

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

PRE-REUNION PACKET

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION REUNION

SOAR XX

25 - 29 September 1996

PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



ADVANCE REGISTRATION: \$80.00

Rooms: \$32.00 Plus Tax Per Nite

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XX

"Schedule of Events"

25 - 29 September 1996

WEDNESDAY, 25 September 1996

1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration

THURSDAY, 26 September 1996

0730 - 1200	Weapons Firing
1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration

FRIDAY, 27 September 1996

0730 - 1200	Weapons Firing
1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration
1200 - 1330	Lunch (Hosted by SOA)
1430 - 1630	Board of Directors Meeting

SATURDAY, 28 September 1996

0900 - 1800	Hospitality Suite
0900 - 1000	Late Registration
1000 - 1200	General Membership Meeting
1230 - 1330	Lunch, (Hosted by SOA)
1800 - 1900	Cocktails, (Hosted by SOA)
1900 - 2015	Posting of Colors/Banquet
2015 - 2030	Introduction of VIP's, Current BOD & Newly Elected BOD
2030 - 2045	Retirement of Colors
2100 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite

SUNDAY, 29 September 1996

0800 - 1200	Hospitality Suite
NLT 1200	Closing of Hospitality Suite
NLT 1200	Hotel Check-Out.





SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

SOAR XX

PRE-REUNION INFORMATION

1. This is our 20th Anniversary and we expect SOAR XX to be the largest reunion to date----so it's time to begin making your plans to attend. Arrangements have been finalized to conduct SOAR XX at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, NV starting at 1000 hours on 25 September and ending at 1200 hours on 29 September. Jack Abraham, Reunion Chairman and his committee, as usual, have done a great job getting things organized for the reunion. .

2. Registration rates remain at \$80 for early registration--the same as the past three years. In order to take advantage of this 20% saving you must get your registration form and fee to Ralf Miller, SOA Treasurer, NLT 16 September. All registrations received after 16 September or at the reunion site will be \$100 per person. In addition to paying by check, you also have the option of using your Mastercard or Visa charge cards. As in past years, we have structured the registration fees so that the reunion will pay for itself. Specifically, we do not wish to incur a loss and have to take funds from dedicated accounts to make up for losses. Therefore, should we have any checks returned for insufficient funds, we will assess a \$25 penalty and place the issuer of that check on a cash basis for the following reunion. This applies to Mastercard/Visa charge backs (returned/not honored) as well. Your support of this policy is appreciated. (See enclosed registration form for details.)

3. Room rates at the Plaza Hotel remain the same as last year--\$32.00 plus tax, total \$35.20 per night. In order to take advantage of this special SOA rate you must provide the Plaza Hotel the reservation request NLT 26 August. If you require handicapped facilities and/or desire non-smoking rooms, you must specify when making reservations. For the past couple of years the hotel has not been able to honor late requests and some members had to stay in other hotels. A hotel registration envelope is enclosed for your use. (Plaza Hotel Phone 1-800-634-6575.)

4. **HELP WANTED!!!** We need volunteers to assist in the conduct of our reunion. Specifically, we need help in the management of the hospitality suite. This is a two shift per day requirement, and is the major area we spend time in during our reunion. Also direly

needed are volunteers for memorabilia sales, VIP escorts and pre/post reunion logistical support. If you can be of any assistance in any of these areas, please indicate so on the registration form. YOUR HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED BY ALL. THANKS!!!

5. Our Hospitality Room and Registration area will be located on the third floor of the hotel in the same area as the past couple of years. When you complete the registration form, please fill out the spaces indicated for your estimated time/date of arrival and departure time/date. This really helps the SOA Reunion Committee and registration desk in planning the amount of food and drinks.

6. Guests are welcome to attend our reunions, however, guests will not be permitted to attend without the attendance of the sponsoring SOA member. In the past we have had instances where a guest arrived and the SOA member did not.

7. Individuals desiring to bring up any topics at the General Membership Meeting and/or speak during the reunion are requested to contact Clyde Sincere, SOA Administrator, NLT 15 Aug, so the topic can be added to the agenda and, if required, other support arrangements can be made.

