



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION PRE REUNION PACKET

**Major General
Eldon A. Bargewell**
- Distinguished Service Cross -



**Delta Park
Dedication 5/20/23
Hoquiam, Washington**

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



The Special Operations Association presents

BOWLING FOR THE FOUNDATION!

THE ORLEANS BOWLING ARENA

Wednesday evening, 18 October 2023

1930 – finish

Come and join your fellow SOA members, families, and guests in this family-friendly event to support the SOAF!

THIS IS A FUND-RAISER FOR THE FOUNDATION! PARTICIPANTS WILL NEED TO RENT SHOES AND PAY LANE FEES, IF ANY

For a \$10.00 donation to the Foundation at the door:

- All participants will be entered in a drawing to win a \$50.00 gift certificate basket, compliments of the Orleans Hotel and Casino
- There will be a prize for the highest score: Gentlemen and Ladies categories
- All proceeds go to support the Special Operations Association Foundation
- This event is for fun and support of the SOAF mission. Heckling, rude remarks (no profanity), and friendly harassment of other bowlers will be tolerated. It will also be judged.





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 Raiders, 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 \$680,000 has been awarded, or committed thus far to more than 169 deserving young scholars.

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

The SOA conducted its 46th annual reunion (SOAR XLVI) at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas the week of October 17, 2022. SOAR XLVII is scheduled for October 16-19, 2023 at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Revised: 30 June 2023
WEB SITE: www.specialoperations.org

President's Message



SOAR XLVII is right around the corner!

The Special Operations Association Reunion opens up Monday October 16, 2023, at 0900 and promises exciting events through the Banquet on Thursday night. Team SOA and the SOAR Planning committee have outdone themselves.

Two fabulous speakers have committed. On Wednesday, just before the General Membership Meeting, The United States Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Denis McDonough, will join SOA members, families, and friends to keep us advised about the VA.

Our Thursday banquet speaker is just as unbelievable: General Bryan Fenton, Commanding General United States Special Operations Command. GEN Fenton will probably speak remotely from an undisclosed location in Europe.

We begin with a new event on Monday. Check in early and join us at the Clark County Shooting Facility in the afternoon, for a fun time with pistols, shotguns, and other pieces. Members, friends, and families are certainly welcome.

Tuesday morning begins with another new event, a prayer breakfast. The Author's Book signing event kicks off at 1230.

Tuesday afternoon features Col (Ret) Mark Mitchell, one of the famed 5th Group "Horse Soldiers" in Afghanistan, only weeks after 9/11. Our Tuesday evening entertainment this year is another Cirque du Soleil spectacular: The Beatles LOVE.

Wednesday is a big day. The POWMIA Committee will present at 1000, followed by lunch in the Mardi Gras Room. The SOA Auxiliary meets in the afternoon. Secretary McDonough speaks in the afternoon (TBD). We will have a quick General Membership Meeting followed by a liquor tasting. Later that evening, the Foundation hosts a bowling tournament which is not to be missed.

Thursday opens with the popular CCS breakfast, followed by the annual SOA Health and Welfare symposium. The last event Thursday morning before we retire for the Banquet is the presentation from our air partners of the 195th AHC.

President's Message Con't

The Banquet activities begin with cocktails in the Esplanade Room before the 1730 kick-off of the Banquet.

And all week, as usual, join your friends, families, and comrades at the WORLD-FAMOUS SOAR HOSPITALITY ROOM at the Mardi Gras, 0900-2400 every day except Thursday afternoon when the Banquet is set up.

Don't forget to sign up for the SOA Video History Project if you have not been interviewed. And our intrepid Brit friends, continually re-designing the Prairie Fire Video Game, will be present as well.

Friends and Family are increasingly important to SOAR. Please invite them.

See you in Las Vegas in October!

Doug Godshall
SOA President



Seeking Brightlight Candidates

June 2023

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

"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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2023 Annual dues Are now due and payable.
Refer to the annual dues page 58 for additional information.

Special Operations Board of Directors

2022-2023

President

Doug Godshall
330-603-5942
dngodshall@gmail.com

Director

Don Haase
541-653-5754
soggieduck@gmail.com

Vice President

Josh King
931-216-5484
joshking78@gmail.com

Director

Marcus Whitt
405-535-9353
csmwhitt@att.net

Secretary

Richard “Duffy” Jensen
907-952-3717
soasecretary@specialoperations.org
djensen.3137@gmail.com

Director

David Gordon
(707) 529-2246
trirnnr@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Phil Devon
585-739-4785
soatreasurer@specialoperations.org

Director

Ron Owens
305-984-2186
adventure4u@aol.com

Director

Alfonso “RT” Rivero
Cell phone: 818-355-2302
Home phone: 661-296-3706
rtriverosog@gmail.com

President Emeritus

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.
435-680-4476 (C)
cjjrsincere@gmail.com

Special Operations Association - Special Staff and Committee Chairmen

SOA By-Laws Chair

Luke Dove
601-955-9145
LukeDove@dovechill.com

SOP/Procedures Chair

Josh King
931-216-5484
joshking78@gmail.com

Scholarship Chair

Steve Yevich
410-349-7576
syevich@hotmail.com

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

Dennis J. Cummings
314-298-0936
dj106@aol.com

SOA Nominations Chair

John Stryker Meyer
619-892-5983
idahoonezero@sbcglobal.net

Quartermaster Sales

Bob Daniels
727-804-0481
soaquartermaster@gmail.com

Operation Brightlight Chair

Ron Owens
305-984-2186
adventure4u@aol.com

Registration Chair

Ivan Davis
541-543-1073
iddavis1@msn.com

Fundraising Chair

Rich Mallowney
907-953-7185
N185rk@hotmail.com

Warrior Family Fund Chair

Horace Boner
horace.boner@verizon.net

Systems Administrator

Ray Frovarp
910-850-6023
rmfrovarp@gmail.com

Entertainment Chair

John Russell
949-698-4616
johnr7940@gmail.com

IT Committee Chair

Bonnie Cooper
561-543-9562
Coop553@bellsouth.net

POW/MIA Chair

David Gordon
707 529- 2246
trimnr@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Joe Wilson
954-448-2981
SOA_Membership@yahoo.com

SOA Riders Chair

Marcus Whitt II
405-535-9353
csmwhitt@att.net

Chaplain

Dale Hanson
cdhanson@att.net

Administrator

Linda Leavitt
702-816-6877
adm17soa@gmail.com

SOAF Executive Director

"Doc" Padgett
702-499-8155
Bacsi10@yahoo.com

Master Events List

AS OF 9 August 2023 (Subject to Change)

Monday, 16 October:

- 0800-1200 SOA/SOAF Board and Special Staff Meeting (Board Room), President Godshall
- 0800-2100 SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0900-1700 Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis
- 0900-2400 Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- 1200-1800 Early Bird Shooting Event (Rick Estes)

Tuesday, 17 October:

- 0800-2100 SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0800-0930 Prayer Breakfast (Suite TBD), Chaplain Hanson
- 0900-1700 Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis
- 0900-2400 Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- 1100-1200 Survivor Benefits (Esplanade Room), Ann Duff
- 1300-1500 Authors' Reading & Book Raffle (Esplanade Room), Dan Thompson
- 1730-2130 Entertainment Event, John Russell

Wednesday, 18 October:

- 0800-2100 SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0900-1700 Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis
- 0900-2400 Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar
- 1000-1200 POW/MIA Symposium (Esplanade Room), David Gordon
- 1200-1300 Lunch (Mardi Gras Ballroom)
- 1300-1500 SOAFAC, Vicki Chan-Padgett
- 1300-1330 VA Secretary McDonough (Esplanade Room)
- 1330-1530 SOA General Membership Meeting (Esplanade Room), President Godshall
- 1530-1630 Horse Soldiers (Esplanade Room), Mark Mitchell
- 1630-1730 Liquor Tasting (Suite TBD), Horace Boner
- 1930 SOAF Bowling Tournament

Thursday, 19 October:

- 0800-0930 CCS Breakfast (Suite TBD), Don Hasse & Alex Saunders
- 0800-1200 SOA Video History Project (Suite TBD), Chairman Cummings
- 0900-1200 Registration Activities (Registration Area), Chairman Davis
- 0900-1200 Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar

Master Events List (Cont'd)

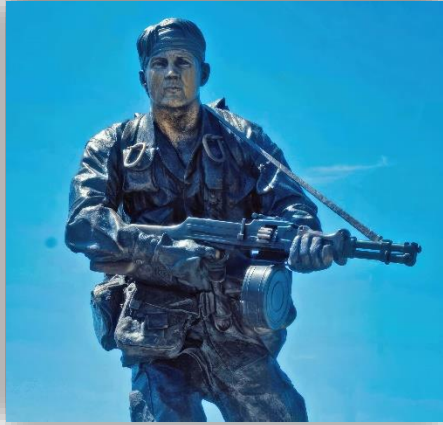
Thursday, 19 October: (Cont'd)

- 0900-1000 The Ghost Warriors - SOG's Contributions to the Successful Counter-Insurgency in El Salvador 1981-1991 (Esplanade Room), Greg Walker
- 1000-1100 SOA Health and Welfare Symposium (Esplanade Room), Doc Padgett
- 1100-1200 Aviation Symposium (Esplanade Room), 195th AHC, Don Haase
- NLT 1200: All Vendors must be out of Mardi Gras Ballroom
- 1300-1400 Rehearsals (Mardi Gras Ballroom), President Godshall
- 1530-1720 Cocktails (Esplanade Room)
- 1730-2030 SOAR Banquet
- 2030-2400 Hospitality Room (Mardi Gras Ballroom), open bar

Friday, 20 October:

- 0900-1200 Hospitality Room (Saloon TBD), open bar
- 1200 Hotel Check-out

MG Eldon Bargewell Memorial Monument



*Delta Park Dedication, Hoquiam, WA
May 20, 2023.*

Many Special Operations Association members attended the Dedication of Delta Park in Hoquiam, WA to our friend, hero, teammate, and former SOA President, MG Eldon Bargewell in Hoquiam, WA. The highlight of the day was the unveiling of a statue of Eldon in full combat kit, as he would have looked in September 1971, when he received the Distinguished Service Cross while serving as a One Zero with a recon team in MACVSOG, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

The SOA was well represented in the planning and execution of this project. Ken Bowra and Tilt Meyer provided valuable insight into Eldon's kit while serving in SOG. The SOA Board made a financial contribution to Delta Park used for the flagpole. Many individual members made contributions to the project. Many traveled to Hoquiam for the ceremony: Ken Bird, Cliff Newman, Don Haase, Ken Holmes, Clete Sinyard, and the undersigned, among others.

The stars turned out to honor Eldon! Although his good friend and colleague GEN (Ret) Pete Schoomaker, 35th Chief of Staff of the US Army, was unable to attend, LTG (Ret) Lawson W. Magruder and ADM (Ret) Eric T. Olson attended and spoke. Both spoke highly of Eldon's character, bravery, and most of all, leadership. A few notes from their words.

Magruder recalled asking Eldon to serve as a Lieutenant in his Company of a newly stood up battalion of the 75th Rangers. The remainder of the lieutenants were ROTC or West Point trained. Only Eldon was an OCS grad. With six years of service in the Army and two tours of Vietnam. Every Friday night, CPT Magruder had an AAR of the week's training with his young officers. One Friday, Eldon missed the meeting. Magruder chewed him out, advising him that the group needed the benefit of Eldon's advice and experience, including his two combat tours in SOG.

