



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

AFTER ACTION REPORT XLVI



***MACV-SOG Display
5th SFG(A) Hall of Heroes***

**SOAR XLVII OCTOBER 16-20, 2023
THE ORLEANS HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

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



EDUCATION

Educational grants of \$4,000/academic year (\$2,000/semester) to eligible progeny of SOA members in good standing in the organization.

The Special Operations Association Foundation provides educational grants through the Special Operations Association's (SOA) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program to children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of SOA members who are current and in good standing in the organization. As of August 2022, 191 young men and women have been awarded scholarships since the grant program began in 1983. This grant must be used at an accredited four year College or University, Junior College, Community College, or Technical School which will lead to an Associate Degree, Bachelor Degree, or a technical vocation program certificate.



ELIGIBILITY: A high school graduate (or G.E.D.), or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, under the age of 21 years at the time of application. Must be a son, daughter, grandchild, or great-grandchild, natural or adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit, and is a current SOA member in "good standing". Applications are also accepted from relatives of Special Operators who were KIA or MIA while serving with a Special Operations unit in combat.

APPLICATIONS: Application packets are available in late December of the previous year to 15 April of the year that the grant will be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all applications is 15 April of the year that the Grant will be awarded. Inquiries should be addressed to the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Steve Yevich at syevich@hotmail.com.

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



Special Operations Association Fact Sheet

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

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

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

- a. To unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations;
- b. To perpetuate the Special Operations "esprit de corps"; and,
- c. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA through the management of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$735,000 has been awarded, or committed thus far to 191 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veteran's organization, 501(c)(19), operating on tax deductible donations, (EIN # 74-2619854). Annual membership dues are \$30 USD. Lifetime membership fee is \$505 USD under 70 years of age, and \$305 USD for 70 years and over. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report, (SOAR AAR). In addition, the SOA periodically communicates with members via email blasts and newsletters which are emailed and posted on the website www.specialoperations.org.

The SOA conducted its 46th annual reunion (SOAR XLVI) at The Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 17-21 October 2022.

Revised: 1 November 2022
WEB SITE: www.specialoperations.org

President's Message

SOAR XLVI soared! 2022 hosted another event filled gathering of Special Operators and their friends, families, and supporters. The SOA has broadened and deepened its support across the country and the world as evidenced by new attendees in the last few reunions:

1. For the second year, VADM (Ret) Ann Duff and Noel Hike of the VA assisted our families in understanding VA claims.
2. Frank Idzikowski and Dennis Culver of OASIS, Green Beret Foundation, attended to represent Special Operators in the vendor area.
3. Rob Graham traveled from the UK to display the Arma 3: SOG Prairie Fire video game. developed with the assistance of eight SOA members. The popularity of the game has dramatically increased world-wide knowledge of MACVSOG operations.
4. For the first time in years, we were honored by the presence of several active SF troopers. 5th Group Commanding Officer Brent Lindeman was our guest speaker. He was accompanied by CSM Josh King and other senior troopers who assisted the SOA in the development and installation of the Hall of Heroes MACVSOG Display at 5th Group HQ.



Other highlights of SOAR XLVI included a fabulous show organized by John Russell, the hardest working Entertainment Chairman in SOA history: Cirque du Soleil Mad Apple at New York New York!

Our Author's Event on Tuesday is growing and growing. Many old and new SOA writers.

The Annual POW MIA Symposium was held, albeit overshadowed by the death of our longtime Chair, Mike Taylor. The DPAA folks and Ann Mills Griffith never disappoint.

Mike was also slated to head up the long-awaited Airborne Insertions/Operations Symposium. Longtime colleagues Cliff Newman and Sammy Hernandez, and FAC pilots BG (Ret) Jim Latham and Dick Hall stepped up and presented a marvelous program. They also were asked present a few remarks praising Mike on Thursday night, which they accomplished with dignity and grace.

Following the General Membership meeting, Horace Boner hosted a sold-out Bourbon Tasting on Wednesday. Thanks to The Orleans for supplying the booze!

Wednesday is always a big day. A few years ago, John Russell broached the idea of a Women's Auxiliary Committee. Doc Padgett and Vicki ran with the idea. Vicki organized the second meeting at SOAR, fully engaged in assisting widows and helping with VA claims.

Doc Padgett, Executive Director of our Foundation, ran a very successful Bowling for Dollars Wednesday night. Doc, Vicki, and SOAFAC members were busy all week staffing the Foundation table.

President's Message (Cont'd)

Dennis Cummings continues to add to his extensive list of interviews. Special Operators: please sign up to preserve our history!

And our Hospitality Room boomed all Week!

A special note of thanks. COVID is still with us and left many of our leaders home on sick leave. Many of our veterans stepped up for extra duty: the indomitable Ray and Ronnie Frovarp, Dan Thompson, Rich Mallowney, and Bonnie Cooper.

Please check out the photos and videos of our reunion taken by RT Rivero and Bonnie Cooper!

Lastly, a personal note of thanks to our ARVN brothers and their families who attended. You are always in our hearts.

Doug Godshall



Seeking Brightlight Candidates

December 2022

Fellow SOA Members,

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

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

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

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

Please contact one of the following committee members for assistance:

- Chairman Ron Owens | 305-984-2186 | E-mail: adventure4u@aol.com
- Tim Schaaf | 951-551-1462 | E-mail: schaafnt@msn.com
- Rick Grabianowski | 775-846-1138 | E-mail: rick@grabianowski.com

Respectfully submitted,
SOA Operation Brightlight Committee

Ron Owens
Tim Schaaf
Rick Grabianowski

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

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**2022 Annual dues Are now due and payable.
Refer to the annual dues page 63 for additional information.**

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Early Warning Order

SOAR XLVII

16-20 Oct 2023

Who: SOA Members in good standing and their guests are eligible to register. For Membership status, contact Joe Wilson, SOA_Membership@yahoo.com, or 954-448-2981.

Where: The Orleans Hotel & Casino: (800) 675-3267
<http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>.

Group Code: To Be Announced in the PRP

Accommodations: To Be Announced in the PRP

See You At SOAR XLVII



TAPS

The following are our brothers who have passed since the last TAPS, 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.

We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Thessalonians 1:2-3

Member Name	SOA#	Date	Member Name	SOA#	Date
Ahumada, Felipe R.	3233-G	10 Nov 22	Moss, Lynn	725-G	4 Sep 22
Allen, Howard "Zipper"	1200-G	20 Jun 22	Myers, Daniel R. "Rock"	3-G	17 Aug 22
Bailey, James "Beetle"	1111-G	29 Oct 22	Nakahara, Ronald T.	2151-G	29 Jul 15
Barrett, Robert C.	1264-G	23 Jan 22	Nickols, Gary	1987-G	21 Jul 22
Billings, John J.	1110-G	11 Nov 22	Nickolson, Thomas P.	1564-G	13 Jul 22
Clark, George E.	2408-G	19 Dec 22	Oberg, David J.	3324-G	6 Jul 22
Coleman, Lynn F.	1930-G	8 Dec 20	Parks, Robert J. "Spider"	465-G	30 Oct 22
DeCarlo, Ronald R.	408-G	4 Jun 22	Pavisich, Michael J.	2667-G	23 Jan 18
Delves, Jr., Robert L.	1004-G	12 Jun 22	Perry, Bruce E.	2022-G	21 Sep 22
Edens, Ralph G.	438-G	Oct 22	Plancich, Keith E.	773-G	3 Dec 22
Fry, Charles H.	2047-G	6 Oct 22	Simmons, Jesse	812-G	3 Oct 22
Garcia, George Thomas	514-G	28 Jun 22	Simpkins, Richard E.	1027-G	26 Dec 15
Gardner, Barbara Ann	21-A	27 Jun 21	Smith, William F.	2231-G	3 Apr 17
Hanley, Philip J.	2766-G	7 Oct 22	Solomon, Robert E.	2774-G	14 Nov 20
Hoover, Barry M.	2986-G	28 Jun 22	Stern, Michael C.	324-G	11 Jul 22
Houston, Roger M.	1899-G	9 Sep 22	Taylor, Michael E.	698-G	3 Sep 22
Lamberth, John R.	195-A	7 May 22	Walley, William T.	357-G	28 Oct 21
Lansing, Dennis Craig	1145-G	12 Sep 22	Weinig III, John William	3217-G	28 Nov 21
McIlroy, James C.	2628-G	27 Aug 22	Wheeler, Jr., Samuel A.	1973-G	21 Jun 22
Miller, Jack A.	1901-G	11 Oct 22	Williams, Lothar L.	1366-G	27 Nov 22
Miller, Ralf M	60-G	14 Oct 22	Wolken, Donald W.	2428-G	17 Sep 22

May the souls of our departed brothers, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. May eternal light shine upon them.

Tribute to LTC (Ret) Michael E. Taylor



LIEUTENANT COLONEL (Ret) MICHAEL EVERETT TAYLOR passed away unexpectedly on September 3, 2022. Born May 25, 1944 in Grenada, Mississippi, he was a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of Mississippi ROTC in June 1966. He was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant.

Upon graduation from college, he attended the Infantry Officers Basic Course, where he was the Honor Graduate. Upon completion of Ranger School, he commanded a Rifle Platoon, a Weapons Platoon, and an Infantry Rifle Company in the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Germany during the height of the Cold War. In 1968, Lt. Taylor completed Special Forces training at the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany and then commanded Operational Detachments A31 and B7. He completed High Altitude Low Opening (HALO) parachute training as well.

From 1968 to 1972, Mike Taylor served 42 months in Vietnam. His first in-country assignment was command of

Operational Detachment A-205 which recruited, organized, equipped, trained, and deployed 5th Battalion, II Corps Mobile Strike Force (MIKE Force), 5th Special Forces Group. The II Corps MIKE Force saw numerous deployments to the Battle of Ben Het. Volunteering for Military Assistance Command Vietnam – Studies and Observation Group, he ran cross-border reconnaissance missions in Laos and Cambodia, and served as an Operations Officer at SOG headquarters and OPS-35. Commanding SOG Mobile Launch Team 3, Heavy Hook, at Nakhon Phanom, Mike also served as a FAC rider out of NKP, including as an airborne controller for the Son Tay Raid.

Following Vietnam, he continued serving in Southeast Asia as commanding officer of ODA-44 (HALO Detachment), 46th Special Forces Company, Lop Buri, Thailand which advised Thai SF HALO training until 1974.

Completing Command and General Staff College, Mike Taylor attended the Defense Language Institute, where he learned Arabic, with a follow-on assignment as a Middle East and North Africa Foreign Area Officer. He spent six years, 1980 to 1986, conducting special operations training and advisory tours with Saudi Arabian and Egyptian special operations forces. During this time, he was involved in hostage rescue missions and conducted theater-wide counterterrorism force protection programs.

His next assignment was with Special Operations Command Pacific, where he was responsible for theater wide antiterrorism and force protection programs.

He returned to the Middle East in 1990 where he led an SF advisory team with a Saudi Arabian National Guard Battalion throughout Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This battalion led the attack which expelled invading Iraqi forces from the Saudi city of Al Khafji and restored the Saudi border. During this battle, he led the rescue of two 6-man USMC reconnaissance teams surrounded and cut off in Al Khafji.