8. Vendors are reminded that the Vendor fee will be \$75 per table for the entire reunion. Those that wish to offer items for sale at SOAR XX should ensure they contact Jack Abraham, Chairman, Reunion Committee, NLT 30 August at 1-512-258-7798. Vendor tables will be closed NLT 1200, Sunday 29 September. NO EXCEPTIONS.

9. Located within the PRP is the ballot for the 1997-98 election of the Association's Officers/Directors. Your vote is important and dictates the way you want YOUR organization managed. Be certain to cast your ballot in the envelope addressed to: SOA Tally Committee. (Reminder--only "General members, including those members that are "Life-General" may vote in the SOA. Associate and Honorary members are not permitted to vote IAW SOA Constitution & By-Laws.)

10. Also located within the PRP is the information on the SOA ring. I am sure most of you have seen the ring since it has been available for several years, but something you may not be aware of is that the ring is also being offered with an 18 diamond embellishment. We would like to place an order for the rings by 1 August. (This will enable us to have the rings before SOAR XX.) So, if you want a ring, get your order in to Bill Gow, Chairman, Memorabilia Sales. (See enclosed information sheet on ring and memorabilia sales envelope.)

11. Enclosed in each PRP are 10 tickets (costing \$5.00 each) for The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle. Like the last three years, we will be raffling three EE Savings Bonds valued at \$2000, \$1000 and \$500, respectively. The raffle will be conducted following the banquet on Saturday evening, 28 September. Everyone is requested to give this program their support, and sell as many tickets as you can. TICKET SALES ARE NOT RESTRICTED TO SOA



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT

INFORMATIONAL NOTICE INFORMATIONAL NOTICE

TO: All SOA Members

FROM: The SOA Administrator

SUBJECT: Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP), SOAR XX.

This envelope contains your SOAR XX PRP.

The following items are incorporated into this packet:

- 1- PRP Information Newsletter, from the SOA President.*
- 2- SOAR XX ADVANCE (Discount) Registration Form.*
- 3- Plaza Hotel & Casino Reservation Envelope.*
- 4- SOA Treasurer Envelope for 1997 Dues and/or SOAR XX
Registration.*
- 5- SOA Memorabilia Sales Form.*
- 6- SOA Memorabilia Sales Envelope.*
- 7- Ten (10) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle
Tickets @ \$5.00 each.*
- 8- SOA Membership Application Form.*
- 9- SOA 1997-'98 Board of Officers Election Ballot, Abbreviated Bio's
and Ballot Envelope..*
- 10- SOA Tally Committee Envelope.*
- 11- SOAR XX Calendar.*
- 12- Travel Network-Reston: (Air Travel Brochure).*