Olson a legendary SEAL Commander, and the first SEAL to achieve three star and later four-star rank, also spoke. He served with Eldon as a senior Spec. Ops Commander at Ft. Bragg. For fun, each would organize secret, unannounced attacks on each other's compound!

The last speaker was Eldon's widow Marian, who attended with three of her children: Brant, a retired Green Beret, and daughters Lauren and Audrey. Four grandchildren were also in the audience. Marian sorrowfully complained that most of her comments regarding Eldon "the man" were already the subject of her friends Magruder and Olson's remarks. But she had a story that no one could top: the occasion during which she claimed that generated the most fear in Eldon's life: throwing the first pitch at Yankee Stadium at a Boston Red Sox game!

Eldon was stationed at MacDill AFB as CG SOCOM. George Steinbrenner, the late, mercurial owner of the NY Yankees, lived in Tampa in the offseason. He was a huge patriot and fan of veterans. He arranged for Eldon and Marian to be flown to NY in his private jet. Then, accompanied by bodyguards, taken by limo to The Plaza, where they stayed in the Steinbrenner suite. Marian said that Eldon was so scared that they went to Central Park, where he practiced his throw to home plate! Of course, Eldon did well.

MG Eldon Bargewell Memorial Monument

A few words about the organization of this memorable event - LTG Xavier T. Brunson, a native of Fayetteville NC and former Special Forces Commander, now serves as CG, I Corps and Joint Base Lewis McChord. He arranged for soldiers of the 75th Rangers to attend and escort MG Bargewell's family. He recalled to me afterwards, that Eldon had counseled him as a young officer and said the Brunson had "good bones."

The Green Berets were well represented. The 5th Group sent MAJ Brian Thebaud and SGM Myers to lead an Honor Guard of Green Berets who actually marched! Incroyable!

Last, all were overwhelmed by the City of Hoquiam. This modest city on the coast was Eldon's hometown. He graduated from Hoquiam High School in 1965. Four years ago, upon learning of Eldon's untimely death, a committee was organized. Led by Jay Fry and SGM (Ret) Mike Vining, the MG Eldon Bargewell Memorial Committee raised almost \$400,00.00, hired a world-renowned sculptor, and created Delta Park. The entire city was behind this project. All of us, especially Marian and her family, were fulsomely welcomed.

The night before, the community leaders were honored at a dinner hosted by Jay Fry. Jay and his committee went out of their way to thank the SOA, especially Bonnie Cooper. I was asked to say a few words on behalf of the SOA and my teammate and friend Eldon. It was the easiest and hardest speech of my life.

I ended it with a quote from GEN George S Patton, Jr.: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn those who died. Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

We thank the City of Hoquiam for its tribute to MG Eldon Bargewell.

Doug Godshall

President, Special Operations Association



Entertainment Event

THE BEATLES LOVE

The 2023 Entertainment Event, THE BEATLES LOVE, Cirque Du Soleil will be at the Mirage Hotel and Resort on Tuesday, 17 October 2023. The show is 1.5 hours long and begins at 1900Hrs. (7:00PM) and ends at 2030Hrs. (8:30PM). Travel to and from The Orleans Hotel will be provided by Sweet Tours Bus company, which provides air-conditioned VIP comfort seating with window views of metropolitan Las Vegas.



Buses are scheduled to arrive at The Orleans Hotel at 1700Hrs (5:00PM). The buses will depart from the Orleans Hotel enroute to the Mirage Hotel, PROMPTLY at 1745Hrs (5:45PM) with a scheduled arrival time of 1815Hrs (6:15PM), allowing time for rush hour traffic; arrival parking; unloading, and entrance to the theatre's specifically SOA assigned seating areas.

After the show is over, SOA members will wait until the general admission has departed from the theatre area to allow for any of our handicapped and/or mobility challenged persons to depart in a safe environment.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT I MUST CONDUCT A ROLL CALL OF ALL REGISTRANTS FOR THE SHOW PRIOR TO LOADING THE BUSES, THUS, ALL REGISTRANTS MUST BE OUTSIDE, IN FRONT OF THE HOTEL MAIN ENTRANCE AT 1700Hrs. (5:00PM).

The total fee for the show and transportation is \$125.00 per person. NO REFUNDS except in the case of BONIFIDE EMERGENCIES. When registering be sure to indicate if you will need assistance, such as a wheelchair, on arrival at the venue, including theatre seating. I MUST have a total number of disabled members, on or before September 20, 2023, to ensure we have sufficient disability seats.



Entertainment Event

To see a trailer of the show, visit their site at: <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/beatles-love#about-the-show>. Be sure to look for the 'Watch Trailer' in the upper left-hand corner. I did not 'Accept Cookies' to watch the trailer.

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR REGISTRATION IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2023. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DATE.

Should anyone have any questions, please contact me via email at Johnr7940@gmail.com, or alternatively, by phone at (949) 698-4616 and PLEASE leave a message concerning the purpose of your call (Do Not simply say 'Give Me A Call').

Thank you,
John Russell
Chair, Entertainment Committee
Judi Russell, Co-chair
Linda Leavitt, Co-Chair
Janet McGovern, Co-Chair



Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event

Oct 17, 1300-1500

AUTHORS READING AND BOOK RAFFLE EVENT

SOA members, families and friends are cordially invited to the fifth annual Authors Reading and Book Raffle Event (Free). We know you will enjoy listening to SOA writers, each in their own voice, as they read from their new publications. In addition, audience members will be given a free raffle ticket at the beginning of the event for a chance to win an autographed copy of a book being presented. Raffle drawing will take place during the Author's Reading and you must be present to win. You can catch the authors afterwards in the SOA Vendor area until noon Thursday for book purchases and signings.

The books presented will subscribe to a wide variety of interests, from the oral histories of Joe Parnar and Robert Dumont's SOG KONTUM, to Barry Pencek's gripping memoir, OPERATION TAILWIND, a Cobra pilot who flew in support of sixteen SOG operators and one hundred and twenty Montagnard commandos. Barry reads about the deepest sustained SOG penetration into enemy territory during the war. Dale Hanson, RT Florida, reads about the extraordinary capture of Top-Secret documents from an NVA colonel, as portrayed in his memoir, BORN TWICE.

But there's more. Roger Lockshier, decorated crew chief/door gunner, assigned to the 101 st ,Black Angels, will read from WE SAVED SOG SOULS, a fascinating account of how he flew in support of SOG missions. We also have the privilege of listening to Brenda Morris read from the first of two fictional works, GONE TO TEXAS, written by her late husband, the distinguished LTC Raymond Morris (Ret). Ray, a lifetime SOA and SFA member, passed in 2022. GONE is a well-researched book that "harkens back to the lawless west, in early Texas, . . . when Texas Rangers were the only hope to thwart the violence wrought by evil men."

Last, but certainly not least, Henry Thompson's SOG CODENAMED DYNAMITE, is a well-documented book about how a young lieutenant is quickly tested when he joins a recon team. After being assigned as One-Zero, RT Virginia, he leads an astonishing number of missions that are pulled directly from his war time journal and further documented by map, archival records and pictures. It could be called "a day in the life"; or be your personal training manual on how to survive the deadly SOG environs. His story continues in BOOK 2.

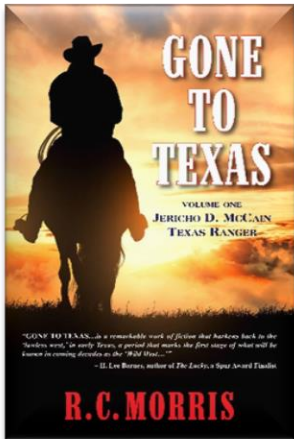
Come join us after lunch, 1300. You will be richly rewarded, and your attendance will be greatly appreciated.

Dan Thompson,
Moderator

Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event

Oct 17, 1300-1500

RAYMOND C. MORRIS (RET) *GONE TO TEXAS*



LTC Raymond C Morris, (ret) lifetime SOA member, won't be with us for the presentation of his book - the enemy followed Ray home in the form of Agent Orange, and he passed away in February 2022. His wife Brenda, a retired senior staff level civilian, will join us on his behalf. Ray was a highly decorated Special Forces officer with three tours in Vietnam. A former Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon Leader (LRRP) for the Mobile Guerilla Force A-100 with operations throughout the A-Shau Valley, Morris also trained Thai Black Panther Brigades in reconnaissance tactics and inserted them into Vietnam. In 1970, under the auspices of the CIA operations in northern Thailand, he trained Laotian commandos and deployed them into Laos. In 1984, with a small standup team, his last duty assignment was Deputy Commanding Officer, activating the 1st Special

Forces Group at Fort Lewis, WA.

Ray also wrote *The Ether Zone*, the story of the remaining Detachment B-52 Project Delta members.

HENRY L. (DICK) THOMPSON *SOG CODENAME DYNAMITE (2 BOOK SERIES)*



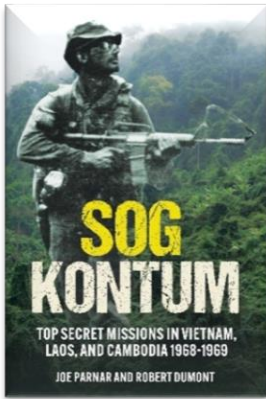
This is a two-book series about how LT Henry L (Dick) Thompson became a recon team leader in MACV-SOG. It chronicles the up close and personal combat experiences through the eyes of a skilled, and very lucky One-Zero. Taken directly from Thompson's personal journal and archives, the book describes, in exacting detail, the life of an elite warrior and the relentless day to day grind of planning, training and execution of grueling missions, deep within enemy territory. In his well-documented reportage, he uses here-to-for unseen pictures, maps and detailed explanations of tactics, gear and weaponry. Thompson describes the cat and mouse games and how, time after time, he had to outthink and outfight a numerically superior enemy, determined to annihilate all things SOG.

Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event

Oct 17, 1300-1500

JOE PARNAR AND ROBERT DUMONT

SOG KONTUM: 1968-1969

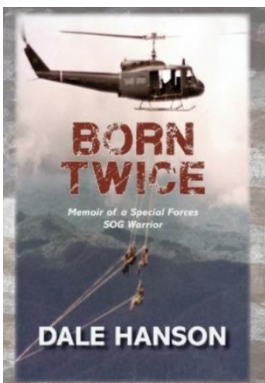


SOG Kontum: 1968-1969 is a collection of narrative accounts of noteworthy MACV-SOG operations originating at FOB-2/CCC from April 26, 1968 through April 10, 1969. These operations took place both “in-country” and “across the fence” into Cambodia and Laos near the tri-border area of the Central Highlands. The narratives are primarily based on information obtained by the authors following the publication of *SOG Medic*, Joe Parnar’s personal story of his time with the Studies and Operations Group, closely corresponds to the timeframe for this new book. The primary intent of the authors of *SOG Kontum: 1968-1969* has been to gather as many observations and recollections from as many sources as could be found.

And then merge the various perspectives, unique insights, and distinctive voices into accurate and compelling narratives. Thus, we have attempted in this book to let the facts, and the men who were there, speak for themselves.

DALE HANSON

BORN TWICE



In his memoir, *Born Twice*, Dale Hanson takes you from his northern Minnesota boyhood to the incredible stresses of special operation missions during the Vietnam War. He reveals, with stunning clarity, the deadly world of MAC-V-SOG, a top-secret Special Forces project that conducted America’s Secret War against NVA forces along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Shrouded in mystery and equipped with exotic weaponry, SOG operators suffered casualty rates in excess of 100% for three successive years. Dale describes, with exacting detail, a mission with Recon Team (RT) Florida, that will be recorded in the SOG Pantheon; the killing of an NVA colonel and capture of top-secret documents that had enormous intelligence value for the US. After an intense fire fight, the documents were brought back to SOG Headquarters.