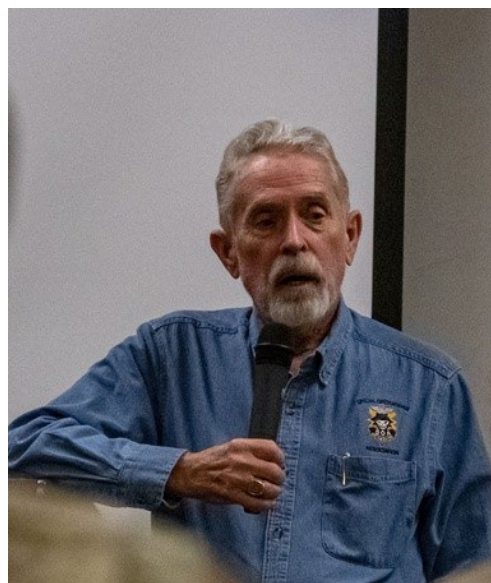
Tribute to LTC (Ret) Michael E. Taylor (Cont'd)

Following retirement, he served as a senior Department of the Army Civil Servant responsible for antiterrorism and force protection of US Army units in Saudi Arabia to include Special Forces deployed to the AOR. He was hired after a deadly terrorist attack on the Office of the Program Manager, Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program. Months later, in the aftermath of the Khobar Towers bombing, the DoD Task force led by retired Gen Wayne Downing cited Mike Taylor's program as the best encountered in their theater-wide investigation.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and four oak-leaf clusters, Purple Heart, two Air Medals with "V" Device, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, and the Department of Defense Antiterrorism Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joining the Special Operations Association December 17, 1977, Mike Taylor was a "Charter" member. Since his retirement, he dedicated his time and was a valued asset to the SOA members and the Board of Directors. While he was appointed and twice elected as SOA Vice President, perhaps his most valuable work was as the Chairman of the Special Operations Association POW/MIA Committee.

Appointed as POW/MIA Committee Chairman in 2013, Mike quickly formed a game plan and recruited Tilt Meyer, Jim Wheeler, Spider Parks, Cliff Newman, and Wade Ishimoto to become committee members. He provided the committee a vision to deal with facts and to focus on recovery of special operations Missing In Action personnel from the Vietnam War. He established firm relationships with the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency and the National League of POW/MIA Families to help accomplish the recovery of our special operations brethren. He worked with Cliff Newman, who was then the Executive Director of the Special Forces Association, to form what is today the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee that can use its combined membership of 12,000 members to achieve committee goals. He also worked to gain fiscal support from the Special Forces Charitable Trust which has funded committee activities for a number of years. Mike ensured that the committee had presence at different DPAA events, the National POW/MIA Recognition Day, the placing of a wreath at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific annually, and attendance at the National League of POW/MIA Families annual meeting. In January 2018, Mike accepted an invitation to join the National League's delegation to Southeast Asia to encourage the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand to provide their support for recovery of American missing. During SOAR XLV Mike hosted a Memorial Breakfast for Unreturned Heroes which accounted for 131 SOA brethren yet to return home. Fourteen MIA family members were in attendance.



His other SOA work included an NKP Air Operations Symposium 2019, a Kingbee Symposium 2021, and he began programing the Airborne Insertions/Operations Symposium 2022.

In 2020, retired Army Lt. Col. Michael Taylor was selected by the Board of Senior Special Forces personnel to be a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment. It is the highest honor

Tribute to LTC (Ret) Michael E. Taylor (Cont'd)

that can be bestowed on a member of the U.S. Army Special Forces. To become a nominee for the designation, it requires exceptional contributions to the Special Forces Regiment such as success on the battlefield and continuing contribution to the regiment and their local community after they retire. Mike Taylor was nominated for the award by Wade Ishimoto...they worked together on the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee for five years.

FROM THE ANACORTES-AMERICAN: "I really got sentimental thinking of all the guys I served with, and that's the reason I got the honor is all the guys that trained me, mentored me, and sometimes obeyed me and followed me...I'm only being honored because of them. This is the greatest honor of my life," Taylor said. Taylor said he feels "totally honored and humbled and aware of how many more people deserve it more than me, but I got selected so I'm thrilled."

In 2021 the National League of Families presented Mike Taylor a Distinguished Service Award for "Continuous Dedication and Significant Contribution to Achieving the Fullest Possible Accounting for America's POW/MIA"; the SOA bestowed the James E. Butler Founder's Award upon Mike at SOAR XLV for "Extraordinary Achievement in Service to the Special Operations Association"; and, at SFACON 2021, the Special Forces Association awarded him a Saint Philip Neri Gold Medal because he was one of "an elite few who's career embodied the spirit, dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by Saint Philip Neri".



LTC (Ret) Michael Taylor's interment will be at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (the Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii at a time yet to be determined.



"May divine light shine upon your soul so that you may rest in everlasting peace."

POW/MIA Symposium

Acting Chairman Wade 'Ishi' Ishimoto introduced the undersigned, David Gordon as the new Chairman for the SOA POW/MIA Committee. Ishi continued as the monitor for the symposium.

At the end of the symposium Ishi asked for a moment of silence for Mike Taylor, the previous POW/MIA Chairman, who passed away this year.

The first presenter was USMC Colonel Christopher 'Matt' Brannen, Indo-Pacific Regional Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) provided a personal introduction and an overview of DPAA and his regional priorities. He has been in this position for one year of a three-year tour. He stated his mantra is 'Big thoughts-bold actions'. He also introduced a quote, which was echoed by all the speakers that "Vietnam is friendly, but not friends" with supporting and assisting with the recovery of US POW/MIA service members.

The purpose of DPAA is the accounting for the missing. Last year only two were accounted for and returned. These low number were attributed to COVID restrictions, manning of staff positions and budget restrictions.

His region is responsible for the recovery of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam wars MIAs. Vietnam is the priority. For Vietnam War DPAA is tracking MIAs by country. The overall for MIA numbers for Southeast Asia are 1582: North Vietnam 441, South Vietnam 800, Laos 286, Cambodia 48, and China 7. There is a Master Evacuation List (MEL). To be on the MEL there must be credible information as to the location of the missing person(s). There are currently 158 on the MEL, 120 for the Vietnam War area. **Of these 29 are SOG/SOF !**

Challenges for identifying and confirming location for MIA SOG personnel are that many of the SOG cross-border missions were classified and exact location are not always accurate. An additional challenge is if the remains are in areas of regional border disputes, any excavation must be coordinated and approved by the nation(s) claiming the area. Local challenges are that persons with firsthand knowledge are dying or cannot effectively remember, or their children don't want them to go back to harsh conditions of the area in question. In remote areas the jungle and soil are decomposing the remains of the bodies and equipment. In some areas urban expansion and construction are destroying the sites.

Col Brannen has been focused on filling the vacancies in his regional area. There has been difficulty in finding personnel with Vietnam or regional experience. He stated that for his team to succeed, they must focus on logic and facts, emotions and passion can lead to getting off focus. He currently has 11 recovery teams for 2022 with six ongoing investigations.

All of DPAA has a \$130M budget and has asked for an increase to \$159M. Of that, Indo-Pacific has \$30M with 80% going to the Vietnam War accounting effort. Of the three wars DPAA is working, Vietnam is the most expensive. Recovery operations require initial research and on location interviews and surveys. Then evacuation may require heavy equipment and helicopter support to move equipment and teams in and out of the sites.

North Vietnam veterans have been engaged and have been willing to talk. The counter SOG unit, Company 75, has been identified and contacted. Discussions have been productive to identify locations of contacts and potential remains. The activity has resulted in three cases in the Tri-border area.

The next presenter was Mr Steve Thompson, DPAA. He provided several stats listed below and gave a brief overview of the history of recovery efforts to help the audience understand the current process and names. The Joint Casualty Recovery Center (JCRC) is now the Joint Task Force Full Accounting (JTFFA). In the past the (1993) the JCRC Team Leaders for the recovery teams was a

POW/MIA Symposium (Cont'd)

Ranger and Language Qualified Army Captain and were very successful. He noted that the language qualification is now harder to find, which adds to the difficulty in staffing the teams.

The next DPAA presenter was Mr Matt Kristoff. His office is in Crystal City, VA, which is important in that it has access to the archives. The community offices in VA, HI, and VN has coordination meeting every six months to update and prioritize the approximately 400 current cases. The Hawaii team (Col Brannen) writes the Lead Sheets, sends them to his Team (Matt Kristoff) for review and cross referencing the records. Those approved go on the MEL, then briefed to the respective country/countries (VN, LA, CB). His team goes in with the search teams. They write an AAR, which goes into a larger data base. If the effort is positive, then an excavation is planned for execution.

A new development for SOA interests is that they are working approximately three dozen cases.

Vietnam was/is very meticulous with their records. DPAA is working with the Vietnamese government in coordinating access for records, surveys, excavations, and interviews of NVA veterans and locals that remember activities.

***DPAA is looking for 1st Special Forces Group veterans that were TDY for Bright Light Teams. In particular during June, 1966 in the Kon Tum Province. The team went in to recover an F4 pilot. Due to enemy approaching the crash site, they were unable to extract him and had to bury the pilot.**

***DPAA is asking for all veterans that have insights to provide their history to help the ongoing efforts.**

DPAA Q&A session:

- of 124 members of the Indo-Pacific staff, 50-60 are focused on the Vietnam War
- 20 analysts are focused on Vietnam
- for the coming year, six investigation teams and eleven recovery teams are planned
- the current goal is four teams per year in Vietnam and five in Laos
- there will be a reduction in Family Member Updates, required by Congress, due to the preparation time for these reduces the teams' ability to focus on recovery operations

Mr. Brad Taylor, Team Chief with Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Stony Beach (SB) was the next speaker. He has a small contingent of seven personnel. He is fully supported by the Director of the DIA. SB is focused on filling information gaps, not recovery of remains. Their priority is the 41 Last Known Alive (LKA). Of these, 9 are SOG members and the priority for SB. VN was known to have around 400 stored remains, but to date only 200 have been returned. Currently SB relationship with Vietnam is not as warm as with DPAA. However, SB is working on a permanent presence in Vietnam. Cooperation with Laos is good and has a full-time position that will be filled again in November. The relationship with Cambodia is very good and SB has a full-time position in the Embassy.

SB Q&A session:

- challenge is building relationships with the various Montagnard tribes. Language is the primary challenge and they do not trust most outsiders.

The final speaker was Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman of the Board/CEO National League of POW/MIA Families. The League's priority is bringing home service member remains. The League, DPAA and SB are all an outgrowth of the program established by President Ronald Reagan. Ann's

POW/MIA Symposium (Cont'd)

concern with the Family Member Updates is that the focus has turned more to gathering DNA samples. Additionally, due to budget impacts, there has been a shift in POW/MIA recovery agency priorities to toward disinterring WWII and Korea rather than the Vietnam War effort. These are service members that have already been identified but are currently interned in foreign countries.

Symposium comments and take aways:

I would like to pay special recognition to Ishi for his work in organizing and monitoring the 2022 SOA POW/MIA symposium.

I, also, want to thank Nick and Robin Nickels for the detailed notes and preparing the draft for this AAR.

I am concerned that DPAA has shifted their priorities away from the Vietnam War. Sadly, it's a bureaucratic, budget numbers game. I am hopeful that this trend can turned around with pressure and emphasis from our and other concerned groups.