RESEARCH REPORT

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

MEMORABILIA SALES ITEMS

	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RING, WITH SOA CREST, (SIZE _____)			
STERLING SILVER	\$175.00	_____	_____
10 CARAT GOLD	\$375.00	_____	_____
DIAMONDS (18) EMBELLISHMENT (.4C WT.)	\$325.00	_____	_____
AROUND RING LOGO/ADD TO RING COST (LIMITED TO 20 CHARACTERS/SPACES)		_____	_____
NAME & SOA NUMBER TO BE ENGRAVED INSIDE RING:			
CAP, GOLF, POPLIN, (ONE SIZE FITS ALL):			
"SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION" IN GOLD	\$12.00	_____	_____
EMBROIDERED ON BLACK CAP, W/LEATHER STRAP		_____	_____
DECALS, SOA CREST, 5 COLORS (FOR WINDOWS)			
INSIDE OR OUTSIDE, SPECIFY _____	\$3.50	_____	_____
MUGS, BLACK IRONSTONE (CERAMIC)			
COFFEE MUG (11 OZ) W/GOLD CREST	\$10.00	_____	_____
BEER MUG (16 OZ) GOLD + COLORED CREST	\$17.50	_____	_____
PATCHES, EMBROIDERED			
CCN/CCC/CCS 3&1/4" X 4&1/4"	\$8.00	_____	_____
SOA, 5 COLOR 2&3/4" X 4&1/4"	\$8.00	_____	_____
MISCELLANEOUS			
LAPEL PINS, SOA CREST	\$3.50	_____	_____
TIE TACK, SOA CREST	\$3.50	_____	_____
PEN & PENCIL SET W/SOA LOGO	\$21.00	_____	_____
SOA COIN (COPPER OR PEWTER) SPECIFY _____	\$10.00	_____	_____
WALNUT, LASER ENGRAVED, SOA LOGO PLAQUE	\$37.50	_____	_____
SOA BULLION BLAZER PATCH	\$30.00	_____	_____
SOA CANVAS 10" X 18" GYM BAG	\$10.00	_____	_____
BOOK, "SPECIAL FORCES OF THE U.S. ARMY" BY LTC (RET) IAN SUTHERLAND	\$44.00	_____	_____
SOA JACKET, SATIN, LINED, M-XL, SIZE _____	\$30.00	_____	_____
T-SHIRTS, L-XL ONLY, SOA CREST ON BREAST BLACK, SIZE _____	\$12.50	_____	_____
WATCH, SOA LOGO, QUARTZ, LEATHER BAND	\$35.00	_____	_____
AL MAR SF/SOG (ONE ZERO) MODEL #4008A1 KNIFE: 6&1/2" BLADE, BLACK HANDLE AND BLACK LEATHER SCABBARD.	\$195.00	_____	_____
SHIRT, GOLF, BLACK W/CREST, L/XL/XXL: SIZE _____	\$29.95	_____	_____
BUCKLE, BRASS, SOA	\$19.95	_____	_____

PLEASE SEE INSTRUCTIONS FOR PLACING AN
ORDER ON THE REVERSE SIDE

POSTAGE/INSURANCE: UNDER \$50 \$7.00 SUB-TOTAL \$
\$50.00 TO \$100 \$9.00 POSTAGE/INS \$
OVER \$100 \$11.00 TOTAL \$

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____ SOA # _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ PHONE # _____

CHECK/MONEY ORDER (US CURRENCY ONLY) PAYABLE TO SOAMS.

MASTER CARD OR VISA CARD (CIRCLE) EXPIRATION DATE: MO _____ YR _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____

SIGNATURE: _____

SEND COMPLETED INFORMATION TO:

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
ATTN: MEMORABILIA SALES
C/O WILLIAM "BILL" GOW
4036 FAIRPORT DRIVE
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89030

DELIVERY: 4 TO 6 WEEKS

MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA

The SOA is a fraternal organization made up of U.S. and allied participants in special military operations conducted in combat areas during WWII, the Korean War, the SE Asian conflict and post-Vietnam era conflicts.

GUIDELINES FOR THE DEFINITION OF "SPECIAL OPERATIONS" UNITS

The unit/project **must** be or have been composed of military/paramilitary personnel, organized **specifically** to conduct special/unconventional operations, with a mission of conducting covert and classified combat and/or reconnaissance operations as its normal function, within hostile territory and forward of the area of influence of conventional ground support units.

or

with the mission to conduct counter-Terrorist Operations as its **primary** function

or

on a **ROUTINE** basis provide **DIRECT** combat support (fire-transport-forward air control) to organizations meeting the above criterion and approved by the Special Operations Association. This definition applies only to those that actually crewed these land, sea, or air weapons or vehicles. (Since interpretation of "Special Operations" and the above guidelines may be relative to each applicant the final definitions shall rest with this Association.)

EXAMPLES OF UNITS RECOGNIZED:

PRE-1954: O.S.S.; 8240TH A.U.; MERRILL'S MARAUDERS; USMC RAIDERS OR SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS OF WORLD WAR II OR THE KOREAN WAR.

1954-PRESENT: COMBINED ARM STUDIES; MACVISOG; B-52; WHITE STAR; PROJECT OAK; PRU; CT; MOBILE STRIKE FORCE; B-56; MOBILE GUERRILLA FORCE; B-50; CIA; FBI; SOCPAC; DELTA FORCE; USN SEAL TEAMS; USMC FORCE RECON; USAF AIR COMMANDOS; USA SPECIAL FORCES ON SPECIAL OPERATIONS; OTHER SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS INVOLVED IN THE GULF WAR REGION; AND OTHER SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS.