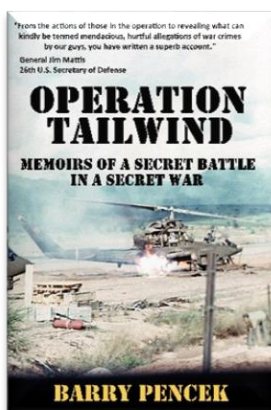
Dale went on to serve two more tours with SOG. Reading *Born Twice* enables the reader to ride along visually and emotionally on the deadly missions carried out by small, Green Beret led RT’s, operating deep in enemy territory, and surviving against insurmountable odds.

Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event

Oct 17, 1300-1500

BARRY PENCEK

OPERATION TAILWIND: MEMOIRS OF A SECRET BATTLE IN A SECRET WAR

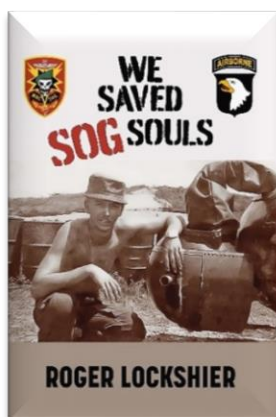


The Studies and Observations Group was a covert American military unit that specialized in clandestine cross-border operations in Laos and Cambodia. On 11 September 1970, sixteen Green Berets and one-hundred-twenty Montagnard mercenaries departed on “Operation Tailwind”, the largest and deepest raid in SOG’s history. It was in support of a larger CIA operation that originated in the White House. Over a four-day period, as their ammunition dwindled and casualties mounted, these soldiers, and the aircrews overhead that went to extraordinary lengths to keep them alive, achieved the improbable if not the impossible.

Little did the survivors of Tailwind know they would have to fight the battle once again, this time to defend their honor and integrity. In 1998, twenty-eight years after the top-secret mission ended, CNN produced a news program called “Valley of Death” in which they accused the participants in Tailwind of war crimes, specifically using nerve gas to kill women, children, and American defectors. *Operation Tailwind: Memoirs of a Secret Battle in a Secret War* is one hell of a war story but also a deep dive into the breakdown of journalistic ethics that led to the CNN broadcast.

ROGER LOCKSHIER

WE SAVED SOG SOULS



WE SAVED SOG SOULS Reflections of a Huey Helicopter Crew chief from the 101st Airborne’s Aviation Battalion B/D Company “Black Angels” Gunships. The book takes you chronologically through events he experienced from December 1967 to December 1968. Starting with the realization of war he experienced on the very first day of arrival at Tan Son Nhut Airbase to Christmas 1967, through the enemy buildup leading to the 1968 Tet Offensive. The author describes what it was like fighting VC “inside the wire” at Bien Hoa when Tet broke out and follows with the battles against NVA heavily emplaced in the Song Be region for weeks during the aftermath of the Tet Offensive where he was shot down for what would be the first of three times.

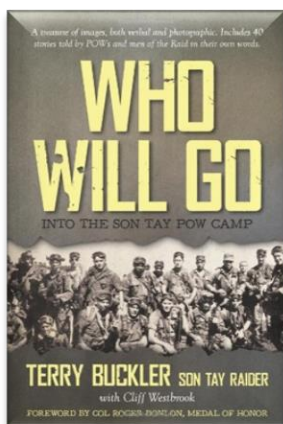
The book leads the reader along missions conducted with the 101st Airborne which include Operation Somerset Plain where the 101st Airborne launched a massive assault into the heavily fortified A Shau Valley. This is where you read about the author being shot down for the second time. The author describes missions launched from FOB1, Khe Sanh, and Mai Loc flying into Laos on an almost daily event inserting and exfiltrating SOG Teams in most cases under heavy NVA fire. Then in September 1968 the author describes being shot down for the third time. This time deep inside Laos.

Authors' Reading & Book Raffle Event

Oct 17, 1300-1500)

TERRY BUCKLER

Who Will Go: Into the Son Tay POW Camp.



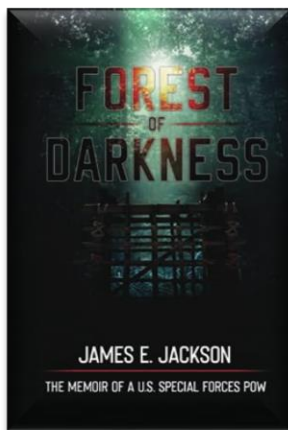
November 21st, 2020, was the 50th anniversary of the Son Tay Raid. For this anniversary, this book was published to provide a first-hand account capturing the story of the youngest Raider, Special Forces Warrior, Sergeant Terry Buckler. You experience the Raid through the eyes of this red-blooded American boy from the heartland who volunteered for the Army, the Green Berets, the Vietnam War, and the secret mission to rescue POWs in the most heavily protected enemy territory.

Knowing only that Colonel Bull Simons was looking for volunteers for a secret, danger-ridden mission, Buckler committed himself to it. The training began at undisclosed locations. They developed new tactics and employed never-before-used technologies. So shrouded in mystery, the mission's true objective was not revealed to the Raiders until the day of the launch.

Who Will Go describes Terry's journey from his home on a mid-western farm, through the Army Special Forces training pipeline. He finds himself working with Special Operations legends Bull Simons, Dick Meadows, and Generals Blackburn and Manor, as they planned and executed the Son Tay Raid under the direction of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Then the book shares "the rest of the story" through never-before-shared accounts from aircrew members, Prisoners of War, and other Special Forces Raiders who were on the ground inside the camp. This is a full picture of the Son Tay Raid, living it through the eyes of the men: the secret planning, humorous stories of training, heartbreak as the radios broke news real-time, and finally, the immediate and lasting benefits told by the POWs themselves for this book.

James E. Jackson

Forest of Darkness



Set against the backdrop of the U.S. civil rights and peace movements, *Forest of Darkness* chronicles the harrowing story of American Special Forces Staff Sergeant James E. Jackson, who was on this third tour as a CIDG advisor when he was captured in July of 1966 and held for 16 months in a Viet Cong POW camp.

Enduring unimaginable physical and psychological torture, debilitating diseases and starvation, and the constant threats of air strikes and execution, Jackson's survival is a testament to the human spirit, proving that faith, a positive outlook and strength of character can conquer the darkness.

Standing Rules of Order

Special Operations Association Reunion XLVII Annual General Member Meeting Standing Rules of Order

Preamble:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At the appropriate time on the Agenda, the Secretary will request the Member who desires to open a TOD, make a Resolution, or Motion to rise and request their TOD, Resolution, or Motion to be read by the Secretary. In lieu of the President stating the question, the Secretary will read the TOD, Resolution, or Motion as presented and entered into the record at which time the Chair will call for a Second. If a Second is made, the Chair will then acknowledge the originating member who may then speak as defined in Rules 5 & 6, and, if appropriate, a vote will follow.

General Membership Meeting Agenda

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

18 October 2023

The Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | President Godshall |
| II. | Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms | President Godshall |
| III. | Pledge of Allegiance | TBD |
| IV. | Opening Prayer/Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs, and POWs | Chaplain Hanson |
| V. | Roll Call | Secretary Jensen |
| | SOA Board of Officers/Directors -President Godshall, VP King, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Rivero, Director Haase, Director Whitt, Director Gordon, Director Owens | |
| VI. | SOA Special Staff Members Present. | President Godshall |
| VII. | Introduction of Guest VA Secretary McDonough | President Godshall |
| VIII. | Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum present | President Godshall |
| IX. | General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda. | President Godshall |
| X. | Business Meeting: | |
| | A. Regular Business: | |
| | 1. Approve SOAR XLV General Membership Mtg Minutes (SOAR XLVII PRP) | President Godshall |
| | 2. VA Secretary Denis McDonough | |
| | 3. Financial Reports | Treasurer Devon |
| | 4. Special Operations Association Foundation Report. | Ex Director Padgett |
| | 5. SOA Membership Committee Report | Chairman Wilson |
| | 6. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. | Chairman Yevich |
| | 7. SOA Chaplain's Report. | Chaplain Hanson |
| | 8. SOA Riders Committee Report | Chairman Whitt |
| | 9. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. | Chairman Owens |
| | 10. SOA Warrior's Family Fund | Chairman Boner |
| | 11. SOA Personal Video History Committee Report | Chair Cummings |
| | 12. Information Technology (IT) Committee | Chair McClure |
| | 13. SOA QM Sales Report | Chairman Daniels |
| | 14. Bill Sylvester SOA Tally Committee Report | Chairman Frovarp |
| | 15. Entertainment Committee Report | Chairman Russell |

General membership Meeting Agenda (Cont'd)

16. Farewell to SOA Board Members President Godshall
17. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Godshall
- President
- Treasurer:
- Director Position 1:
18. Non-valor Award Presentations President Godshall–Member chair
- a. Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members
 - b. Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members
 - c. Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members:
 - d. Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members:
 - e. Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members:

B. New Business:

XI. For the Good of the Order President Godshall

XII. Meeting Adjournment:

Respectfully Submitted by

Duffy Jensen

DUFFY JENSEN
Secretary, Special Operations Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

XLVI - 10/19/2022

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

- | | | |
|-------|--|--------------------|
| I. | Call to Order 1331 <i>PDT</i> | President Godshall |
| II. | Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms - <i>Ron Owens, George Sternberg, Robert Taylor, Tim Schaff</i> | 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
<i>President Godshall, Secretary Jensen, Treasurer Devon, Director Padgett, Director McClure, Director Rivero, Director Haase, Director Whitt</i> | Secretary Jensen |
| VI. | SOA Special Staff Members Present
<i>Ray Frovarp, Joe Wilson, Horace Boner, John Russell</i> | President Godshall |
| VII. | Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum present
<i>General Members present, 60. A quorum was present.</i> | President Godshall |
| VIII. | General Member's Approval of GMM Agenda.
<i>President Godshall called for a motion to approve the agenda. George Metz so moved, Glen Nickel seconded the motion which carried unanimously.</i> | President Godshall |
| IX. | Business Meeting: | |
| | A. Regular Business: | |
| | 1. Approve SOAR XLV General Membership Mtg Minutes (SOAR XLVI PRP)
<i>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.</i> | President Godshall |
| | 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. | |

General Membership Meeting Minutes

XLVI - 10/19/2022 (Cont'd)

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. I need each and everyone of you 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.

General Membership Meeting Minutes XLVI - 10/19/2022 (Cont'd)

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.

General Membership Meeting Minutes XLVI - 10/19/2022 (Cont'd)

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 Election

2023 **SOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION**

Balloting Procedures

The 2023 election will fill three (3) vacancies on the SOA Board:

SOA President
SOA Treasurer
SOA Director – select one (1)

The election employs an electronic balloting system. Official Ballots will be emailed to General Members in good standing 1 August 2023. General members without a valid email address will receive a paper ballot via USPS.

If you do not receive a ballot by August 31, contact the Chairman.

Ballots must be received/postmarked by the deadline: **30 September 2023.**

If you have questions, contact:

Ray Frovarp, Tally Chairman
rmfrovarp@gmail.com
910 850 6023



SOA Election Candidates

Candidate for SOA President

Doug Godshall
SOA 2806-G



I stand again as a candidate for President of the Special Operations Association. I have been honored to serve as President for the last three years with Team SOA members. I ask for your vote.