From the Toby Keith song we need: "A Little Less Talk And A Lot More Action"

Current as of: 10/5/2022

SUBJECT: VIETNAM-ERA STATISTICAL REPORT

BACKGROUND: The Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service, and the Department of State report the current numbers of Americans who are unaccounted for in Southeast Asia:

AMERICANS UNACCOUNTED FOR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

COMPONENT	COUNTRY OF LOSS					TOTALS
	VN	VS	LA	CB	CH	
ARMY	3	415	69	23	0	510
NAVY	247	81	17	0	7	352
MARINE CORPS	22	160	16	4	0	202
AIR FORCE	168	125	181	16	0	490
COAST GUARD	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIVILIANS	1	19	3	5	0	28
TOTALS	441	800	286	48	7	1,582
PURSUIT STATUS						
FURTHER PURSUIT	196	497	263	41	7	1,004
DEFERRED	22	56	12	0	0	90
NON-RECOVERABLE	223	247	11	7	0	488
TOTALS	441	800	286	48	7	1,582

VN = VIETNAM, NORTH
CH = CHINA

VS = VIETNAM, SOUTH
LA = LAOS

CB = CAMBODIA

AMERICAN REMAINS REPATRIATED POST - JANUARY 27, 1973:

VIETNAM	730
CHINA	3
LAOS	289
CAMBODIA	42
TOTAL	1,064

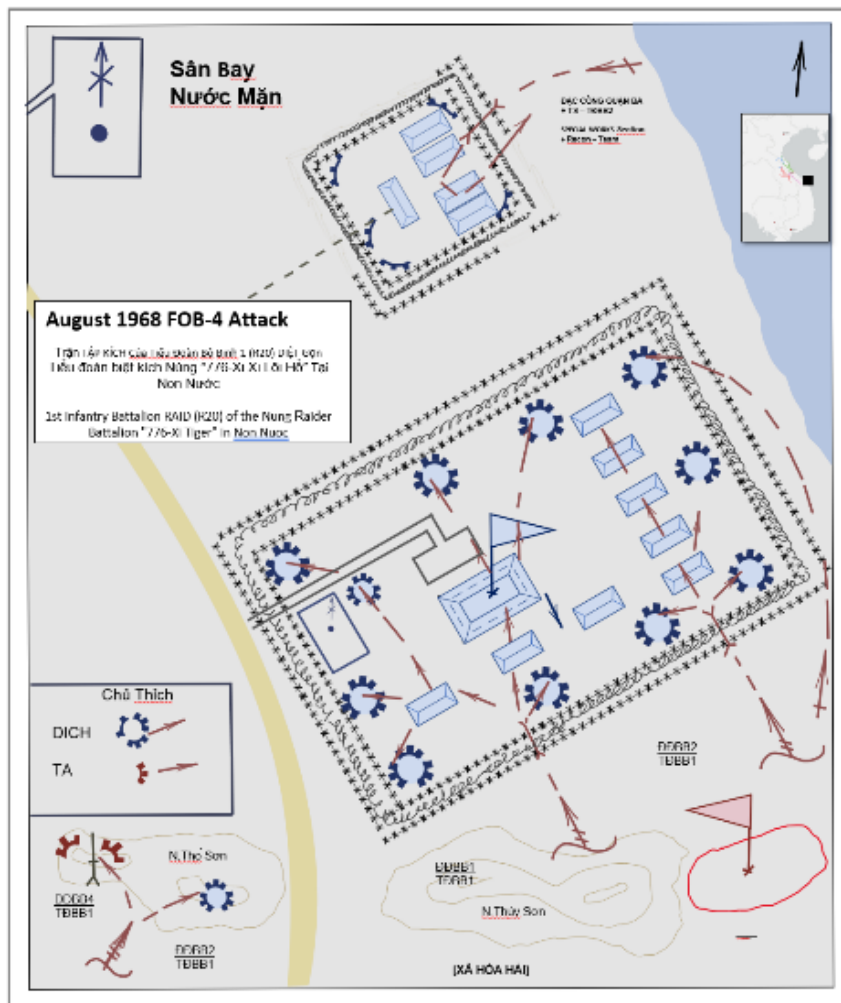
Respectfully submitted,
David Gordon, Chairman

Battle of Trails



The Battle of the Trails presentation was held on Tuesday, the 18th. In it, David Karle presented the summary of his book, the Battle of the Trails, which he is in final revisions on. He expects to publish by summertime. The book covers the entire battle against the trail from North Vietnam to South Vietnam between 1967 and 1971. It includes new details of how the Ho Chi Minh trail operated, an accurate map, and accounts from all sides of the battle in order to paint a comprehensive picture of what really happened. David is actively seeking interviews with veterans of the battle and is especially interested in talking with anyone from SOG who ran missions before 1968, or anyone who worked in S2 or S3 at any time between 1965 and 1971. You can reach him at dkarle@norwich.edu,

or call or text him at (425) 233-9045. Many thanks to Dan Thompson and the many SOG veterans who have already contributed to this multi-year project.



SOA'S MACV-SOG Display

5th SFG(A) Hall of Heroes

My unexpected pleasure of 2021-2022 was the execution of the 5th Group Hall of Heroes MACV-SOG Display, consisting of four mannequins of recon heroes dressed in appropriate period Vietnam kit: MOH Bob Howard, then Sgt. Eldon Bargewell, then Col. Jack Singlaub, and Bong, then Lt. Ken Bowra's interpreter (later executed by the Viet Cong).

It all started with a chat at the September 2021 5th Group reunion at Ft. Campbell between CSM Joshua King and Col. (Ret) Brian Vines, retired SF senior officer and SOA stalwart. Brian called me and advised that the 5th Group Command was interested in recognizing the history of MACV-SOG, whose recon men were 5th Group Special Forces troopers. Could the Special Operations Association help? "Yes," I replied, "but after 2021 SOAR."

I met the Command – CO Colonel Brent Lindeman, CSM Josh King, and others at the funeral for MOH Gary Beikirch in Rochester, NY, in January. The Command, along with 5th Group pall bearers, drove 15 hours from Ft. Campbell in a terrible snowstorm to attend to the burial of a Vietnam 5th Group comrade, I knew right away that the Command were very serious about the MACV-SOG Display at the Hall of Heroes at 5th Group Headquarters at Ft. Campbell. I needed to get my ass in gear.

A team was assembled. We met via Zoom every Friday afternoon for over twenty weeks, planning, budgeting, and executing construction of the display. I made three trips to Campbell throughout the year to work on the project. We prepared the design of the mannequins, a process to execute the procurement – from several countries, and a budget, all designed to complete the project by the 2022 5th Group reunion in September.

A few notes about specific contributions.

- Brian and I were blessed with many hard working and professional comrades. One of our earliest members was MG (Ret) Ken Bowra, a SOG One-Zero. Ken provided many key elements: he suggested that one of the mannequins should be one of our Bru teammates. He selected Bong, Ken's interpreter who was executed by the Viet Cong.
- Ken is also a Board Member of a military museum and is familiar with the mannequin market. We were able to receive the services of the most reputable mannequin manufacturer.
- Ken also brought to the team senior curators of the JFK Special Warfare Center Museum. Ken is the former CG of the SWC Museum (and a former CO of the 5th Group). Roxanne Merritt and Carrie Cutchens are not only expert curators, but also experts in Army Regulations regarding museum contents. When we assembled and kitted out the mannequin displays, Roxanne donated her time to travel to Ft. Campbell to assist in the construction of the displays.
- Another indispensable group came from Great Britain via Rob Graham's Prairie Fire Video Game team. Ken, Tilt Meyer, and Don Haase introduced us to Rob's world-class military kit/re-enactors when they met while developing the video game. Simon Gunning and Olly de Gaston are incredible historians of MACV-SOG gear, down to the threads. If the kit material is not authentic, they reject it. Si and Olly are also experts in worldwide kit procurement and costs, essential elements of building our mannequins. In their private lives, Si is a fraud investigator, and Olly is the Chief Engineer of a British racing car engine manufacturer.

SOA'S MACV-SOG Display

5th SFG(A) Hall of Heroes (Cont'd)

Our Committee business administrators were Museum Committee Chair Bruce Christiansen and the former Chair, Doc Padgett. Bruce kept meticulous records of donations, costs of kits, and oversaw shipment of the pieces and parts to Ft. Campbell.

At Ft. Campbell, Col. Lindeman and CSM King assigned two senior NCOs to assist. SFC Chris McCollum received and accounted for all kit sent to his office. I was physically in his office several times during the project. It was jammed. SFC Blake LeBlanc was in charge of the construction piece at 5th Group and did a wonderful job.

All the while, during preparation, planning and budgeting, Lindeman and King closely monitored our efforts. After our plan was completed, Brian Vines and I traveled to Ft. Campbell to present for Command approval, the plan, the budget, and the schedule for completion. Brian prepared a brilliant PowerPoint of the MACV-SOG display for the Command to review. It was approved.

The last piece was fundraising. Bonnie Cooper provided her usual expertise in presenting to the SOA membership a request for funding. I had budgeted 60 days to raise the funds: our wonderful members and friends contributed our requested amount within 48 hours. We had to shut the request down.

Funding in hand, team members spent hundreds of hours reviewing pictures of our heroes in Vietnam kit, studying not only facial and physical characteristics, but very close detail of recon combat gear.

Come September, the work came to fruition: the mannequins and kit were delivered to Ft. Campbell. Roxanne, Rob Graham, and attendees assisted in finishing touches. It takes hours to dress each mannequin and install each mannequin in the display.

We completed our task within budget and within schedule. We opened the display during the 5th Group Reunion. Pictures of the mannequins are displayed here. Col. Lindeman has asked all of you to come and visit 5th Group Headquarters to see the MACV-SOG display.

I cannot thank the contributors to this wonderful project enough. It will be on display permanently at the 5th Group (and may travel to JFK SWC at Fayetteville, NC) as a memorial to some of the earliest Special Operators, the MACV-SOG recon men. I am proud to have been a SOG recon man.

Doug Godshall



SOA'S MACV-SOG Display

5th SFG(A) Hall of Heroes (Cont'd)



*MG Jack Singlaub (Col)
Chief SOG*



*Bong - RT Sidewinder
interpreter*



*Col Bob Howard (Sgt)
Hatchet Force Plt Sgt*



*MG Eldon Bargewell (Sgt)
RT Michigan 1-0*



SOA Authors' Event

Suffice it to say there has been an abundance of Vietnam books written, both fiction and non-fiction, over the years. What has been, and is being, written about Vietnam War takes up large space. Literally hundreds of thousands of volumes to includes analyses, historical treatments, personal narratives, pamphlets, manuscript documents, archival materials, reliquaries photojournals and fiction; these in English, Vietnamese, French and in a multitude of other Western languages and Indonesian. One requires a taxonomy to divide the subjects and interests of the Vietnam War.

Within that taxonomy is the preeminent SOG sub-set, each book giving voice to a particular authors point of view, whether academically or experiential. *WTF*, by Lynn Black, is experiential, *Bait: The Battle of Kham Duc*, rigorously dry, analytical and certainly historical. Previously, if you wanted your book to get exposure within the SOA community the author had to submit it to be “vetted.” Echoes of earlier times, earlier secrecies.



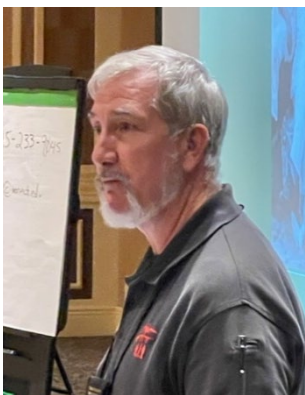
Author John Plaster

But writing a book, whether fiction or nonfiction, requires hundreds, sometimes thousands of tedious hours. It took David Maurer five years to write the first sentence of *The Dying Place*; Steve Sherman and John Plaster have researched extensively for years in order to produce an extensive compilation of stories, pictures, and Order of Battle of SOG. Tilt Myers has chronicled SOG recon men for years, in history and anecdote.

But then there are excellent first-time authors like Roger Lockshier, who wrote *We Saved SOG Souls*, a well-documented saga about the life of a Huey Crew Chief, with the 101st "Black Angels." And if for no other reason than having it in your research library, *Dutch: From Rising Sun to the Rise of Jhad*, by former CIA operator, Kim Kipling, gives us 60 years of insights into a Special Forces legend and “beloved CIA trainer at the “Farm.”



Author Roger Lockshier



Author Kim Kipling

Five years ago Clyde Sincere, President *Emeritus* of the Special Operations Association, loosened the harness straps when he started the SOA Author Book Signing Event. In the process, it became a more egalitarian platform that gave writer unknowns access to the SOA community. It's been a blessing and boon to the SOA community. No longer do you have to be in the pantheon of SOG warriors or authors to have access to SOA readership. The new venue has encouraged and acknowledged everyman's ability to write a story, and express his point of view, in his own voice.

SOA Authors' Event (Cont'd)

But here's the rub—and only you can help—since Covid hit the **audience** of “listeners” has dwindled. True, it's named “Authors Book Signing Event,” but that's a misnomer. Maybe it should be the “Authors Reading Event.” You see it's important for the SOA community to hear the “voices” of their authors. When you hear the authors present, read from their book, tell about themselves, they are seen and their voices are heard. Seeing, hearing, feeling, acknowledging, that's what it's all about. It's like a live concert. You have to be there to catch the vibes.



