporting documentation to prove eligibility. To avoid delays in processing, the documentation provided should leave no doubt as to the applicant's eligibility.

Compiling documentation is solely the responsibility of the applicant. The SOA assumes no responsibility for finding documentation or sponsorship. The link to the archives.gov site is provided as a courtesy.



A \$35.00 NON-REFUNDABLE application fee is required with the application.

To apply for membership online, please visit [www.specialoperations.org/membership](http://www.specialoperations.org/membership).

Fees/Applications may be mailed to: **Membership Committee, PO Box 335461, N. Las Vegas, NV 89033**

**Ray Frovarp**

2018 Membership Chairman

Phone: (910) 425-1425

Email the Membership Chairman at:

[membership@specialoperations.org](mailto:membership@specialoperations.org)

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **PRINT IMAGES**

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

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

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

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

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

Lower Right: A Navy SEAL Recon Team.





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