TYPES & REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIPS

A. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

This is a **VOTING** membership and the dues are \$25.00 (U.S.) assessed annually.

REQUIREMENTS

1. The Applicant must have been assigned to one of the units recognized by this Association.
2. The **ROUTINE** (normal) duty of the Applicant while at this assignment **MUST** have placed the Applicant in **DIRECT THREAT/EXPOSURE** to hostile fire.
3. The Applicant must be specific concerning dates of assignments and duties performed while at this assignment. This information will be cross-checked with General Members.
4. The Applicant must provide, with his application, copies of government documentation proving unit assignment(s). **The Association is NOT responsible for obtaining your qualifying documentation!!!**
(Requirement #4, above, may be waived if the application includes the name of at least one **GENERAL MEMBER** who can verify the qualifications of the Applicant.)
5. Allied applicants **MUST** provide sufficient documentation to enable the Membership Committee to evaluate their qualifications. If the allied applicant is from a country from which it would be impossible to obtain records (i.e., Rhodesia or South Vietnam), they must submit as much background information on their duties, as possible, to the Membership Committee for evaluation.

B. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

This is a **NON-VOTING** membership and the dues are \$25.00 (U.S.) assessed annually.

REQUIREMENTS

Government documentation assigning you to one of the units recognized by this Association. If your normal duties at the assignment **DID NOT** place you in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire, then you qualify for an Associate Membership.

LIFE STATUS

A one time charge of \$250.00 (U.S.)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Any General or Associate Member in good standing.
2. A Life Membership **WILL NOT** be granted until a member is "paid in full."



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
5130 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE 5-583F
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89122



1. NAME _____ DATE _____
2. ADDRESS _____
3. CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE () _____
4. SOCIAL SECURITY # _____ PRIOR 1969 SERVICE # _____
5. TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: GENERAL _____ ASSOCIATE _____ (SEE TYPES AND REQUIREMENTS OF MEMBERSHIPS)
6. IF YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR A GENERAL MEMBERSHIP BUT THE LISTED DUTIES DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THAT CATEGORY, WILL YOU ACCEPT AN ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP? YES _____ NO _____
7. ASSIGNMENT TO MILITARY OR CIVILIAN ORGANIZATIONS THAT QUALIFY YOU FOR MEMBERSHIP:

UNIT OR PROJECT	DATES OF SERVICE	DUTIES	LOCATION

8. REFERENCE (ONLY A GENERAL MEMBER CAN BE LISTED AS A REFERENCE):

NAME	UNIT	MEMBER #

9. I UNDERSTAND THAT SOA MEMBERSHIP ENTITLES ME TO THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES SPECIFIED IN THE SOA BY-LAWS. ENCLOSED IS \$25.00, PAYABLE TO THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION FOR THE INITIATION FEE AND FIRST YEAR'S DUES. TO MAINTAIN MY MEMBERSHIP, I WILL PAY ANNUAL DUES OF \$25.00 NO LATER THAN JANUARY 31 OF EACH YEAR. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AT A COST OF \$250.

AUTHORITY FOR RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS

I HEREBY AUTHORIZE RELEASE OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS BEARING ON MY MILITARY SERVICE TO THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION. I FURTHER AFFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION SUBMITTED ON THIS SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FORM IS VOLUNTARY, AS WELL AS TRUE AND CORRECT.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

WITNESS _____ DATE _____

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:
CLAYTON S. SCOTT
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN
P.O. BOX 250161
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94125

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
1997-98 Board of Officers & Directors
OFFICIAL BALLOT

⇒ **PRESIDENT:** [Select one only]

- ☐ * William "Bill" O'Rourke
☐ * Clyde Sincere
☐ _____ (Write in)

⇒ **VICE PRESIDENT:** [Select one only]

- ☐ Charles Berg
☐ _____ (Write in)

⇒ **TREASURER:** [Select one only]

- ☐ Dale Bennett
☐ * Ralf Miller
☐ _____ (Write in)

⇒ **ADMINISTRATOR:** [Select one only]

- ☐ Jon Cavaiani
☐ _____ (Write in)

⇒ **DIRECTOR:** [Select three only]

- ☐ * Jack Abraham
☐ Roy Bahr
☐ * Donald Benjamin
☐ Bob Leites
☐ John Padgett
☐ Alfred Platt
☐ * Clayton Scott
☐ Bill Shelton
☐ * Ian Sutherland
☐ Larry Trimble
☐ _____ (Write in)

Notes: Outgoing President, (John McClaskey), automatically serves on 1997-98 SOA Board.