Author "Dutch" Wierenga



Author Mike Blackwell

So forget about the signing, that comes later if you're interested. It's the audience interaction with the writer, hearing his voice and acknowledging the man that counts most. And next year we may even be giving away books, to further entice you. Of course you can get them signed, and talk to the author, afterward. Put Author's Reading Event on your SOAR calendar, sit back, settle in and enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Thompson



*Author
Jan "Dutch" Wierenga
passed away
January 9, 2023*

“THE MAD APPLE” **by Cirque Du Soleil**

The Mad Apple show at New York-New York was nothing short of spectacular. As always, the attending members were provided with superb super comfort air-conditioned commercial bus transportation by SweeTours Bus lines which arrived promptly and prior to the scheduled arrival time. Upon arrival at the New York Hotel & Casino, our members were allowed to disembark at a location in which the walk to the theatre area was less than 90 seconds. SOAR member attendees were given special permission for an early entry and separate from the general admission pedestrian traffic to our group seating areas.

We were also provided with extra theatre usher personnel whom ensured that our members were seated comfortably, and assisted with their each and every need. A very special “THANK YOU” is herein provided to Mr. Aaron Hinterlightner, Show/Theatre Manager for the Cirque du Soleil entertainment corporation, who so generously provided our members with eighteen (18) additional tickets, after our deadline date for registration. This is an unprecedented action which allowed many of our late registrants to purchase tickets to attend the show. We will also present Mr. Hinterlightner with a SOAR plaque as a small token of our appreciation for his efforts in supporting our organization.

The show was an absolute hit with our members as they were presented with an approximate 90 minutes of sheer laughter and acrobatic entertainment. The event show was a ‘first-of-it’s kind’ at the extravagant 5-star New York-New York Hotel & Casino Resort. The theatre seating was such that member registrants were able to sit with all in their respective parties, as well as



“THE MAD APPLE” Continues

handicapped and/or other mobility challenged members, all of whom were duly accommodated.

After the show, our members returned to the Orleans with full satisfaction that they received much more than what they expected. All members verbally expressed how much fun was had and I even received post-SOAR phone calls expressing how much they enjoyed the show. We look forward to our next SOAR. However, in the meantime, members are encouraged to submit their respective suggestions for future entertainment events.

John Russell – Entertainment Chair
Judith Russell: Co-Chair
Linda Leavitt: Co-chair
Janet McGovern: Co-chair



“SOG - Prairie Fire” by Savage Game Design

Rob Graham and crew of Savage Game Design attended SOAR this year to showcase the Arma 3 Military Simulation video game, SOG Prairie Fire, to SOAR attendees. A large TV was placed in the hospitality suite and the Savage crew hooked up their laptop computers to it to demonstrate the game’s assets and how it works. The Savage team was surprised to find that several SOG veterans already play the Arma 3 PC game. A number of free Game Keys were given out to veterans and veteran family members who play games on a PC.



SGD game demo station



Vietnamese RT members and Kingbee pilots

Members and their families were impressed with the accuracy of the FOB layouts, recon kits, weapons, and aircraft. Vietnamese members of the SOA quickly befriended the Savage team when they discovered their Kingbees, LLDB, and recon teams were included in the game. SOA members John “Tilt” Stryker- Meyer, MG Ken Bowra (ret), Jim “Wild Carrot” Shorten, Don Haase, Dick Thompson, and other veterans advised the Savage team during the three years it took to develop the game. Many friends were made between Veterans and families, and the game team during the three and a half days of SOAR.

Rob also brought a professional filmmaker, Paul Hilderbrandt, who interviewed American and Vietnamese SOG recon team members, and various aviation crew members including Kingbees. Rob’s plan is to make a documentary accurately portraying SOG and America’s role in the Vietnam war to a younger generation that is keen to learn more about SOG and the men who served in it. Along with their “Fallen Comrades.”

If you or a family member are interested in the game, contact one of the advisers listed above.



SOA advisers and Savage Game Design designers

General Membership Meeting



President Godshall called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1331 Wednesday, October 19th. There were 60 general members in attendance.

Treasurer Devon, SOAF Executive Director Padgett, and Chairmen Owens, Whitt, and Russell presented their respective reports. President Godshall addressed the remaining agenda items. These reports can be found in the Meeting Minutes which follow.

The reports were followed by the presentation of Director Awards for departing Directors “Doc” Padgett and Chris McClure and the swearing in of re-elected Treasurer Devon, and newly elected Directors David Gordon and Ron Owens.



Retiring Director McClure



Retiring Director Padgett



Devon, Gordon, Owens

President Godshall and Membership Chairman Joe Wilson presented Tenure pins to many of the 33 members registered for SOAR XLVI. President Godshall closed the meeting with Good of the Order matters and adjourned the meeting at 1450 PDT.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES
19 October 2022
The Orleans Hotel & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada

- I. Call to Order *1331 PDT* President Godshall
- II. Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms - *Ron Owens, George Sternberg, Robert Taylor, Tim Schaff* President Godshall
- III. Pledge of Allegiance President Godshall
- IV. Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs, and POWs Chaplain Hanson
- V. Roll Call – SOA Board of Officers/Directors Secretary Jensen
President Godshall, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Padgett, Director McClure, Director Rivero, Director Haase, Director Whitt
- VI. SOA Special Staff Members Present President Godshall
Ray Frovarp, Joe Wilson, Horace Boner, John Russell
- VII. Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum present President Godshall
General Members present, 60. A quorum was present.
- VIII. General Member’s Approval of GMM Agenda. President Godshall
President Godshall called for a motion to approve the agenda. George Metz so moved, Glen Nickel seconded the motion which carried unanimously.
- IX. Business Meeting:
- A. Regular Business:
1. Approve SOAR XLV General Membership Mtg Minutes (SOAR XLVI PRP) President Godshall
President Godshall asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (20 Oct 2021). Joe Wilson so moved, George Metz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
2. Financial Reports (See AAR Reports) Treasurer Devon
- SOA – A 501(c)19 corporation. The Balance Sheet shows a total of \$529,000 assets, \$20,000 of temporary liabilities for the scholarships, and \$509,000 of equity. The Total Assets and Liabilities comparison is \$129,000 on a year over year basis. The income during the nine-month year to date period is \$162,000.
 - SOAF- A 501(c)3 corporation. The Balance Sheet shows a total of \$20,000 assets, \$0 liabilities, and \$20,000 of equity. The Total Liabilities and Equity comparison year over year is \$6,000. The \$1,391 loss year to date shows healthy foundation activities.

3. SOA Foundation Report Ex Dir Padgett

The Foundation has had three major accomplishments to date this year. The first was assisting active-duty Special Forces Operators with a \$5,000 grant for their child's leukemia medical expenses; secondly, the Foundation assisted with \$1,000 grant for the reception expenses for MG (Ret) Jack Singlaub's ANC interment; and third, the Foundation has established a maximum grant fund of \$10,000 to assist members recovery from Hurricane Ian – two \$500 grants currently being processed.

4. By-Laws Committee Report (By-Laws Revision) President Godshall

President Godshall explained that the purpose of the revision is to stagger the terms of the SOA President and Vice President.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION THAT SOA BYLAWS ARTICLE V, SECTIONS D.1 AND D.3 SHALL BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

“D. TERMS--ONE THIRD OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL BE ELECTED EVERY YEAR FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM BY ABSENTEE OR ELECTRONIC BALLOT AND WITHIN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED REUNION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

1. THE BASE YEAR FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERMS OF THE PRESIDENT, TREASURER AND DIRECTOR PLACE 1 IS 2002.
3. THE BASE YEAR FOR THE THREE-YEAR TERMS OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR PLACE 4 AND DIRECTOR PLACE 5 IS 2004.”

RESOLVED, THIS THE 17th DAY OF March, 2022.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION.

President Godshall called for motion to approve the revision. George Metz so moved, David Gordon seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

5. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. President Godshall

The George C. Morton Scholarship Fund has awarded 10 scholarships for the 2022/23 academic year. A \$2,000 grant has been awarded to each scholarship recipient for the first semester, and ten \$2,000 grants are in reserve for the second semester.

6. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Owens

The Brightlight program is doing very well monetarily. Chairman Owens needs each and everyone of the members to carry the program forward to those who need financial assistance to attend SOAR. Care must be taken not to insult or challenge members, but to quietly advise them that the Brightlight program's mission is to assist in returning members to SOAR. Assistance can be for travel, meals, or perhaps care givers.

7. SOA Warrior's Family Fund Committee Report President Godshall

President Godshall reported that the WFF had two requests for assistance, one was granted, and one was determined to be ineligible. There was also a \$500 stipend given for Jim McIlroy's funeral.

8. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report President Godshall

The Bill Sylvester Tally Committee processed 197 ballots, 169 electronic and 28 paper ballots.

Treasurer Devon received 191 votes. David Gordon and Ron Owens received 181 votes each.

9. SOA Riders Committee Report Chairman Whitt
The SOA Riders is an organization that is focused on Brightlight. Every year the Riders conduct a ride for several days within the U.S. On the last day of each ride, there is a gathering at a military memorial where the names of our 131 unaccounted for are read. All donations are presented to the Brightlight Fund
There 18 riders present at SOAR this year. Next year, the ride is scheduled for 7-10 June in Morristown, Tennessee
10. SOA Entertainment Committee Report Chairman Russell
This year's fantastic show had 86 attendees signed up, but 18 additional guests were accommodated with extra tickets from New York, New York. Chairman Russell was truly grateful for the Group Sales gentlemen responsible for putting on an outstanding event for the SOA.
11. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Godshall
President Godshall thanked Chris McClure and John "Doc" Padgett for their years of service to the SOA Board of Directors and presented them with Director Awards.
12. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Godshall
 - Treasurer – Phil Devon
 - Director 4 – David Gordon
 - Director 5 – Ron Owens
13. Non-Valor Award Presentations President Godshall–Member chair
 - Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members
 - Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members
 - Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members
 - Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members
 - Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members*President Godshall and Chairman Joe Wilson presented Tenure Pins to many of the 33 members registered for SOAR.*

B. New Business:

- X. For the Good of the Order President Godshall
- *Cliff Newman asked the remaining number of SOA members - President Godshall estimated 12-13 hundred. Newman said that the SOA needs to get the word out to enlist new members. President Godshall said that a band of 5th SFG troops, potential new members, arrived at SOAR Tuesday.*
Membership Committee Chair Joe Wilson stated his view, many of the younger warriors are still active-duty, working, and/or raising a family. They tend to shy away from membership until they retire. He feels as though meeting potential members face to face is more productive than Ads. President Godshall commented on pressing the flesh during his numerous trips to Bragg, Campbell, and ANC this year.
 - *A member said that he did not receive an electronic or paper ballot for this year's election. President Godshall replied that the SOA has a good system, but will check into his comment.*
 - *Other items of interest –*

- *GoFundMe effort for Spider Parks*
- *Return to The Plaza and Fremont Street*
- *Revisit setting up a shooting event*
- *Expand outings such as shows, shopping, other activities*

XI. Meeting Adjournment: *1450 PDT*

Respectfully Submitted by

Duffy Jensen

Duffy Jensen

Secretary, Special Operations Association

SOA/SOAF Financials

Special Operations Association, Inc.

Balance Sheet - Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2022

	<u>As of Dec 31, 2022</u>	<u>As of Dec 31, 2021</u>
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts		
Checking Operations *4345	5,750	4,901
WF Operating Savings *0541	262,134	169,560
Total SOA Non-Restricted Accounts	\$ 267,884	\$ 174,461
SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543		
Brightlight Restricted Acct.	31,720	31,974
George C. Morton Scholarship Restricted Acct.	42,222	56,724
LifeMbrship Fund-Board Restricted	66,632	54,038
POW/MIA Restricted Savings	36,499	11,987
SOA Warriors Family Fund-Restricted Acct.	7,520	9,204
Video/Archives Restricted	13,649	20,009
Total SOA Restricted Accounts - 2543	\$ 198,241	\$ 183,936
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 466,125	\$ 358,396
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 466,125	\$ 358,396
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities	500	0
Scholarship Temporary Liability	20,000	12,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 20,500	\$ 12,000
Equity		
Net Assets (Retained Earnings)	346,396	186,572
Net Income	99,229	159,824
Total Equity	\$ 445,625	\$ 346,396
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 466,125	\$ 358,396

SOA/SOAF Financials

Special Operations Association, Inc.