Team Goals:

1. To continue to produce outstanding SOARs.
2. To continue to educate our friends and honor our past about the history of Special Operations. We assisted in installing the MACVSOG 5th Group Display at the Hall of Heroes. In years past we have honored our heroes with the MIA Memorial Breakfast and the 23Aug68 Family Breakfast.
3. To continue to reach out to our GWOT comrades, and others, to join the SOA. The CSM of the 5th Special Forces Group is now the SOA Vice President. Several other SF Groups and SpecOps units have been visited to tell the SOA story, including recent visits to the SOF meeting in FL and the Spad/SAR reunion in OH featuring our A1E pilots.
4. To continue to grow and fund our outreach programs: scholarships, assistance to our members and families. This effort has been supported by a reinvigorated Foundation.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you.

Candidate for SOA Treasurer

Phil Devon
SOA 3118-G



I am a Lifetime member of SOA. My military service included assignments with the 6th and 7th SF Groups, and a tour in Vietnam with MACV-SOG in CCS, as well as time with the JFK CFSW at Fort Bragg.

Following my time in the military, I finished my education with a master's degree in accounting and spent my final 28 years with a Fortune 500 Company serving in various senior finance positions. I have served with various volunteer organizations and am an active member and Officer of Chapter 21 of the Special Forces Association.

I have been honored to serve as your Treasurer for the past 3 years. I believe that I can continue to provide quality financial direction to the group as well as fiduciary- oversight for the monetary assets of SOA. If elected, I will strive to ensure financial integrity and stability to the Special Operations Association.

Thank you for your consideration.

SOA Election Candidates

Candidate for Director

Don Haase
SOA 1683-G

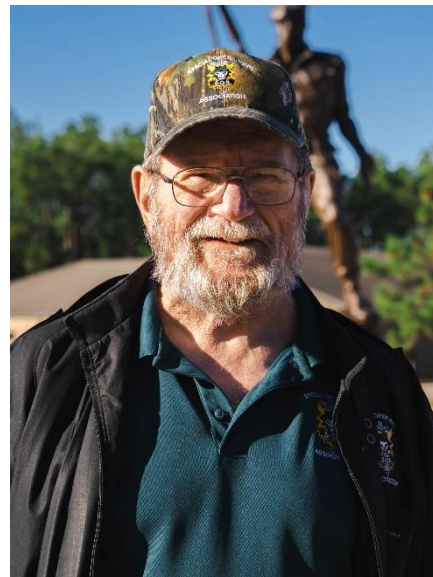
I am seeking reelection for a second term as an SOA Director. I have the knowledge and experience to continue working to achieve SOA goals including striving to make each SOAR better than the last one.

I served with the 195th Assault Helicopter Company as an original member supporting 5th Special Forces units, MACV-SOG special projects Sigma, Omega, Delta before CCS.

I have been a life member of SOA since 1999 when Tyler Furbish dug me out of the woodwork and invited me to SOAR at the Plaza Hotel.

I retired in 2006 after 37 years in The Real Estate and Building industry where I served as a director, vice president and twice president in Eugene and Springfield, Oregon. As a Realtor I also served on the ethics and arbitration committee and other committees of the Eugene Association of Realtors.

Thank you for your consideration.



Candidate for Director

Joe Wilson
SOA 3003-G

I ask that I be considered for membership with the SOA Board of Directors. I am currently the Chairman of the Membership Committee and will continue, if allowed by the Board.

In 1969-1970 I was a helicopter gunship pilot supporting both CCC and CCS in Vietnam. My gunship was shot down in Cambodia in November 1969 while supporting the extraction of a MACV-SOG team. After my active five-year military service, I continued in the Army Reserve and became a federal special agent, retiring in 2001 and from the Reserve in 2003.

I have become very aware of the importance of individual memberships in our organization and realize that the future of the SOA is dependent on the newer members from our more current wars.

If elected, I will continue making recruitment of new members and the responsibilities of a member of the Board my top priorities.

Thank you for your consideration.



Vendors & Advertising

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

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

Special Operations Association Advertising Rates

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

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

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

George C. Morton Scholarship Report

2023-24 SOA Scholarship Awards

Thirty-Three (33) students submitted SOA Scholarship applications for this year's \$4000 award.

Due to the limitations of the scholarship fund, **only four applicants could be chosen** (12%), making the selection decisions very difficult. *[In contrast, last year there were 24 applicants, and the donations to the scholarship fund enabled SOA to fund TEN of them (42%)]*

ALL candidates were supremely well-qualified, each in their own way and with their own significant achievements – reflecting the quality of their heritage!

The four awards went to (alphabetically):

STUDENT'S NAME	Sponsor Name	Prospective Institution
ANGLE, Ryan	Son of Richard Angle 3579-G	Univ Southern Calif (USC)
KROMPECHER, Anne Marie	Daughter of Zoltan KROMPECHER, 3531- AA	Univ of South Carolina
LOCK, Joseph Sean	Son of LOCK, Joseph 3535-GA	Virginia Tech
SCHOWENGERDT, Loren	Daughter of Cory SCHOWENGERDT, 3526-GA	Univ of Nebraska-Lincoln

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION EVALUATORS: Again, many thanks to the 17 SOA members who volunteered to read, evaluate, and rank the 33 applicants (well over 700 pages).

SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$\$\$ NEEDED: SOA needs more contributions to this worthwhile cause that gives a boost to SOA memberships' progeny! This program could fold due to lack of participation – not a good reflection on the altruism and heritage of the organization.

2024-25 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS: The new applications for the FALL24/SPR25 school year will be available in the last half of DEC 2023. It will be posted on the SOA website or available directly from the Scholarship Chair

Respectfully submitted
Steve Yevich, Chairman

VHP & Archives Report



During the past 11 years that I have been the SOA Archivist and Chairman of the Video History Project for the SOA I have had the chance to meet most of you and hear your stories. Stories that reflect the dangerous missions, nerve racking insertions and extractions, and courageous actions of many of our members. My team and I have heard about the heartbreaking moment when someone is lost in combat and the joy of making it back alive. Many times, the person lost was a close friend and their loss left an emptiness that is still felt today, and the joy of making it back alive is still shared at our reunions

between team members and those that came to their rescue. We know from our members what it is like to be in intense close-quarters combat in the jungle, knowing that time was not on your side and the slicks to pull you out were an hour away. But we only know that because those of you who went in harm's way sat and shared your experiences with us. It is why the Video History Project means so much too so many.

At this writing the SOA has over 180 interviews that have been conducted by our project, but we are losing the race against time. Last year we were only able to record six new interviews and continue with two others that we did not have time to complete the year before. We are striving hard to reach 200 interviews and beyond, but to do that we need your help in two ways. First, we need those of you who haven't been interviewed to please sit and do an interview with us during the 2023 reunion. We are losing members every year and the stories of those who passed without doing an interview are now lost forever. Second, we need donations to the Video History Project to keep it going. Please give what you can. A donation in any amount will help out.

I would like to thank the following for their donations, John Bristow, Roger Jordheim and Rich Benjamin for their generous giving. I would also like to thank Shirley Williams for her donation and continued support of the Video History Project.

We are still looking for donations to the SOA Archives, so if you have any photos, documents or old gear lying around please consider donating it to us. Steve O'Neill donated a number of items from the estate of Richard Hoffman SOA 528G. Once these artifacts are processed, I hope to display some of them at our upcoming reunion.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas this year. My contact information is at the bottom, so please feel free to contact me regarding interview times and availability.

Dennis Cummings
3649 Taylor Ave
Bridgeton, MO 63044
314-303-9156
Djc106@aol.com

Brightlight Committee Report

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

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

The Brightlight Committee welcomes applications from SOA Members who, due to extenuating circumstances, cannot afford to attend the annual SOAR in Las Vegas. Brightlight traditionally funds air transportation, SOAR registration, hotel rooms, meals, and any SOAR events, such as a Memorial Breakfast and/or the SOAR Banquet; any or all of these, depending on the review of the candidate's information at the time of the application. The Committee will also consider funding care givers for members requiring ambulatory or other assistance on a case-to-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 Brightlight Committee and necessary special staff.

The Brightlight Fund is well funded and prepared to assist our brother warriors.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Owens
Committee Chair

Brightlight Committee contact information:

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

2023 Request for Assistance

As of the PRP preparation, there have been no requests for assistance from SOA Family Members to attend SOAR 2023.

The Warrior Family Fund received two requests for stipend support to defray funeral expenses of deceased SOA members.

Donations and Fund Raising

The Warrior's Family Fund has received no donations since the beginning of 2023. Although the Warrior's Family Fund is moderately healthy, continued donations allow the SOA to assist our Warriors' family members who might find themselves in unexpected need. You can easily contribute to the Warrior's Family Fund through the SOA Website Donate tab, completing the requested information, and selecting the Warrior Family Fund button.

The Fund's balance as of June 2023 was \$7,552.

Horace Boner
WFF Chairman

POW/MIA Report



During SOAR 46 I was asked by members of the SOA POW/MIA Committee to fill the Chairmanship vacated by Mike Taylor. With some reluctance I accepted the challenge. My reluctance and concerns were due to several issues. Mike was an outstanding leader and totally dedicated to the cause as well as being a good friend. I was not sure I could meet the standards Mike had established. I had not served on the committee, so I had no experience with the members or the mission. I knew that Mike had many contacts in many agencies that are involved with recovering our Vietnam POW and MIA service members.

Admittedly, it has been a challenging time to get up to speed on all the committee's commitments. I am very thankful to all the members of the POW/MIA Committee (especially Wade 'Ishi' Ishimoto, John 'Tilt' Meyers, Glen "Nick" Nickels, Jim 'Kimo' Wheeler and Jack Kull) and the supporting agencies. They have all been patient, supportive and given great counsel. I still have much to learn in order to providing the leadership to fulfill our pledge to account for all our missing Vietnam Era service members.

Last May myself and other members of SOA went to Hawaii to attend the interment for Mike Taylor. While there, several SOA members and other guests attended a conference with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency – Hawaii (DPAA-HI) along with a tour of their new facility at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. As you will see from the conference, DPAA briefers and staff assembled for the conference, they were committed to providing a thorough briefing and tour.

Much of the initial briefing and slide show was an orientation to DPAA's mission and organization. Following were updates on current activities and results. We were then briefed by individual staff members (i.e., Detachment Commanders for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and Anthropologists) on their missions and activities with updates. Questions were encouraged throughout the conference.

Following the briefing we were given a tour of the facility. The entire facility was amazingly modern and well organized. Dr. Denise Tu, the senior Anthropologist supervised the tour. She would have each section supervisor brief on their specific area. There are exceptionally large rooms and work areas for each of the major Pacific area wars WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Each room is completely separated from the other. Dr. Tu and her staff would brief on the entire process from discovery and receipt of remains to the final identification. What was amazing to me is that they are working from almost complete skeletal remains to no more than a cheek bone fragment. I came away encouraged by the dedication and professionalism of the DPAA-HI staff. However, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the Vietnam War losses.

The major take aways I had from the briefings and questions were:

There has been a \$46 million increase in the funding for DPAA. It is across the board, so the amount to be dedicated to the Vietnam War recovery effort is unknown.

POW/MIA Report (Cont'd)

There has been no significant increase in mission personnel (analysts or Vietnam Specialists).