Profit and Loss Comparison 2022 - 2021 - Cash Basis

January - December 2022

	<u>Jan - Dec 2022</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2021</u>
Income		
Contributions	190,075	221,318
Fund Raising	14,365	14,665
Membership Dues	29,035	25,405
Quarter Master Sales	29,378	53,633
Reunion Income	104,291	115,492
Miscellaneous Income	1,864	1,029
Total Income	\$ 369,008	\$ 431,541
Expenses		
AAR Production	9,508	13,218
Administrative Expenses	46,394	46,014
Advertising/Promotional	0	6,840
Fund Raising Expenses	5,806	1,679
PRP Production	9,114	9,218
Quarter Master Cost	32,908	40,570
Reunion Expense	124,899	135,225
Scholarship Expenses	40,000	16,500
Travel	1,150	2,453
Total Expenses	\$ 269,779	\$ 271,717
Net Income	\$ 99,229	\$ 159,824

SOA/SOAF Financials

Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.

Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2022

	<u>As of Dec 31, 2022</u>	<u>As of Dec 31, 2021</u>
ASSETS		
Bank Accounts		
SOA Foundation Checking BOA	4,940	10,073
SOA Foundation savings	27,158	12,157
Total Bank Accounts	<u>\$ 32,098</u>	<u>\$ 22,230</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 32,098</u>	<u>\$ 22,230</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	22,230	8,468
Net Revenue	9,868	13,762
Total Equity	<u>\$ 32,098</u>	<u>\$ 22,230</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$ 32,098</u>	<u>\$ 22,230</u>

SOA/SOAF Financials

Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.

Statement of Activity 2022-2021 Comparison - Cash Basis

January - December 2022

	<u>Jan - Dec 2022</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 2021</u>
Revenue		
Contributions Income	21,625	35,733
Quartermaster Sales	1,546	0
Total Revenue	\$ 23,171	\$ 35,733
Expenditures		
Bank Charges	175	322
Charitable Contributions	9,000	20,500
Legal & Professional Fees	425	0
Office Expenses	885	469
Quartermaster Inventory Expense	1,660	0
WEB Expenses	1,157	680
Total Expenditures	\$ 13,302	\$ 21,971
Net Revenue	\$ 9,868	\$ 13,762

Special Operations Association Foundation Report

The Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF) has, with the assistance and cooperation of the Board of Trustees, made significant progress in reviving the Foundation as an effective part of the Special Operations community.

In addition to a revival of the SOAF, we have seen the successful formation of the Special Operations Association Foundation Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC). This committee, with its own policies, procedures, and operating fund serves as an adjunct and resource for the SOAF, as well as the Chaplain.

The accomplishments for the SOAF this year include the following:

- Provided a grant for non-covered expenses to the active duty Special Operations parents of “Baby Xavier”, a child with Leukemia. The child is currently doing well.
- Assisted in funding for the reception at MAJ GEN Jack Singlaub’s funeral
- Established the Hurricane Ian Relief Fund for SOA members impacted by the storm. To date, two SOA members have received grants from the Fund to help them in this troubled time
- Provided a grant to help repatriate the remains of an SOA member back to the US

At SOAR 2022, the Foundation was present in the exhibit hall where we sold Foundation T-shirts and golf shirts, as well as offering some raffle items. The Bowling for the Foundation fund raising event went well overall, some initial problems notwithstanding. The 5th SFG(A) Command Element joined the SOA rowdies for a fun evening. While we anticipated using two bowling lanes for our event, we actually used five! The Orleans bowling manager was most helpful. He accommodated us even though it was a league bowling night. There was a prize for high score (a stylish and attractive SOAF T-shirt), and a drawing was held for a gift basket donated by the Orleans.

In conclusion, the Exec Dir wishes to thank all the Trustees who have contributed their time and effort to the SOAF, the SOAF Auxiliary for all their help at SOAR and beyond, our contributors and those who purchased shirts and raffle tickets. Every purchase or contribution helps the Foundation support the SOA membership and the Special Operations community

Respectfully submitted,
John E. Padgett
Executive Director

Special Operations Association Foundation – Auxiliary Report

Since the inception of the Auxiliary Committee one year ago, the committee has been busy. Over the year we have had three Zoom calls and the membership now is 26 members, with many who have paid the \$25 annual dues. The following is what has transpired: Three areas of engagement were identified which are Survivor Support, Camaraderie, and Support for the SOA. These are our accomplishments so far:

1. Over ten support calls to a newly widowed SOA member
2. Establishment of a social event for spouses of the SOA at the SOAR
3. Support for the Bright Light program
4. Creation of an FAQ sheet with information for the Scholarship Program
5. Liaison with the VA to have a speaker for spouses at the SOAR
6. Established a relationship with the Community Programs and Peer Network Coordinator at Ft. Bragg
7. Developed SOAFAC note cards to send to members who have been ill or in need of support
8. Created SOAFAC shirts to identify our members
9. Volunteered to help man (or woman!) the SOAF table at the SOAR
10. Through two generous donators, obtained a Vietnam quilt and stained glass which were raffled at SOAR

The SOAFAC had its annual meeting at this year's SOAR. Over 26 were in attendance, with many new members. To break the ice, the meeting began with several games of Bingo accompanied with chocolate dipped strawberries and brownies! The energy and enthusiasm were palpable! The following are the highlights of what was discussed at the meeting:

1. Survivor Support- Ann Duff from the VA gave a presentation on survivor benefits. This generated so much interest that she has agreed to host zoom meetings for those interested.
2. Camaraderie- For next year's SOAR, tables will be set aside in the hospitality suite dedicated for the SOAFAC. All are welcome to drop by and catch up. In addition, social events during next year's SOAR are being planned.
3. Support for the SOAF and SOA- A Facebook page is being developed to help with fundraising. Also, recruitment efforts to identify new SOA members are underway.

The next SOAFAC meeting will be in January via Zoom. Please join us as we continue our journey!

For information or comments, please contact Vicki Chan-Padgett at vickichanpadgett@yahoo.com

Registrar's Report

The 46th SOA Reunion was held at the Orleans Hotel & Casino during the week of October 17, 2022.

482 members and guests celebrated in fellowship and camaraderie.

198	General
11	Associate
4	Operational Associate
14	Honorary
6	Warrior's Widows
249	Guests
482	Total attendees

Due to sickness, my wife and I were not able to attend this year; however, I was there in spirit and want to say THANK YOU to all the members and guests who volunteered this year. Your service is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our reunions.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ivan Davis



Membership Report

The Membership Committee has been active this year processing the many dues submissions, changes in contact information for members, and archiving the member files of our members who have been reported deceased.

For the Special Operations Association to continue in the future, we believe that it takes personal contact with potential members to have influence. This was demonstrated by the visit of several SOA members to the 5th SFG(A) at Ft. Campbell earlier this year which resulted in several new members.

The breakdown of new membership activity is as follows:

- Received Applications: 57
- Approved Applications: 41 (one MOH recipient)
 - Post-Vietnam: 29
 - Vietnam: 12

We continue to ask that the SOA membership continue as SOA ambassadors to the various Special Operations units around the country by arranging visits or when meeting potential members. We stand ready to provide administrative backup, SOA pamphlets, and immediate advice by email, text, and phone call during those meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Wilson
Membership Chairman



Fundraising Report

I would like to Congratulate the winners of our AAR and PRP Raffles. Mike Vermillion won the AAR SIG 365 XL. Ernie Jensen won the PRP Texas Patterson Commemorative 36 Caliber Percussion Pistol. Bob Sinton won the Beautiful Quilt Bonnie donated to the SOAR Raffle. Again, Congratulations to all including the winners of the SOAR raffle items.

Our income from the Raffles is: AAR \$8,595, PRP \$5,770, and SOAR Raffle \$2,111. That is a Total of \$16,476 raised.

I would like to thank everyone that purchased tickets for supporting our Association. Good Luck Next Year!!

Cheers,
Rich Mallowney
Fundraising Chair



George C. Morton Scholarship Report

For the Academic year 2022-23, SOA awarded TEN scholarships (up from eight last year) to applicants who were relatives of SOA members who met the criteria as outlined in Annex J of the SOA by-laws. These awards are now \$4000 per school year (up from \$3000 last year) and are available for children, grandchildren, and now great-grandchildren of SOA members in good standing in the organization, and who are 21 years of age or under. Eligibility also includes progeny of MIA/KIA servicemembers who WOULD HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE for SOA membership. For more details, refer to the SOA website or contact the Committee Chair (see below).

EVALUATORS NEEDED: Evaluation and ranking of scholarship candidates are performed by SOA members who volunteer for this task. For the 2022 year, 14 SOA evaluators participated, reading through over 400 pages of applications. Again, SOA is requesting volunteers to serve as evaluators of the scholarship applications. ANY CURRENT SOA MEMBER can be an evaluator, as long as there is no conflict of interest re. sponsoring a relative who is an applicant. One major stipulation is you must have computer access. If interested in being an Evaluator, please contact Scholarship Committee Chair (below).

2023-24 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION: The 2023-24 scholarship application will be available at the end of DEC 22, downloadable from the SOA website, or by contacting the Committee Chair. The absolute no-excuses deadline for email submission or postmark is Friday, 15APR2023. Get your relatives energized to apply!

For more information about the Scholarship Program (or to volunteer to evaluate the applications for 2023-24), check the SOA Scholarship website, or contact Steve Yevich at syevich@Hotmail.com.

Video History and Archive Report

It was great seeing everyone at SOAR XLVI. The video history project was able to record six new interviews and added information to two existing interviews done in 2021. We are always looking for new content on all areas of MACV-SOG operations and these interviews covered the 1-0 school at Long Thanh and what was taught there. We are always looking for more information on areas that we have little or no information on. One such area is the Naval Advisory Detachment that was responsible for training and launching agent teams, Singleton agents and sabotage teams into North Vietnam by boat. The Vietnamese Coastal Security Service also trained and operated from the NAD. Anyone who has information on the NAD and its function please contact me. We would like to set up an interview with you if possible at SOAR in October 2023.

I would like to thank Billy Hoopes for the great display of current SCUBA gear that he brought to SOAR this year. I appreciate the effort on his part to pack his car full of the gear used by SF ODAs in carrying out their missions worldwide. It was a great display and hope Billy will be able to do a few more displays in the future. I would also like to thank Ron “Big O” Owens for donating a sorely needed backup drive to the Video History Project. We now have over 160 Interviews and were running out of storage space on the backup drives we bought ten years ago. While the Video History Project is short on funds at this time, please remember that you can also help by donating much needed new equipment. If you can help out with some of our needs, please contact me using the information provided below. Also, this year marks the departure of Shirley Williams from her role supporting the Special Operations Association Archives and Video History Project. Shirley has given freely of her time and money over the years helping to sustain the VHP, but a family situation requires her attention and will likely keep her from attending future SOA reunions. We wish her well and will leave a place open at the archive table should she be able to attend in the future. I would also like to thank Kenyon Smith for all the hard work he freely contributes at SOAR. He’s been getting the job done for the archives and VHP for about five years now and helps keep things running smoothly for us during the reunion.

As a reminder, the SOA Archives is looking for more items of historical nature to be displayed during SOAR. Please contact me if you have anything of interest that will help preserve the history of Special Operations that you would like to donate.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next reunion.

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



Warrior's Family Fund Report

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

For SOAR XLVI, the Warrior Family Fund (WFF) supported attendance at SOAR XLVI by a single SOA Family Member. Another request for assistance to attend was received but, after research, it was determined that SOA member criteria was not met; therefore, the request was not supported.

Additionally, the WFF provided a \$500 donation in August to support funeral expenses of SOA member James Mcilroy.

The WFF actively seeks membership to inquire regarding the availability of assistance to family members who may require assistance to attend SOAR. Send the inquiry and contact information; the WFF Chair and the SOA BOD will consider, support, or possibly provide alternative solutions.

Respectfully submitted,
Horace Boner, Chairman



Brightlight Committee Report

The Brightlight (BL) Committee stands by to welcome applications from SOA Members who, due to extenuating circumstances, cannot afford to attend the annual SOAR in Las Vegas. The Fund is both well-prepared and well-funded to assist those in need.

The Committee reviewed a total of six applications for SOAR XLVI (2022). In the end, most of those members were unable to attend due to unexpected family agendas or medical issues, so only one application was approved. That member attended SOAR and was pleased that he had applied and was grateful for the assistance. Additionally, he became active in several different programs and volunteered to assist when he could.

** NOTE: There was a presentation at the SOAR SOAFAC meeting regarding utilizing wives/partners/friends to help identify those that would be interested in BL consideration. **

We continue to seek out and encourage those members who might know of -OR- who personally might need this program of assistance. As of this date - NO – **BL** applications have been received for SOAR in 2023. We encourage the membership at large to offer suggestions and ideas on assisting members who could use these benefits. It's difficult, to say the least, to get someone to ask for and agree to this well-earned assistance!

It's been my experience that the perception of **BL** is one where individuals do not want to ask for help - AND - if this program is to succeed, that ideology must be changed to a more positive direction. I am working on this and discussing it with others (in confidence). Any suggestions from membership are welcome.

The Brightlight Mission

Brightlight traditionally has and will fund - in part or all of the following: Air transportation; SOAR registration; hotel rooms; and a limited daily allowance for miscellaneous expenses. In addition, funding for select SOAR events such as a Memorial Breakfast may be approved. The **BL** Committee will also consider funding caregivers for members requiring ambulatory or other assistance on a case-by-case basis.

Contact information is below. The Committee will provide you with all requirements. It is a painless process. The names of all candidates are kept confidential and known only to the Bright light Committee and select members of the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Owens 2164GL
Committee Chair

Ron Owens, adventure4u@aol.com
Rick Grabianowski, rick@grabianowski.com
Tim Schaaf, schaafnt@msm.com

Election Tally Report

To: Doug Godshall, President, SOA Board of Directors

10-15-2022

From: Ray Frovarp, Tally Committee Chairman

Subject: RESULTS OF THE BALLOT COUNT FOR THE 2022 ELECTION.

The SOA Board employed an electronic balloting system beginning with the 2022 election of SOA Board Officers and Directors.

In August 2022, over 1200 ballots were distributed to eligible members. Ninety percent (90%) had an email on file and received their ballot via email; the remaining did not have an email and received theirs USPS.

The advantages to using online voting are:

- Vote anytime, anywhere, using any electronic device - computer, laptop, phone, etc.
- No delays in eligible members receiving ballots.
 - 2022 return rate was 17.5%, an excellent result for an uncontested election.
- Eliminated errors previously seen on paper ballots.
- Increased accuracy in tallying votes.
- Saved SOA revenues.

2022 ELECTION RESULTS

The Tally Committee met in Las Vegas on October 15 and tallied the votes.

#	Candidate	Position
193	Phil Devon	Treasurer
181	David Gordon	Director at large
181	Ron Owens	Director at large

Future elections will follow the new procedures, so be sure your contact and email information is accurate. An Update Contact information form is available in this publication and on the SOA website.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Frovarp, Chairman

Tally Committee

910 850 4646

rmfrovarp@gmail.com

Tenure Pin Recipients Present at SOAR

20 Year Status



Albert Merriman

Destine, Dan Nguyen	2294-O
Early, John D.	2242-G
Hoopes, William C.	2254-A
Merriman, Albert J.	2244-G
Pham, Hoa Van	2212-O
Schuerenberg, Jr, Paul M.	2276-G
Wheeler, James D.	2218-G

25 Year Status

Atwell, Ronald G.	1542-G
Caram, Meredith H.	1544-G
Hall, Richard B.	1494-G
Larson, Keith A.	1520-G
Nguyen, David Thanh	1478-G
Pope, Reinald L.	1535-G
Ramsey, Robert W.	1472-G
Tilly, Leonard W.	1495-G



Hall, Caram, Nguyen, Pope, Tilly

30 Year Status

Betterton, Dale C.	1061-G
Dwyer, Michael	1057-A
Parnar, Joseph F.	1041-G
Pointon, George E.	1090-G
Stoddard, Jim R.	1084-G
Wang, John B.	1092-G



Betterton, Parnar, Stoddard

35 Year Status



McClure, Brady, Beck, Randall

Beck, Manuel R.	780-G
Brady, Martin	777-G
McClure, Christopher E.	770-G
Randall, Charles M.	789-G
Sherman, Stephen G.	759-G

40 Year Status

Coady, Neil P.	565-G
Kull, John F.	538-G
Neamtz, Pete	553-G
Meyer, John S.	492-g
Schaaf, Timothy K.	549-G
Shippen, Robert	540-g
Werther, William S.	497-G



Coady, Meyer, Schaaf, Werther

Bulleit Frontier Whiskey Liquor Tasting

The Annual SOA Liquor Tasting event was held on Wednesday afternoon following the SOA General Membership Meeting. Being connoisseurs of all things alcohol related, 50 “SOA Tasters” were present. BULLEIT Rye and Bourbon whiskeys were the focus and included a brief discussion of the criteria of each.

The Diageo liquor vendor, arranged by the Orleans Catering staff, did a superb presentation. Many favorable comments were made by those in attendance. Chatting with Orleans staff subsequent to the event resulted in the rumor that the Diageo organization might present a Scotch focused theme next year. This would explore the Johnny Walker family of Scotch whiskeys.



Nominating Committee Report

The Nomination Committee had a disappointing year in 2022. Earlier in the year, we had five candidates lined up for the three positions that were open for election this year. By the time we submitted the names for publication in the PRP, that number shrunk to three, all of whom were sworn in during SOAR.

Here is how the SOA handles nominations process and the three-year election cycles. With nine elected positions, every year three positions are up for election by the SOA membership. To be an eligible for election, a candidate must be an Annual or Life General Members in good standing and have attended at least one of the last three SOARs, including the day before the General Membership Meeting (GMM), the General Membership Meeting and the Banquet prior to running for office.

Composition – The SOA Board of Directors shall consist of the four Officers (the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and five Directors (Director Place 1, Director Place 2, Director Place 3, Director Place 4 and Director Place 5).

Terms – One third of the Members of the Association’s Board of Directors shall be elected every year for a three-year term by absentee ballot and within 60 days prior to a scheduled reunion of the Association.

The base year for the three-year terms of the President, Treasurer, and Director Place 1 is 2002.

The positions up for election in 2023 are:

1. President
2. Treasurer
3. Director Place 1

**** *These positions will be served through SOAR L (2026)* ****

The committee hopes that SOA members will consider stepping up to the plate to serve the SOA, especially with many SOA members retiring from full-time jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Meyer
SOA#492
SFA # 238

MAC V SOG

TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY

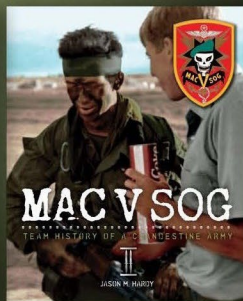
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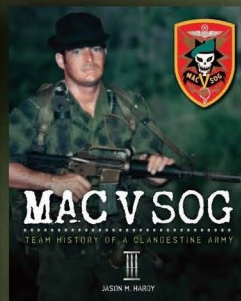
VOLUME 1

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



VOLUME 2

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



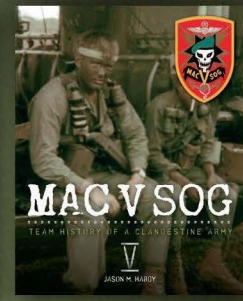
VOLUME 3

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



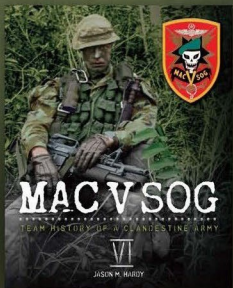
VOLUME 4

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



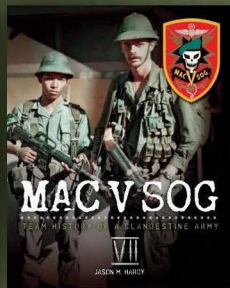
VOLUME 5

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



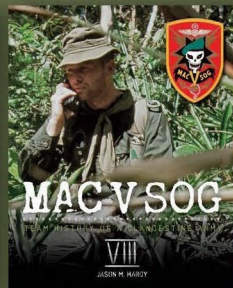
VOLUME 6

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



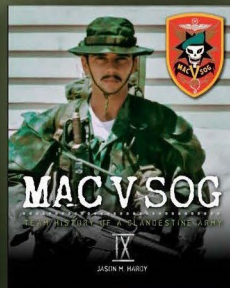
VOLUME 7

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



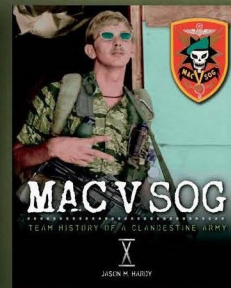
VOLUME 8

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



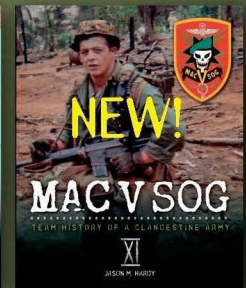
VOLUME 9

RT Arkansas (CCC)
RT Moccasin (CCN)
RT Ohio (CCN)
RT Rattler (CCN)



VOLUME 10

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



VOLUME 11

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

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

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PLAQUES

- CCS / CCC / CCN \$500 to \$1000
- Omega \$500 to \$1000
- Sigma \$500 to \$700
- Phoenix \$500 to \$700
- Mike \$500 to \$700
- Other SF Plaques \$250 to \$500

UNIFORMS

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

HEADGEAR

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

LIGHTERS

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

SOG IDENTIFICATION CARDS

- SOG ID's \$250
- Team Calling Cards \$150
- Others \$75

FIGHTING KNIVES

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

EQUIPMENT

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

CAPTURED ITEMS

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

INSIGNIA

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

Southern Brotherhood Breakfast

Roughly eighty people registered for this year's Southern Brotherhood Breakfast. Rumor has it that Col Lindeman and CSM King of 5th Group even joined us for breakfast.

This year it was a low-key event. A prayer led breakfast. After the meal, the traditional reading of our fallen was done by Leonard Moreau and Bob Bost for the fallen SOG brothers, John Thompson read the names of the Green Hornet's fallen, and Duffy Jensen read the names of the fallen from the 195th and 155th AHCs.

No one took up the mics this year, everyone just enjoyed camaraderie among the groups. As always, various bands of brothers took the opportunity to capture their compatriots in group photos.



Airborne Insertions/Operations Symposium

The Aviation Symposium was scheduled to begin at 1130 on 20 October. Originally the host was Mike Taylor who sadly passed away before the event. Cancelling the event was considered, however, it was decided to continue in honor of Mike. President Godshall asked me (Cliff Newman) to step up. I decided to do so especially after talking to Mike's widow, Laura, who thanked me for taking the lead. Fortunately, I had some of Mike's notes and the power point he had put together.

The symposium did not start until about 20 minutes late due to the previous session running overtime and a problem arose with the power point computer. Thanks to Bonnie Cooper and two NCO's from the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), this problem was quickly resolved.

After a moment of silence for Mike, I gave an outline of what would be discussed and introduced the participants.

1. I gave a brief history of Special Forces Airborne operations going back to the early days of White Star and continuing through later days of Vietnam. There were a couple I did not have any record of and, unfortunately, missed mentioning them. I then listed the SOG combat jumps including 11 static line and 5 HALO, and named the participants. The following jumps were discussed by those involved:



Robb and Ramsey w/prisoners

2. RT Asp, 9 September 1970. Bob Ramsey gave an account of this historic static line jump from 400 ft. without reserves or helmets. Jumpers were him and Garry Robb.