Relations with Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam have improved. There is still some resistance in the Vietnam. However, most of DPAA-HI resources are prioritized for Vietnam. Currently for this fiscal year three teams are scheduled for Vietnam.

New updated equipment is being procured to better analyze remains recovered.

Through this past year only one Vietnam War soldier's remains have been officially identified. From the figures I have access to, there remains 1579 service members including 98 of them Special Forces with 66 of those Special Operations still unaccounted for. DPAA-HI continues to reiterate the difficulty in recovering those 1579 and especially the Special Operations. It is precisely this difficulty, and DPAA's seemingly resistance to deal with, that our committee and allies in other organizations must keep the pressure on DPAA through various channels to make sure that proper attention is given to accounting for our Special Forces brethren left behind.

Attendees: Doug Godshall, SOA President and Cathy Godshall; David Gordon, Chairman SOA POW/MIA Committee; Jim 'Kimo' Wheeler, SOA POW/MIA Committee Member and Julie Wheeler; Chris McClure, SOA Member and Carol McClure; Ann Mills-Griffiths, Chairman National League of POW/MIA Families; and, Brad Taylor, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, Stony Beach

DPAA Staff: Mr Kelly McKeague - Director DPAA; COL Matt Brannan - Acting Director for Operations, DPAA-HI; SGM Anthony Worsley; Dr. Denise To – Anthropologist; Dr. Nicolette Parr – Anthropologist; Mr. Steve Thompson - Family and Veteran Liaison; Mr. Chris Phelps - Acting Director - Indo Pacific Directorate; LTC Alex Duran - Operations Officer, Indo-Pacific Directorate; Mr. Matt Kristoff - Senior Vietnam War Analyst, Indo-Pacific Directorate; LTC Steve Lanuzo – Detachment One Commander, Bangkok, Thailand; LTC Travis Walter – Detachment Two Commander, Hanoi, Vietnam; MAJ Charles Kissling – Detachment Three Commander, Vientiane, Laos; HMCS Fred Medina – Navy Independent Duty Corpsman; and MSG Anthonie Deyo – Special Forces Medic.



I urge all SOA Members to attend the POW/MIA Symposium at this year's SOAR.

Special Operations Association Foundation



The Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF) has, with the assistance and co-operation of the Board of trustees, continued to make significant progress in reviving and representing the Foundation as an integral part of the Special Operations community.

The Special Operations Association Foundation Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC), with its own policies, procedures, and operating fund, serves as an adjunct and resource for the SOAF, as well as the Chaplain. The SOAFAC's report can be found elsewhere in the PRP.

The accomplishments for the SOAF this year include the following:

- Provided a grant for the widow of a chronically ill and impoverished SOA member to cover some of his final expenses.
- Assisted in funding for Special Operations legend Billy Waugh's drop zone reception.
- Represented the SOA and SOAF at the Special Operations Week in Tampa, Florida. This conference features Special Operations personnel, presentations, and vendors from allied nations worldwide. Recruitment and fundraising efforts were undertaken by SOAF and SOAFAC representatives.

Challenges for the coming year include publicity, committee participation, and fundraising. SOAF and the SOA plan to participate at the upcoming Special Operations conference at Ft. Bragg in November with a presentation on SOG lessons learned, combining this with active-duty SF tactics and techniques. More on the presentation will be published in the SOA newsletter as developments warrant.

In conclusion, the Exec Dir wishes to thank the Foundation's Trustees who have contributed their time and effort to the SOAF, as well as the donors who make our mission possible.

Respectfully submitted,
John "Doc" Padgett
Executive Director

Special Operations Association Foundation



SOAF Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC)

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Special Operations Association Reunion 2023. The Special Operations Association Foundation Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC) has been busy this year as we continue to grow and develop.

At this year's SOAR, you will see several new things. First, there will be a table set aside, dedicated to the SOAFAC, in the Hospitality Suite as a place to sit, chat, and chill while the guys are telling their stories (although I am sure that we will have some to share as well). Second, we are developing a talk to be presented at our annual meeting on "Taking Care of Yourself." And finally, we will have our own table in the exhibit hall to proudly auction the Vietnam quilt that Dan Krutina so thoughtfully created for us. We will be soliciting volunteers to help man that table, as well as the SOAF table.

As always, our annual meeting will be held during the General Membership meeting. Join us to hear the other great things we are doing. In the meantime, please join us at our quarterly meetings that are held via Zoom.

I can be contacted at vickichanpadgett@yahoo.com

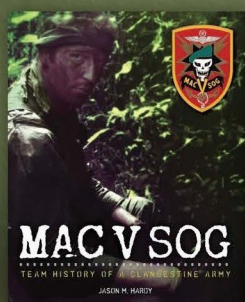
See you soon!

MAC V SOG

TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY

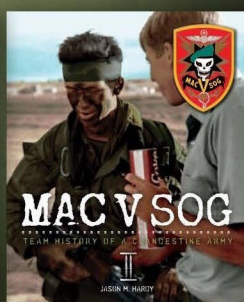
NOW AVAILABLE FROM HARDY PUBLICATIONS

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



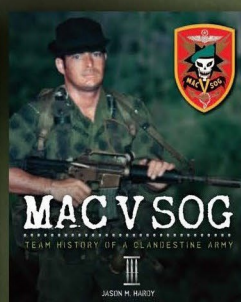
VOLUME 1

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)



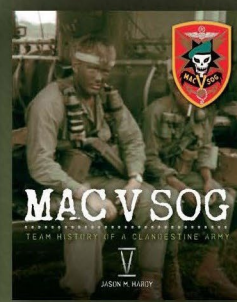
VOLUME 3

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



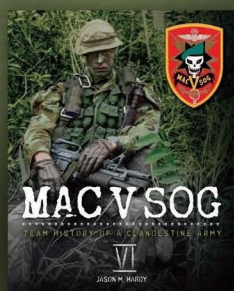
VOLUME 4

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)



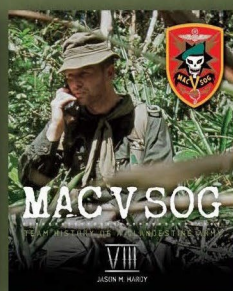
VOLUME 6

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



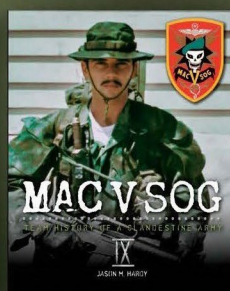
VOLUME 7

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



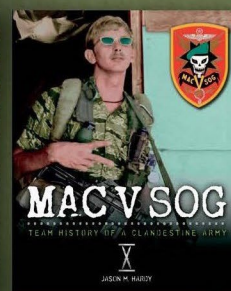
VOLUME 8

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



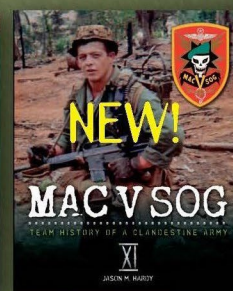
VOLUME 9

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 Dls	\$150 to \$250

I am interested in all other items that you may have - Mike Force, SEAL, Force Recon, LRRP, etc. Please call or email for an offer. Also interested in items from post Vietnam covert ops - Central America, Grenada, Rhodesia etc.

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

MG (Ret) John K. Singlaub/Jedburgh Award



Chief Warrant Officer 3 William N. Reese III is the recipient of the 2022 MG John K. Singlaub/Jedburgh Award. LTG Jonathan Braga, USASOC Commanding General, and former SOA Director COL (Ret) Rand Binford made the presentation during this year's Red & Black Ball held 5 May 2023. The Award is given to those who exemplify the combat service, courage, intrepidity and heroism that MG displayed throughout his distinguished Army career in Special Operations.

Will Reese was born in Columbia, South Carolina. He graduated a year early from high school in 1996 and joined the U.S. Army at 17 years old. In 1997, he enlisted in the Army as a 92G, Food Service Specialist. His first assignment was to 217th Infantry, Fort Stewart, GA. Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) Reese immediately volunteered for Airborne School and the Ranger Indoctrination Program with follow-on assignment to 1st Brigade, 75th Ranger Regiment (1/75). He completed U.S. Army Ranger School and returned to 1/75 to serve as Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) Team Leader. In 2002, he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom II.

Upon return from his first deployment, CW3 Reese moved to the National Training Center (NTC). His assignments included Dining Facility Manager and Opposing Forces (OPFOR) Platoon Sergeant. Newly promotable to Sergeant First Class, he was hand-selected to be an Infantry Platoon Sergeant while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III (2005-2006).

Immediately upon his return from Iraq, he attended Special Forces Assessment and Selection (SFAS) in March 2006. After completion of the Special Forces Qualification Course (SFQC), CW3 Reese was assigned to 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) (3rd SFG(A)). Upon arrival to 3rd SFG(A), he immediately deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operational Enduring Freedom as an 18E Special Forces Communications Sergeant. CW3 Reese deployed four times while assigned to Special Forces Operational Detachment-Alpha (SFOD-A) 3116, serving as the senior 18E, 18F (Special Forces Intelligence Sergeant) and 18Z (Special Forces Operations Sergeant), after his team sergeant was wounded by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and medically evacuated from theater.

MG (Ret) John K. Singlaub/Jedburgh Award (*Cont'd*)

In 2014, CW3 Reese was selected to attend the Special Forces Warrant Officer Technical and Tactical Certification Course (SFWOTTCC). He received the prestigious CW3 Bruce Price leadership award for his ability to lead his peers during the five-month long course. CW3 Reese served on SFOD-A 3126, conducting three combat deployments in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel twice, and to Somalia in support of overseas contingency operations.

In 2021, CW3 Reese was hand-selected by the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Somalia (JSOTF-SOM) Commander to manage a \$14.5 million program in support of overseas contingency operations. CW3 Reese directly enabled the design, build, and implementation of a unique set of exquisite tools that provided the AFRICOM Commander options to achieve counter-Violent Extremist Organization (VEO) effects. These newly designed tools generated dramatically increased shared understanding of the operational environment for leaders at the strategic, operational, and tactical levels. Specifically, these tools provided JSOTF-SOM leaders real-time insight into a terrorist network's physical presence in Somalia. This critical intelligence enabled the JSOTF's employment of kinetic and non-kinetic effects that continues to degrade the strength of the terrorist network today. CW3 Reese's innovation and intellect in employing these new tools directly enabled the destruction of numerous terrorist strongholds and degraded the strength of terrorist subnetworks in the region. These effects were crucial to bolstering the strength of regional partner forces, and directly supported the broader counter-VEO objectives of the United States.

CW3 Reese's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (5 OLC), Purple Heart, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal for Valor (2 OLC), Army Commendation Medal (7 OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (8 OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (5th Award), Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with five campaign stars, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, NATO medal (1 OLC), Combat Infantry Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, and Parachutist Badge.

SOA's Distinguished Members of the Special Forces Regiment

The Regimental Honors, Awards and Affiliation Program is intended to recognize those who have contributed to the welfare of the Civil Affairs, Special Forces and Psychological Operations regiments, active or reserve component, as Department of the Army civilians, or in a private capacity. The program further serves as a link between members of the regiments currently serving and those who have separated from service but continue to advance the interests of their respective regiments.

These recognized individuals serve as role models, advocates, and public examples to all members of the regiments. Through their sterling example, they enhance unit morale, cohesion, and esprit, and promote the war-fighting ethos, unwavering sense of pride and selfless service of today's Soldiers.