3. RT Florida, 28 November 1970, first recorded combat HALO insertion from 17,000 ft. at 0200. Jumpers were Mel Hill (one-zero), myself, Sammy Hernandez, two Rhade Montagnards, and one ARVN.



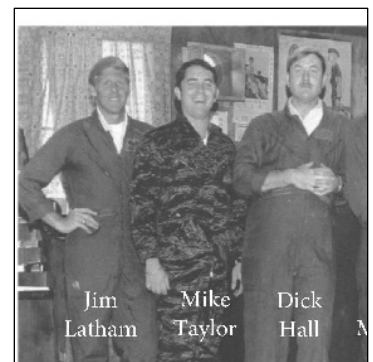
Hernandez and Newman

a. I gave an account of how I got involved and what led up to the actual mission. I discussed some of our training, with the assistance of the 1st SFG (A) on Okinawa and some of the problems we encountered. I told of being the first jumper to leave the ramp and entering a rainstorm. I cited the homing device (beacon) I carried did not function in the wet weather and that I later found that we were about 10 km. from the planned LZ. We never did link up on the ground and were in 4 separate groups.

b. Sammy Hernandez discussed more of our training. He told of going into a "survival" mode being alone on the ground.

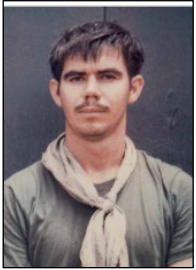
c. NAIL FAC pilot, Jim Latham, related how he and Covey (Mike Taylor) finally located me after 3 days because of the cloud cover and that they could not begin our recovery for another 3 days because of the weather.

d. NAIL FAC pilot Dick Hall with Covey (Al Mosiello) how he orchestrated our recovery from the 4 locations.



Jim Latham Mike Taylor Dick Hall

Airborne Insertions/Operations Symposium (Cont'd)



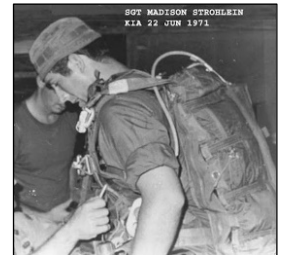
Trantanella

RT Manes, 2nd combat HALO insertion, 7 May 1971. Jumpers, Larry Manes (one-zero), Noel Gast, Bob Castillo, John Trantanella. John reported how Noel Gast was seriously injured when some anti-personnel mines (toe-poppers) detonated when he landed.



Billy Waugh

4. RT Waugh, 3rd combat HALO insertion, 22 June 1971. Jumpers, Billy Waugh (one-zero), JD Bath, Jesse Campbell, Madison Strohle (only person to be KIA on a combat HALO mission. His body was not recovered, but he was reported to have died in captivity). Nick Brokhausen was on the Bright Light team that attempted to locate Strohle and the circumstances of his capture.



Madison Strohle

5. RT Washington, 5th and final combat HALO insertion for SOG operations, 11 October 1971. Jumpers, Bob McNier (one-zero), Howard Sugar, Richard Gross, Mark Gentry, Charles Behler. Howard Sugar recounted how he is one of the two living members from the five who made this jump. Howard discussed the trials, tribulations and actions that led up to this final jump.



Howard Sugar

The symposium ended at 1300. I closed, reading from Mike's notes, how he wanted to pay tribute to Billy Waugh for his contributions to the SOG Airborne, especially HALO, operations.

Respectfully,

Cliff Newman
SOA #6-GL

SOAR XLVI Banquet

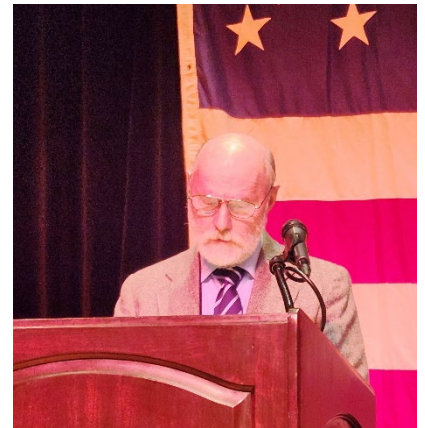


SOAR XLVI Banquet (Cont'd)

The SOAR XLVI Banquet was the culmination of a very busy week. More than 400 members and guest gathered together for Thursday evening's festivities in the Mardi Gras Ballroom. Spirited camaraderie and fine dining was once again enjoyed by all.

Nellis AFB Color Guard posted the Colors, Debra Sinyard sang the National Anthem, Chaplain Dale Hanson gave the Invocation, and Jack Kull described the symbolism on the Missing Man Table.

President Godshall led the Pledge of Allegiance and toasts to the Commander in Chief, military branches, special operators, allies, and, of course, the Ladies.



45 Year Pin Ceremony

President Godshall presented Bobby Leites, Dave Maurer, and Sammy Hernandez 45 Year Tenure Pins.

Others who achieved 45 Year status

J.D. Bath, Robert Masterjoseph, Lemuel McGlothren, Jesse Siglow, Herb Siugzda, and James Slatton

SOAR XLVI Banquet (Cont'd)

SOA Awards



President's Award to Bruce Christensen for heading the committee responsible for organizing SOA's MACVSOG display at 5th SFG(A) Hall of Heroes.



President's Award to Treasurer Phil Devon for stepping forward as acting SOAR Chairman for 2021 & 2022



Generous Donor Award to Shirley Williams



Generous Donor Award to Aaron & Brittany Wright



Donor Award to Charles Daily



Don Haase - Certificate of Appreciation for contribution to MACVSOG display



5th SFG(A) CSM King - Certificate of Appreciation for contribution to MACVSOG display



5th SFG(A) SFC McCollum - Certificate of Appreciation for contribution to MACVSOG display

SOAR XLVI Banquet (Cont'd)



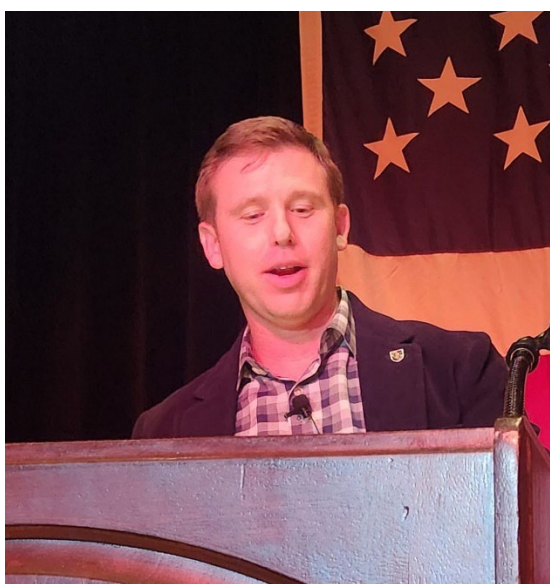
Rob Graham - Certificate of Appreciation for contribution to MACVSOG display

**** Additional Awards ****

President's Award – MG (Ret) Ken Bowra, COL (Ret) Brian Vines, Ms. Carrie Cutchens, and Ms. Roxanne Merritt

Generous Donor Award – William Lueders, and Special Forces Charitable Trust

Certificate of Appreciation – SFC Blake Leland and Mr. Oliver de Garston



Our SOAR Guest Speaker - the “boy wonder” (aka “boy colonel”). Colonel Brent Lindeman, Commander of the 5th Special Forces Group at Ft Campbell, is an affable sort who has a keen sense of humor. He opened with stories of the effect of his youthful appearance.

Then Command Presence took centerstage and he began bridging the gap between SOG and 5th Group today. He said, *“Your legacy is our lineage. Your sacrifice and that of our over 700 operators fallen and missing in action from the Vietnam War continues to inspire and shape who we are today. You and your exploits are the foundation upon which the modern Group identity was built”*. He continued, *“One of the things Josh [CSM King] and I talked about early on was how to connect better with your generation personally and as an organization. CSM moved out. Helped by Brian Vines, he made connections to Doug*

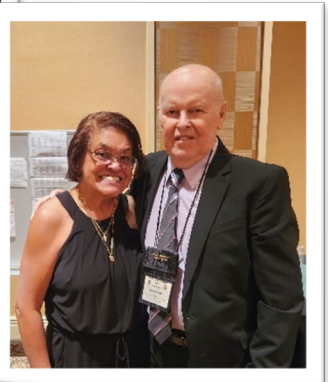
Godshall, MG Ken Bowra, and others and we began working on a MACVSOG historical display to place in our Hall of Heroes. There were a lot of amazing people involved and it took a year to pull off. We unveiled the display during Legion Week last month. Legion Week is essentially our reunion celebration held every year during whichever week in September that the anniversary of our 21 September 1961 Activation dates falls in. Legion Week and our Gold Star Ceremony, which we hold every May on the weekend before Memorial Day Weekend. This ceremony and the Reunion are our two most significant cultural events where the active members of the force connect with our Legacy members from across the decades and our Gold Star Families”.

He closed bridging the gap by saying, *“I mean this, we are serious about keeping the faith with our Legacy Group and MACVSOG Members. Larry Trimble has come out twice this year to visit us. He knows we are serious about keeping the faith. I encourage you to ask him about his experience”*.

He considered his presence at SOAR an “*honor and privilege*”. He was accompanied by CSM Josh King, CCW Rich Cook, MSG Dave Burton, MSG Tuskalusa Thompson, MSG Mark Leland, SFC Chris McCullom, SFC Blake LeBlanc, SSG Eduardo Ayala, and his wife Manivahn.

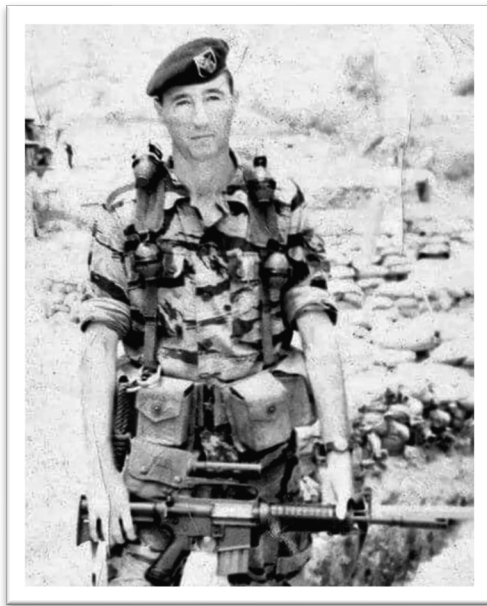
CSM King and CCW Rich Cook are the last two of the Horse Soldiers generation to be actively serving in the Group.

SOAR XLVI Banquet (Cont'd)



*See ya
At
SOAR XLVII*

A Special Forces Legend



Robert James “Spider” Parks, retired Army Special Forces, passed away Sunday, October 30th, 2022, at the age of 81. He is preceded in death by his brother Gary Parks, his parents, Robert and Dorothy Parks, brother Frank Parks and granddaughter Christa Flores. He is survived by his wife Lucia, his son James Parks, his daughter Barbara Harris (CJ), son Stephen Parks, and daughter Michelle Warburton (Derek). Spider is also survived by his grandchildren Melanie Parks, Taylor Parks, Christopher Harris, (Kelbi), Megan Haverkamp, JD Warburton. and great grandchildren Heaven Davis and Cash Flores. Spider’s surviving siblings are Cynthia Ratliff (sister), Lewis and Joe Parks (brothers).

Spider grew up in Dallas, Texas and spent most of his adolescence on an Indian Reservation, and he proudly outlined his lineage back to the Comanche tribe. He initially joined the Army Reserves in 1957. His earliest career aspiration was to become a public health official. By the time Spider went to active-duty status in 1967, he was well on his way to achieving this as he had served in every Public Health department in Dallas City and County. In 1967 he volunteered for one deployment to Vietnam and was assigned to 5th Special Forces Group. During his time in Vietnam Spider volunteered for a highly classified unit called Military Assistance Command Vietnam - Studies and Observations Group, MACV-SOG. Of the more than three million Americans who deployed to Vietnam, only 2,000 served in SOG. Spider would tell you his defining Army experience was in Vietnam as a member of MACV-SOG. Spider would go on to spend 30 years in the Army, retiring as a Command Sergeant Major (CSM), the highest enlisted rank in the U.S. Army. After Spider volunteered to be assigned to Vietnam, he would go on to serve in 1st, 7th, and 10th Special Forces Group (SFG). One of his final assignments prior to being selected to attend the Sergeant Major’s academy was as a First Sergeant in the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg, NC. After becoming a CSM he was assigned first to 3rd Battalion, 7th SFG in Panama and then to Korea as the Garrison CSM of Camp Page near Chunchon. Spider described 3-7 SFG and 1-1 SFG as the finest assignments that he had except for the assignment in Phu Bai, FOB 1, while serving in MACV-SOG. Spiders most important priority as a leader was “saving and supporting his troops.”

After retiring Spider went on to earn his doctorate degree in Behavioral Science and served 15 years with the Department of the Army as a behavioral scientist and substance abuse professional. While studying for his doctorate, for a time Spider was the Garrison Commander of Camp Hialeah in Pusan, Korea.

Though Spider had completed extensive academic course work, he would go on to say the toughest course he ever attended was Special Operations and Intelligence (O&I). He also served as an unofficial POW/MIA representative for a joint committee of the Special Operations Association and Special Forces Association to find the remains of American prisoners of war or missing in action in

The Legend (Cont'd)

Southeast Asia, where he was prior to his passing. Spider would return numerous times to Vietnam and Laos decades after the war ended. He went in search of those SOG men that never returned and were unaccounted for or missing. He never gave up on his desire to find SFC Lane and SSG Owen. He would say that he could still see their faces and the only thing that ever held him back from going there, to continue his search, would be funding or health issues.

During Spiders career he received the Special Forces Tab, Purple Heart (2), Silver Star (2), Bronze Star w/V device and oak leaf cluster, Air Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Legion of Merit, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Master Parachute Badge, Combat Diver Badge, Vietnam Parachutist Badge, and several classified awards. (DD214)

During his retirement Spider became an active member of the Special Forces Association, Special Operations Association, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, and the American Legion Post 237. He was on the honor guard at Post 237 for over 13 years during which time he assisted with over 1300 funerals for veterans. He also served on the Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee.

Though Spider was a decorated War Hero, he was a simple man who loved his family and lived his life to the fullest. He enjoyed playing the guitar, sky diving, and he even played on minor league baseball teams up into his mid-sixties. His humble mannerism, deep respect for all service members, past and present, made Spider uniquely special, just as he made all of us feel when we were with him.

Spider was laid to rest at Huntsville Memory Gardens with full military honors November 28, 2022:00 PM.



SOA Policy Statement Reminder

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

- a. **VENDOR/EXHIBITOR:** The SOA has a policy relating to items sold to attendees at any SOAR. Vendors and/or Exhibitors must ensure that all items offered, are in "good taste", "not of questionable moral value" and "will not reflect negatively on the SOA". Vendors and Exhibitors agree to withdraw from display and/or sale of any items deemed unacceptable and/or not in good keeping with SOA policy. Unless previously approved, items bearing the SOA Logo will not be displayed, nor offered for sale. No Vendor or Exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or share allotted space with another Vendor or Exhibitor unless prior approval has been obtained. Vendors and/or Exhibitors are solely responsible for their wares. Neither, the Orleans Hotel & Casino nor the Special Operations Association will assume responsibility for any lost or stolen items.
- b. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** The SOA has a policy relating to any Advertisement placed in either the SOAR AAR or SOAR PRP. Any prospective Advertiser desiring to place an Advertisement in either the AAR or PRP must ensure that the Advertisement is in "good taste", "not of questionable moral value", and "will not reflect negatively on the SOA, or any of its members".
- c. **SOA RESPONSIBLE AGENT:** The Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee is the responsible "Agent", acting on behalf of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in all matters relating to acceptance, or rejection of prospective Vendor/Exhibitor requests, or Placement of Advertisements in either SOA annual publications.
- d. **SOA BOARD:** Finally, in the event a prospective Vendor/Exhibitor or Advertiser does not agree with the decision of the Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee, the SOA Board is the final arbitrator. Anything that it deems is inappropriate will not be allowed for display or publication.

Special Operations Association Advertising Rates

Front Outside Cover	Not Available
Back Outside Cover	\$1700
Front and Back Inside Cover	\$1500
Interior Full Page	\$1400
Interior 1/2 Page	\$400
Interior 1/4 Page	\$275

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

For more information contact: Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.
661 W. Calle Torres Blancas, #5108, Green Valley, AZ 85614 cjrsincere@gmail.com



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
Planned Monthly Giving Program
Registration Form

Special Operations Association Charities and Operations depends on the generosity of our members, their families, friends and the Public to help those in need and who are most deserving of our assistance. The Planned Monthly Giving Program is an opportunity to schedule your donations in monthly increments that best fit your personal situation and doesn't create a financial strain on your own budget. To participate, fill in this form and return it via mail C/O Linda Leavitt, P.O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, or email to the Treasurer at soatreasurer@specialoperations.org, or drop it off at the Registration Desk during SOAR.

___ Monthly Contributions to be made by:

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

If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely

-- Payment by Credit Card: -- Visa -- MasterCard -- American Express -- Discover Card



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

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

- 1st of Billing Month -- 10th of Billing Month -- 15th of Billing Month
 -- 20th of Billing Month -- 25th of Billing Month -- 30th of Billing Month

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

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

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

IMO (In Memory Of) Assignment:

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

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

Monthly Charge/Withdrawal Authorization:

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

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

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

Authorizing Signature:



SOA ANNUAL MEMBERS

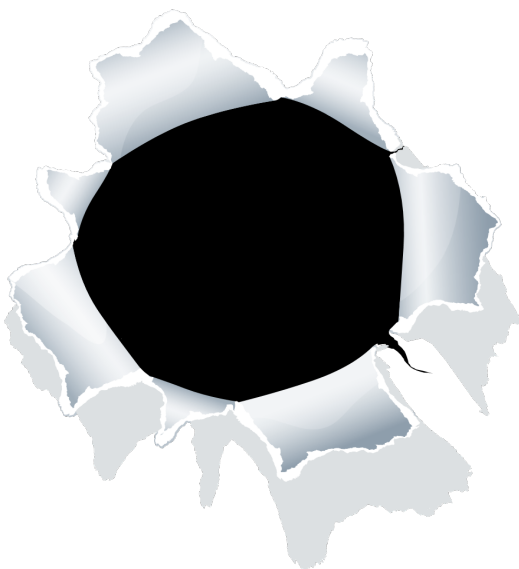
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY:

January 31
(EVERY YEAR)

AND NOBODY GETS HURT



A FRIENDLY REMINDER FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE





SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOA FEE SCHEDULE

Fees can be processed online on the public side of the SOA website by clicking the Membership tab. It is not necessary to logon to the members' side.

ORDER REPLACEMENT LIFE OR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

\$20 Life Members
\$10 Annual Members

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

REINSTATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Add fee if you have not renewed in more than 12 months

If you are applying for reinstatement or a change in status from annual to life, contact the Membership Committee in advance to verify status.

Fraternally,

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
954 448-2981
email: membership@specialoperations.org

www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE FORM

Indicate below the changes you would like to make on your record. All information is confidential and will not be shared without consent.

This information can be processed on the SOA website by clicking Membership tab or mailed.

MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

SOA# _____ Date of change _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

NEXT-OF-KIN CONTACT INFORMATION

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

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
email: membership@specialoperations.org
954 448-2981
PO Box 335461
N. Las Vegas, NV 89033

V 12/2020

MEMBER RECRUITMENT INITIATIVE

UNCONVENTIONAL WARRIORS, THE LEGACY ENDURES

Capt. Jim Butler founded The Special Operations Association in November 1976 with a primary mission to ***unite fraternally all past and present American and Allied military personnel who have conducted special operations in a combat environment***, to continue the close relations forged in combat while serving on recon team RT Python.

We have a special kind of brotherhood. We would have given our lives for each other and in some cases, we did.

- Jim Butler, SOA Founder



Jim's poignant comments still resonate with today's combat warriors who continue to carry forward our mission.

We continue to have successful recruitment years; however, attrition continues to take its toll and we still have work to do.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Help the Committee create a list of websites, newsletters, publications, etc., to post recruitment ads (see insert).
- Visit the SOA website, get familiar with membership qualifications and documentation requirements and volunteer to represent the SOA at conventions, or meetings.
- Attend SOA's annual SOAR, bring guests, and encourage other SOA members to attend.

Jim Shorten, Chair of the recruitment initiative and I ask all SOA members help to recruit qualified Special Operations combat veterans, especially the modern-day Post 9/11 warriors.

Fraternally,

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman 954
448-2981
membership@specialoperations.org

Jim Shorten
520 249-6692
TheEmeraldSea@aol.com

www.specialoperations.org



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

WE ARE DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT AT SOAR 2023!

Instead of a Silent Auction, we collected several attractive items that we will offer at the **SOAR 2023 Raffle**. Proceeds will still go to the SOA Charitable activities and the SOA Foundation.

You can buy as many tickets as you wish to WIN (Details and Price for tickets will be available at the **SOAR 2023 Raffle** Table in the Vendor Area)

We have an array of several vendors and members who have generously donated items for auction.

Here is a taste of the previous SOAR's Raffle items...



2 X Glock Pistols - That can be customized



Bonnie Cooper's Hand Made Patriot Quilt



SOG Knife Serial Number 1



POP Smoke Coffee Gift Basket of Items



Black Rifle Coffee Company's Coffee Pack

Winning Tickets will be drawn on the Wednesday of SOAR. Winners will be announced at the Raffle Table at 1600 Hours on Wednesday. You **MUST** be present to win!



SOA QUARTERMASTER SALES



<https://www.specialoperations.org/soa/qm-shop/>

Bob Daniels, Quartermaster, Call or Text 727-804-0481, soaquartermaster@gmail.com

SOA members

I am privileged to serve as Quartermaster and encourage all members to visit the newly redesigned online QM store to view the SOA product inventory which includes product descriptions, pictures, and prices. Credit cards and checks are accepted for online purchases.

NEWEST PRODUCTS - The SOA backpack, travel bag, and Logo Car Emblem are the newest items in our inventory.



POPULAR PRODUCTS – The products purchased most often are clothing, coffee cups, bullet glasses and SOA coins.



I welcome all suggestions and recommendations for new product ideas. If you have any questions about a product, or need assistance placing an order, contact me.

Fraternally,

Bob Daniels, SOA Quartermaster
Call or Text 727 804-0481

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 L. Howard, US Army Special Forces, CCC, Hatchet Force Rescue (Most decorated serviceman in U.S. History, submitted for the MOH three times in 13 months and appearing on the cover of the Green Beret Magazine October 1969). **NOTE: Colonel Howard passed away on 23 December 2009.**
- Col James P. Fleming, US Air Force 20th Special Operation Squadron's Green Hornet for rescuing RT Chisel, CCS, from imminent annihilation.
- Lt Michael E. Thornton, US Navy SEAL, STOAT, for saving the life of Lt Thomas Norris an MOH recipient (The only time in US History when a recipient is awarded a MOH for saving the life of another MOH recipient).
- Lt Thomas R. Norris, US Navy SEAL, STOAT, for the famed 4 day "Bat 21" rescues of two downed pilots. Six months later, he sustained a near-fatal head wound in action and was rescued by his fellow Navy SEAL, Michael Thornton.
- SGM Jon R. Cavaiani, US Army Special Forces, CCN, for his two day defense of Radio Relay Site Hickory. He was captured during the battle and was a Prisoner of War (POW) in North Vietnam for 1 year and 8 months. **NOTE: SGM Cavaiani passed away 29 July 2014.**

PRINT IMAGES

- Upper Left: Lt George Sisler, FOB 2, Hatchet Force, was Killed in Action (KIA) in Feb 1967 during a bomb damage assessment (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.

THE SOA's MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN THE ONLINE SOA QM STORE

10% OFF Promo Code **SOA**

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SOAR XLVII

October 16-20, 2023



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