SOA's Distinguished Members of the Special Forces Regiment

Italics denotes MOH Recipient

2005		2010 (cont)	
Aaron BANK	#827-G	Morris WORLEY	#1698-G
William THOMPSON	#1515-G		
2007		2011	
Jimmy DEAN	#123-G	Kenneth BOWRA	#1058-G
John SINGLAUB	#108-G	<i>Jon CAVAIANI</i>	#1000-G
William WAUGH	#5-G	<i>Drew DIX</i>	#1966-H
2008		Walter HETZLER	#2816-G
Tyrone ADDERLY	#2080-G	James KRAUS	#1506-G
<i>Roger DONLON</i>	#1108-H	Willie McLEOD	#2411-G
Henry LUTHY	#1031-G	Charles NORTON	#871-G
John PLASTER	#726-G		
Walter SHUMATE	#144-G	2012	
2009		Eldon BARGEWELL	#1474-G
Charles AYCOCK	#2399-G	Geoffrey BARKER	#919-G
Isaac CAMACHO	#1209-G	Charles BECKWITH	#550-G
Sully DeFONTAINE	#177-G	Armando CANALES	#980-G
Joseph LUTZ	#960-G	Robert CHAREST	#646-G
<i>Ola MIZE</i>	#1257-G	Charles GRAY	#2494-G
2010		Jerry KING	#2853-G
<i>Bennie ADKINS</i>	#3223-G	James MORRIS	#531-G
Lewis BURRUSS, Jr.	#1500-G	Clifford NEWMAN	#6-G
Joseph CINCOTTI	#908-G	Jack TOBIN	#509-G
George GASPARD, Jr.	#350-G		
<i>Robert HOWARD</i>	#969-G	2013	
George PETRIE	#818-G	<i>Roy BENAVIDEZ</i>	#965-G
Eulis PRESLEY	#830-G	Charles FRY	#2074-G
Joseph STRINGHAM	#3222-G	Glenn LANE	#1718-G
		Willie MERKERSON	#3184-G
		George MORTON	#59-G
		Harris MUNCK	#312-G

SOA's Distinguished Members of the Special Forces Regiment (Cont'd)

2013 (cont)		2017	
James SPOO	#3196-G	Franklin MILLER	#968-G
William TANGNEY	#1460-G	2018	
Melvin WICK	#958-G	John MULHOLLAND	#2941-G
2014		Gary M. ROSE	#1528-G
Herman ADLER	#2273G	Clyde SINCERE, Jr.	#10-G
John CRERAR	#681-G	2019	
Norman DONEY	#665-G	David McCracken	#3388-G
Wade ISHIMOTO	#2450-G	2020	
Claude McBROOM	#768-G	Harold JACOBSON	#69-G
Richard MEADOWS	#766-G	Joe LOPEZ	#2493-G
Melvin MORRIS	#3169-G	John PADGETT	#404-G
Samuel WILSON	#130-G	Roger PEZZELLE	#68-G
2015		Michael TAYLOR	#698-G
Darrell ELMORE	#1611-G	2021	
Thomas SMITH	#138-G	Joe WALKER	#2023-G
Lothar WILLIAMS	#1366-G	2022	
Fred ZABITOSKY	#157-G	Earl PLUMLEE	#3532-G
2016		2023	
Warner FARR	#1574-G	John J. DUFFY	#9-G
Geoffrey LAMBERT	#2300-G	Ronald JOHNSON	#1774-G
Arthur "Bull" SIMONS	#2364-G	Mark MITCHELL	#3583-G
		David MORRIS	#3486-G

SOA Members Achieving 20 Year Status

The following have achieved 20-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 20-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOA General Membership Meeting:

Bender, Randy M.	2439-G	Le, Xuan Thanh (Steve)	2405-O
Berg, Robert S.	2359-G	Lundrigan, Thomas J.	2354-G
Berry, Michael D.	2436-G	Maley, Donald J.	2423-G
Biron, David F.	2328-G	Marcum, Curtis	2315-G
Broderick, Thomas F.	2406-G	Martin II, Gordon	2414-G
Bui, Cuong V.	2299-O	Midash, Lawrence	2387-G
Carpenter, Harold T.	2386-G	Morris, Rex B.	2346-G
Cawley, Patrick B.	2334-G	O'Connor, Kevin M.	2425-G
Clifford, Robert F.	2339-G	Palmer, Gilford D.	2361-G
Corbin, Ronald D.	2371-G	Payne, Robert Lee	2442-G
DeLuca, Thomas A.	2424-G	Pesta, Charles J.	2412-G
Denniston, James G.	2337-G	Peterson III, John M.	2331-G
Edens, Kenneth B.	2309-G	Phan, Dinh H.	2367-O
Erickson, Albert M.	2348-G	Piper, Ronald B.	2316-G
Farmer, Daniel E.	2327-G	Popelka, Mark A.	2420-G
Frankenfield, Thomas A.	2357-G	Reeder Jr., William S.	2324-G
Frevert, Benjamin R.	2407-G	Rozell, Gary R.	2417-G
Grapa, Eugene P.	2308-G	Sanchez, Joseph I.	2297-G
Hoagland, Raymond J.	2360-G	Schoomaker, Peter J.	2362-G
Huynh, Khanh Phi	2443-O	Sinyard, Cletis D.	2391-G
Jacobelli, James N.	2312-G	Smalley, Dennis R	2366-G
Jones, Wendell D.	2388-G	Smith, Samuel J.	2350-G
Kohn, Henry P.	2365-G	Smith, Alfred W.	2356-G
Lang, Walter P.	2438-A	Sneed, Jimmy W.	2393-G
Langevin, James M.	2398-G	Von Beltz, Jeffrey B.	2321-G

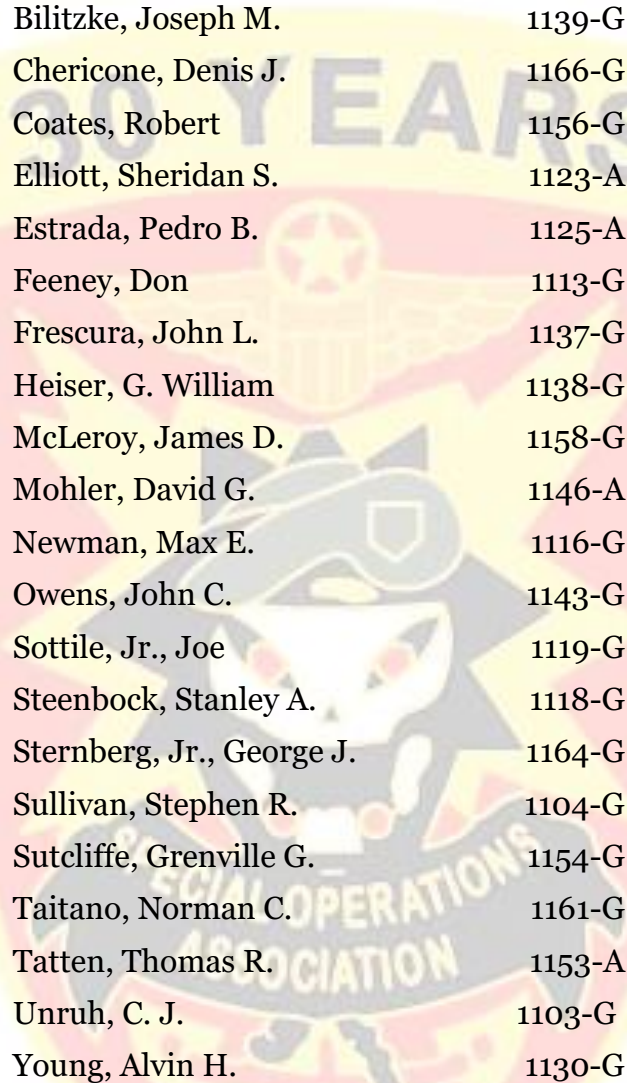
SOA Members Achieving 25 Year Status

The following have achieved 25-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 25-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOA General Membership Meeting:

Acre, James E.	1652-G	McLuckie, James B.	1587-G
Adkins, James L.	1657-G	Miles, Grady F.	1603-G
Burbridge, Lawrence R.	1591-G	Miller, Ned L.	1684-G
Castillo, Robert J.	1662-G	Nguyen, Kiet Van	1671-G
Cesani, Randolph	1632-G	Noe, Robert L.	1620-G
Di Giacinto, R. Henry	1665-G	O'Shea, Michael J.	1661-G
Dove, Jr., Luther	1572-G	Pelaez, Michael A.	1678-G
Elmore, Darrell G.	1611-G	Potter, Jon C.	1634-G
Eskins, Henry	1600-G	Richardson, Richard L.	1565-A
Farr, Warner D.	1574-G	Rivero, Alfonso	1573-G
File, Russell H.	1693-G	Rodgers, Dennis E.	1590-G
Fontana, Gerald	1613-G	Sallee, James P.	1637-G
Foster, Jr., L. David	1555-G	Sasai, Calvin Y.	1655-G
Glerum, James N.	1624-G	Savage, David G.	1599-G
Haase, Donald W.	1683-G	Savell, James W.	1604-G
Hagedorn, Audrey L.	1669-A	Sell, Richard H.	1588-G
Hanna, Ronald T.	1668-G	Sepi, Robert J.	1554-G
Harinck, Allen V.	1597-G	Sheldon, James D.	1617-G
Hendricks, Keith A.	1667-G	Spain, John N.	1579-G
Howard, Chester B.	1609-G	St. Martin, Jr., John M.	1654-G
Johnston, Emery P.	1586-G	Stock, Gregory J.	1577-A
Kim, Michael P.	1677-G	Twitchell, Robert	1681-G
Little, Jr., Lawrence L.	1610-G	Van Arsdale, Lee A.	1575-G
Lucier, David F.	1649-G	Wilson, Paul R.	1660-G
Lum, Tom	1580-G	Woronchuk, Ivan	1568-G
Madison, James C.	1581-G	Wright, Gary L.	1593-G
Marriott, Henderson R.	1635-A	Yancey, Leon H. Buck	1690-G
Martin, John R.	1656-G	Yevich, Steven J.	1552-G

SOA Members Achieving 30 Year Status

The following have achieved 30-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 30-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOA General Membership Meeting:

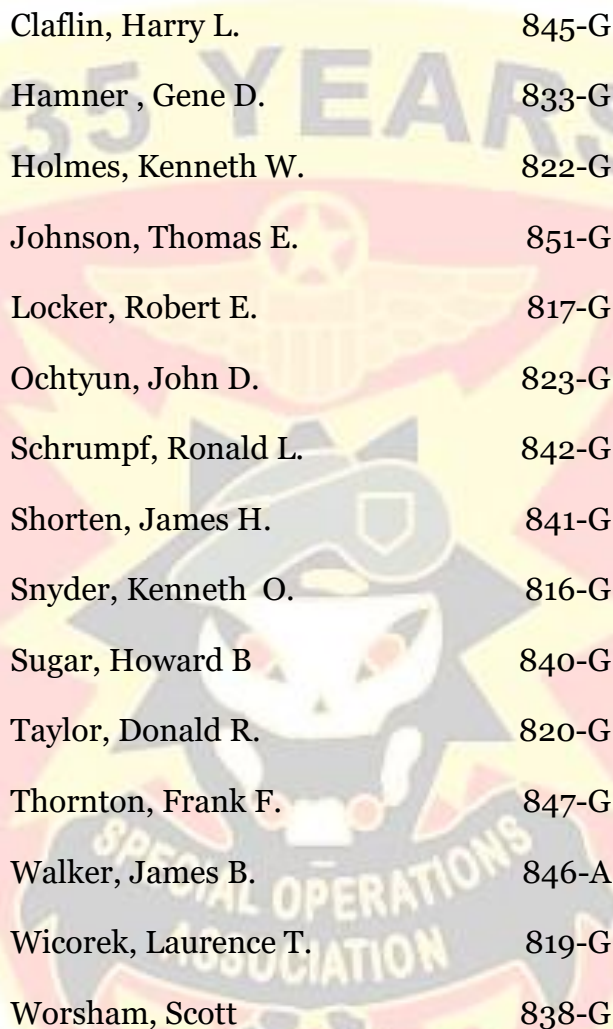


The background of the table is a large, semi-transparent logo for the SOA 30th Anniversary. It features a shield with a yellow border. Inside the shield, there is a stylized eagle with spread wings, a star above its head, and the text '30 YEARS' in large, bold, yellow letters. Below the eagle, the words 'SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION' are written in a smaller font. At the bottom of the shield is a stylized anchor.

Bilitzke, Joseph M.	1139-G
Chericone, Denis J.	1166-G
Coates, Robert	1156-G
Elliott, Sheridan S.	1123-A
Estrada, Pedro B.	1125-A
Feeney, Don	1113-G
Frescura, John L.	1137-G
Heiser, G. William	1138-G
McLeroy, James D.	1158-G
Mohler, David G.	1146-A
Newman, Max E.	1116-G
Owens, John C.	1143-G
Sottile, Jr., Joe	1119-G
Steenbock, Stanley A.	1118-G
Sternberg, Jr., George J.	1164-G
Sullivan, Stephen R.	1104-G
Sutcliffe, Grenville G.	1154-G
Taitano, Norman C.	1161-G
Tatten, Thomas R.	1153-A
Unruh, C. J.	1103-G
Young, Alvin H.	1130-G

SOA Members Achieving 35 Year Status

The following have achieved 35-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 35-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOA General Membership Meeting:

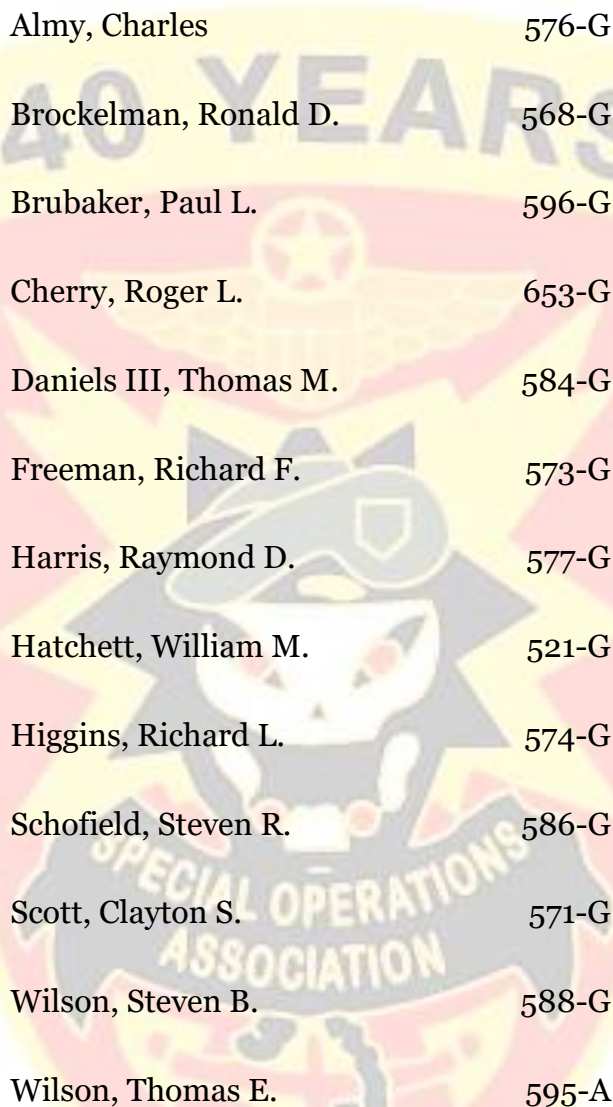


A large, semi-transparent graphic of a 35-year SOA pin is centered in the background. The pin is shield-shaped with a yellow border. Inside, it features a stylized eagle with spread wings at the top, a central figure of a person in a flight suit, and the text '35 YEARS' at the top and 'SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION' at the bottom.

Claflin, Harry L.	845-G
Hamner , Gene D.	833-G
Holmes, Kenneth W.	822-G
Johnson, Thomas E.	851-G
Locker, Robert E.	817-G
Ochtyun, John D.	823-G
Schrumpf, Ronald L.	842-G
Shorten, James H.	841-G
Snyder, Kenneth O.	816-G
Sugar, Howard B	840-G
Taylor, Donald R.	820-G
Thornton, Frank F.	847-G
Walker, James B.	846-A
Wicorek, Laurence T.	819-G
Worsham, Scott	838-G

SOA Members Achieving 40 Year Status

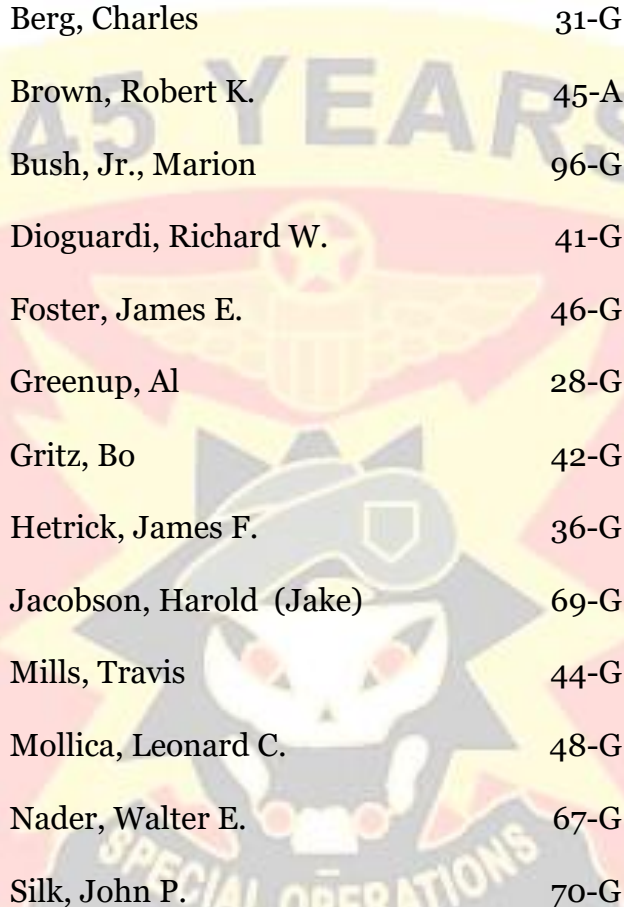
The following have achieved 40-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 40-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOA General Membership Meeting:

A large, semi-transparent graphic of a 40-year anniversary pin is centered in the background. The pin is shield-shaped with a yellow border. Inside, it features a red field with a white star at the top, a white gear at the bottom, and a central white figure of a soldier in a helmet. The text "40 YEARS" is written in large, bold, white letters across the top, and "SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION" is written in smaller, bold, white letters across the bottom.

Almy, Charles	576-G
Brockelman, Ronald D.	568-G
Brubaker, Paul L.	596-G
Cherry, Roger L.	653-G
Daniels III, Thomas M.	584-G
Freeman, Richard F.	573-G
Harris, Raymond D.	577-G
Hatchett, William M.	521-G
Higgins, Richard L.	574-G
Schofield, Steven R.	586-G
Scott, Clayton S.	571-G
Wilson, Steven B.	588-G
Wilson, Thomas E.	595-A

SOA Members Achieving 45 Year Status

The following have achieved 45-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association. In recognition, they will be awarded their 45-year SOA pin during the conduct of the 2023 SOAR Banquet:



A large, semi-transparent watermark of a SOA 45-year pin is centered in the background. The pin is shield-shaped with a yellow border. Inside, it features a stylized grey and white cat-like face with red eyes. Above the face is a yellow winged emblem. The text '45 YEARS' is written in large, grey, block letters across the top. At the bottom, a banner reads 'SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION'.

Berg, Charles	31-G
Brown, Robert K.	45-A
Bush, Jr., Marion	96-G
Dioguardi, Richard W.	41-G
Foster, James E.	46-G
Greenup, Al	28-G
Gritz, Bo	42-G
Hetrick, James F.	36-G
Jacobson, Harold (Jake)	69-G
Mills, Travis	44-G
Mollica, Leonard C.	48-G
Nader, Walter E.	67-G
Silk, John P.	70-G

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 about 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
Abraham, Jack B.	365-G	11 Apr 23	Meyer, William S.	1861-G	6 Jan 23
Bennett, William C.	2841-A	11 Mar 23	Miner, Louis F.	660-G	15 Sep 21
Bonwit, Barry L.	933-G	20 Apr 22	Newman, Merrill E.	1717-G	17 Jan 22
DeBolt, Norbert C.	1566-G	19 May 23	Rybat, Edward S.	2377-G	4 Jul 19
Dobbins, Robert E.	1288-G	13 Jan 23	Spencer, Herman	3119-G	13 May 18
Evans, Bobby G.	659-G	4 Feb 23	Steward, Jimmie L.	1446-G	15 Jan 23
Graham, Robert “RJ”	184-g	18 Apr 23	Stoddard, Jim R.	1084-G	9 Apr 23
Hagen, Michael E.	2100-G	29 May 23	Thompson, William T.	1515-G	28 Dec 17
Hall, Marshall D.	2847-G	27 Jun 22	Vaughn, John D.A.	2630-G	15 Dec 21
Howard, Lloyd J.	153-G	17 May 23	Waugh, William “Billy”	5-G	4 Apr 23
Keele, Michael F.	2955-G	8 Apr 23	Wierenga, Jan “Dutch”	3350-G	9 Jan 23
Kouns, Leon Wes	831-A	20 May 23	Wilson, Lee Bailey	1682-G	27 Mar 23
Maxwell, Patrick Glen	1891-G	12 Jan 23	Worley, Morris	1698-G	29 Mar 23
McCaslin, Patrick Duane	3210-G	7 Apr 22			

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Planned Monthly Giving Program

Registration Form

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

___ Monthly Contributions to be made by:

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

If by Automatic Withdrawal or Credit Card please fill in completely

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



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

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

-- 1st of Billing Month

-- 10th of Billing Month

-- 15th of Billing Month

-- 20th of Billing Month

-- 25th of Billing Month

-- 30th of Billing Month

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

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

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

IMO (In Memory Of) Assignment:

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

___ George C. Morton Scholarship Fund IMO: _____

.... Brightlight Fund IMO:

___ SOA Warrior Family Fund IMO: _____

___ Video History Fund IMO: _____

___ General Fund IMO: _____

___ Special Operations Association Foundation: _____

Monthly Charge/Withdrawal Authorization:

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

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

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

Authorizing Signature:

The Legend of Billy Waugh



SGM (Ret) William Dawson "Billy" Waugh passed away 4 April 2023. Billy, SOA #5, was born 1 December 1929 in Bastrop, Texas.

Following a failed attempt to enlist in the Marine Corp for World War II at age 15, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1948. Graduating basic training at Ft. Ord in August, he completed jump school in December of '48. In 1951, Billy reenlisted for an assignment to the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Korea. There he learned "what made men tick, and what combat was all about".

Billy Waugh was assigned to Germany after the armistice ended the Korean conflict. Meeting several 10th SFG NCOs that interested him joining the Special Forces, he requested a transfer and began SF training. He earned his Green Beret and joined the 10th SFG(A) in 1954. Somewhere between 1954 and 1961, he was a member of the Green Light Team and launched, subsurface, from the U.S. nuclear attack submarine USS Grayback while carrying an actual atomic weapon, a W54 SADM.

SGM Billy Waugh, then with the 1st SFG(A), deployed to Vietnam in 1961. The deployment included training Civilian Irregular Defense Groups, and CIA Special Activities Division assignments.

In 1965 the US began military operations in Vietnam. Assigned to ODA-321, MSG Billy Waugh, CPT Paris Davis and two other SF teammates led the ARVN 883rd Regional Forces Company on raid against the VC Regimental HQ near Bong Son in June of '65. While trying to organize a scattered platoon of ARVN troops, he was wounded three separate times – knee, ankle and foot, and forehead. Seriously wounded forward of a defensive line, he lay unconscious as he was stripped of his possessions by the enemy. It took CPT Davis three tries over some time to rescue Billy. Evacuated to Walter Reed Hospitals, he spent nearly a year recovering from his wounds.



Having recovered in 1966, MSG Waugh returned to Vietnam and volunteered for MACV-SOG. In the ensuing 5 years, he was involved with CCN, CCC, and CCS, and a variety of SOG projects with these detachments. He served as Senior NCO of Recon Teams, CCS's Contact/Training Team, HALO instructor/jumper, and Covey rider.

As a covey rider, MSG Waugh was aboard the FAC during the disastrous Oscar 8 mission on 3 June '67. Immediately following an Arc Light, the FAC entered the area swarming with NVA who took the FAC under fire. Exiting the area, Waugh sent a transmission to the launch site to "scratch the infil as the area was crawling with NVA". The transmission did not make it to the launch site due to the topography. Returning to Khe Sanh, Billy jumped into a Kingbee and joined the rescue of a downed Kingbee crew – 1 of 7 downed aircraft at Oscar 8.

The Legend of Billy Waugh (Cont'd)



Ba Kev, Apr '70 - Charles Smith, Rocky Farr, Billy Waugh, "Pop" Taylor, Tomas Ruiz, Warren Wanson, and Indig

In March 1970, a change in the Cambodian Government gave the US and ARVN troops an opportunity to enter Cambodia to disrupt NVA logistics in country. About April 26th CPT Spoerry and SGM Waugh led an augmented CCS team to an outpost at Ba Kev, Cambodia to revitalize and strengthen the Cambodian troops. Following training in marksmanship, patrolling, and small unit tactics, the CCS and Cambodian troops were running successful offensive operations and hindering the NVA. However, sixty days later the Ba Kev situation became untenable, approximately 2,000 Cambodians were evacuated

through the jungle to Duc Co. After 62 days, LTC Lindsey summed up the operation, "I considered this Ba Kev operation the crowning achievement of CCS. It was the longest single mission that SOG had in Cambodia and it certainly had the most impact". SGM Waugh said, "It was a memorable stay at Ba Kev, the most fulfilling operation of my SOG career, and with it came many unforgettable moments".

In the early hours of 22 June 1971, SGM Waugh led SOG's third HALO mission. SSGT James "JD" Bath, SGT Jesse Campbell, and SGT Madison Strohlein made up the rest of the team. The team jumped from a SOG Blackbird at 19,000 feet. The night in Laos was dark and raining heavily. The team was scattered except Waugh and Campbell. Both Bath and Strohlein hit the ground hard causing injuries. Strohlein broke his right arm. Because of the bad weather, Strohlein's rescue was delayed. When a Bright Light Team made it to the tree Strohlein landed in, the team found Strohlein's weapon and evidence of a fire fight but were unable to locate any other trace of his whereabouts. He remains MIA. The remaining team members were successfully extracted.



SGM Waugh retired from the U.S. Army in 1972 after 24 years of service. He returned to Bastrop, Tx and went to work for the Postal Service.

In 1977 he accepted an offer to train Libyan Special Forces. While there, he was approached by the CIA to surveil Libyan military installations and capabilities – this was of great interest to U.S. intelligence as Libya was receiving substantial military assistance from the Soviet Union at the time.

In the 1980s, the CIA assigned Waugh to the Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands to track Soviet small boat teams operating in the area and prevent them from stealing U.S. missile technology.

From 1992-94, some of his more critical assignments took place in Khartoum, Sudan where he performed surveillance and intelligence gathering on terrorist leaders Osama bin Laden and Carlos the Jackal.

The Legend of Billy Waugh (Cont'd)



At the age of 71, Waugh participated in Operation Enduring Freedom from October to December 2001 as a member of the CIA's Northern Alliance Liaison Team which went into Afghanistan to work with the Northern Alliance to topple the Taliban regime and Al Qaeda at the Battle of Tora Bora.

In his autobiography "Hunting the Jackal", Billy Waugh wrote, "From Korea to Afghanistan and every conflict in between, I have fought whomever my country ordered me to fight, for 50 years in 64 countries, I have sought and destroyed my country's enemies -- whether they be called communists or terrorists -- wherever they hide."

While Waugh is known for his daring feats and fabled accolades, he was also a lifelong supporter of the military communities that formed him. In turn, he formed them under the shadow of his likeness, never losing his

Texas heart, keen wit, and indomitable spirit.

His military decorations include a Silver Star, Legion of Merit, four Bronze Stars, eight Purple Hearts, four Army Commendation Medals w/V device, and fourteen Air Medals. Other awards - Special Forces Hall of Honor, USSOCOM Hall of Honor, Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment, US Army Special Forces Philip Neri Award (2007), and 187th Airborne Regimental Hall of Fame.





YOU KNOW WHY YOU JOINED THE SOA.

Why? To paraphrase the purposes of the SOA, because you like the idea of belonging to an organization that perpetuates the esprit de corps of the Special Operations community and unites fraternally all of us whether we are Veterans or on active duty.

Our membership is reflective of all branches of the armed forces - Army Green Berets/Night Stalkers/Rangers, Navy SEALs/SWCCs, USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Marine Raiders/RECON, and the other specialized special operations units.

EVERYONE CAN BE AN SOA RECRUITER

- *Contact your comrades from the units/branch where you served:*
 - *Invite them to attend our annual reunion in October*
 - *Encourage them to apply for membership in the SOA.*
- *Represent the SOA at military functions, conventions, military gatherings, or meetings and distribute recruitment materials.*



We ask all SOA members to join us in recruiting new members, especially those with whom you served.

Contact me to discuss how you can help.

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

SpecialOperationsAssociation.org

Endowments, Bequests, and Wills

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

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

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

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

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

I. General language for a Bequest:

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

II. Specific Bequest language:

- A. "I give ___ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property - home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for its unrestricted use." Or,
- B. "I give ___ (\$\$\$ amount, description of item, e.g., car, boat, etc., legal description of real property - home, farm, etc., or a % of residue or remainder of estate, a specific asset/stock/security) to the Special

Endowments, Bequests, and Wills

(Cont'd)

Operations Association, a veteran's fraternal organization, in care of Linda M. Leavitt, SOA Administrator, P. O. Box 335461, North Las Vegas, NV 89033, for the specific purpose (one of the following specific projects):

1. The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.
2. The SOA Brightlight Program Fund.
3. The SOA Personal Video History Project Fund.
4. The SOA Warrior's Family Fund.
5. The SOA General Fund.

C. If at any time in the judgment of the governing body of the Organization, it is deemed impossible or impracticable to carry out the stated purpose of the bequest, the governing body of the Organization shall determine a purpose as near as possible to the purpose stated in the bequest.

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

A. Giving all or a percentage of what remains of an estate after all specific bequests having been satisfied and debts and expenses have been paid

(the "rest, residue and remainder of the estate").

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

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

SOA MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE

Fees can be processed online on the SOA website by clicking the Membership tab.

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

Update Contact Information



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

MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

SOA# _____ Date of change _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

NEXT-OF-KIN CONTACT INFORMATION

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

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

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

This information can be processed on the SOA website or mailed to:
Membership Committee
PO Box 335461
N. Las Vegas, NV 89033

SOAR Registration Information



SOAR XLVII REUNION INFORMATION 16-20 October 2023



Eligibility: SOA members in good standing and their guests.

Where: The Orleans Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Register by Phone: 800 675-3267, or online:
www.orleanscasino.com/groups

SOAR Group Code: ASP3C10 (Alpha Sierra Papa Three Charlie One Zero).

Sunday through Thursday daily – \$49 + \$15.99 resort fee + tax per day.

Friday and Saturday — \$99 + \$15.99 resort fee + tax per day.

SOAR room rates are guaranteed through 11 Sept. 2023.

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

End of Reunion: All SOAR activities will cease at 1200, Friday, 20 October 2023

Updates will be posted on the SOA website:

SPECIALOPERATIONS.ORG

SOAR Registration Info (Cont'd)



SOAR XLVII

Registration Information

16-20 October 2023

SOAR XLVII registration for reunion fees and individual events must be completed online on the SOA website.....

SpecialOperations.org

Members preferring to pay by cash, check, or money order, may do so at the registration desk on arrival at SOAR in October.

Reunion Fees:

Choose Full **or** Daily:

FULL - \$230 per person

- Includes Hospitality all days, Wednesday Luncheon, and the Thursday Banquet.

DAILY - \$100 per day per person, individual days include:

- Monday – Hospitality
- Tuesday – Hospitality
- Wednesday – Hospitality + Luncheon
- Thursday – Hospitality + Banquet

Individual Events:

Fees for individual events are not included in the Reunion Fees and must be completed on separate registration forms.

Name Badges:

For security, reunion name badges will be provided and must be displayed during the reunion. Temporary badges will be available for attendees arriving after the registration desk closes.

Refunds:

All requests for refunds must be submitted to the Registrar.

If you have questions or need assistance completing the online forms, contact the Registrar:

Ivan Davis, SOAR Registrar

Registrar4soar@gmail.com

541-543-1073

SOA QUARTERMASTER SALES

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

SOA MEMBERS:

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

There are several new products in the Store including those pictured below. The polo shirt can be embroidered (right side) with 3 lines, 3-24 characters each line, for your name, unit, and location.

NEW PRODUCTS



DRI-FIT POLO SHIRT
Add embroidery!



FLEECE THROW
50" X 60"



NEW LARGER SIZE



HOODED SWEATSHIRT
Pullover or Zippered

All suggestions and recommendations for new product ideas are appreciated. If you have any questions about a product, or need assistance placing an order, call me. If there is no answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

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



THE SOA's MACVSOG MEDAL OF HONOR PRINT

To honor and memorialize MACVSOG's Medal of Honor recipients and the men of MACVSOG

Limited Edition of 250 Prints

Creative work of Robert L. Noe, CCN 69-70 and Artist Frank Allen



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

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

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

PRINT IMAGES

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR 2023 RAFFLE!!!

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 are just some of the exciting items we will have to Raffle this year....



Smith & Wesson Model 19 Revolver and 1911 customized SOG Handguns



Bonnie Cooper's Hand Made Patriot Quilt



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POP Smoke Coffee Gift Basket of Items



Handcrafted Knives



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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!

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