* Currently serving on 1995-96 SOA Board of Officers/Directors.

MEMBERS. The money collected supports the Scholarship Fund. Ticket stubs, along with the money for the tickets sold should be returned to Ralf Miller, 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, TX 78244 by 16 Sep 94 or turned in at SOAR XX ,prior to the banquet. If you need additional tickets, contact Clyde Sincere.

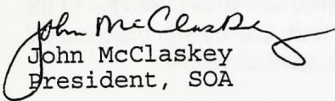
12. I would like to remind everyone that we are soliciting items for the raffle to be conducted following the General Membership Meeting. This is entirely separate from the banquet raffle of EE Saving Bonds. Persons wishing to donate items for this raffle (which also supports the Scholarship Fund) are requested to send those items to Clyde Sincere NLT 16 Sep.) If you bring the donations with you to the reunion, please ensure that Clyde gets them on your first day of arrival. He will establish a display area for raffle items that provides easy access for viewing by all members. Additional tickets for this raffle will be available at the registration desk. Remember, raffle item donations are tax deductible, and your support in this effort keeps our scholarship program financially secure.

13. Just a reminder, the weather should be warm during the time our reunion is scheduled. This will give all a chance to take advantage of the hotel facilities such as; large swimming pool, 4 lighted tennis courts, a 1/4 mile track. All are located on the hotel sports deck.

14. Well that about sums it up. If you have any questions, please give me or any of the other Board members a call.

15. I look forward to seeing you all in Las Vegas. Be prepared to have fun!!

Best Regards,


John McClaskey
President, SOA



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

FACT SHEET

The SOA is a 1200+ member fraternal organization of American and foreign participants of special military operations in combat theaters, primarily during the Southeast Asian conflict. The group includes World War II and Korean Veterans as well as those from the more recent conflicts; membership is limited to Free World forces who aided or took part in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, our association is composed of US Army Special Forces personnel but also includes Air Commandos, Navy SEALs, Force Recon Marines and veterans of other elite military and civilian organizations, who were a part of Special Operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

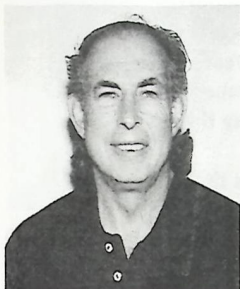
- (a) to unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations; and
- (b) to perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps; and
- (c) to commemorate 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; and
- (d) to perpetuate the memory of Col. George C. Morton through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veterans organization operating on tax deductible donations. Annual membership dues are \$25.00 US; lifetime membership fee is \$250.00 US. The organization has no meetings other than the annual reunion; the only organizational correspondence is the reunion warning order and subsequent after-action report.

Our twentieth annual reunion will be held in Las Vegas from 25 to 29 September 1996 at the Plaza Hotel; we anticipate more than 300 members and guests.

CANDIDATES FOR THE 1997-'98 BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

FOR PRESIDENT:



William H. "Bill" O'Rourke, Jr., SOA #379-L:

I have worked the past six (6) SOAR's on your behalf, two (2) years as a member of the SOA Memorial Sales Committee and the past four (4) years managing the SOA Hospitality Suite as a member of the annual SOA Reunion Committee. Additionally, I have served the past two (2) years as your SOA Vice-President. I will lead the SOA with positive and innovative leadership in the future, if elected. I have attended ten (10) of the past thirteen (13) SOAR's since I became a member of the SOA.



Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., SOA #010-L:

I have been a member of the SOA since its inception in 1977 and have been privileged to serve the SOA in a number of capacities. First, as your Secretary during the tenure of Jim Monaghan, (1980-'81), then as your President during the period 1982-'83 and subsequently, either as a Director or Association Administrator since 1984. I look forward to the opportunity to again serve the Association if elected, as your new President, during the term commencing 1 January 1997. I have truly enjoyed being present at 18 of the 19 SOAR's conducted since that first SOAR in 1977. Thank you, Jim Butler 1977.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT:



Charles L. Berg, CFE, CGFM, SOA #31-L:

I served as your Vice-President in 1980. I look forward to the opportunity to again serve, if elected. I am currently on the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee. Additionally, I was honored to assist in the first presentation on PTSD at SOAR XIX. I was medically retired from the U.S. Army in 1969. After attending college I worked for the U.S. Government as Comptroller, Director Internal Review from which I retired in 1994. As a Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Government Financial Manager in private practice, my background will be beneficial to the SOA as it expands in the future. I am a member of Chapter XXIII, SFA, serving as its current and past President, Vice-President and Secretary.

FOR TREASURER:

Dale R. Bennett, SOA #910-L:



I left Vietnam and the United States Army in 1971. I went back to college in California and soon determined that Vietnam was not a popular subject, let alone what we in Special Operations were doing. I "blocked out" for the next 20 years until I had the opportunity to meet someone wearing a CCS patch. The result of that encounter was becoming a SOA member and attending the last four (4) SOAR's. I have had the honor of assisting the SOA Memorabilia Sales table crew for the past two (2) SOAR's. Additionally, I have been fortunate to be able to donate for the past three (3) years to the annual SOAR raffle, reflective SOA jewelry that I have personally made. I have served as Vice-President, Chapter LIV in Boston for the last three (3) years. I believe in participating and working for the organizations that I belong to. I look forward to serving as the SOA Treasurer, if elected.

Ralf M. Miller, SOA #060-L:



I have been honored to be a member of the SOA for the past 17 years. I have served as your Treasurer for the past six (6) years raising our cash/assets "today" to over \$165,000 (up 500%). This does not include the \$86,000 already paid to past SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship recipients, nor the \$78,000 committed to pay out over the next four (4) years. I have had the privilege of serving as your Chairman, George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee for the past 13 years overseeing the selection and monitoring of 50 scholarship recipient students. I will continue to insist on frugal, common sense, no-frills approach in managing SOA funds to "maximize funding of the Scholarship program, keeping at minimum the administrative and non-essential costs of the SOA".

FOR ADMINISTRATOR:

Jon R. Cavaiani, SOA #1000-L:



I am seeking the office of SOA Administrator during the term commencing 1 January 1997. I have been a member of the Special Operations Association since 1992, and have served on the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee for the past two (2) years. I am currently the Secretary for the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. I farm in California with my wife Barbara and have the time to serve the Special Operations Association in whatever capacity is requested of me. Thank you for your support.

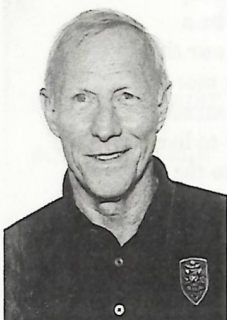
FOR DIRECTOR:



Jack B. Abraham, SOA #365-L:

I joined the SOA in 1981 and have served as your 2d Vice-President, Vice-President, President and Director since 1986 for a total of 11 continuous years. During that time, additional duties have included managing the SOA Memorabilia Sales for six (6) years and being your Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee for the past six (6) years. I desire to continue serving the SOA and as Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee will continue to produce the best darned reunions we've ever had. Your vote will be genuinely appreciated.

Roy W. Bahr, SOA #315-L:



I have been active within the SOA and attended most SOAR'S since 1981, including the "Bangkok Bash" (SOAR X, 1986). I have served on the George C. Morton Scholarship Committee; served as the Chairman of the 1995-'96 Nominating Committee and as a SOAR Sergeant-at-Arms. I have served in the U.S. Army as an Enlisted Man (1947-'51) and as a Commissioned Officer (1951-'74). I received my SF Qualifications in 1962 and served in the following Special Operations roles: Special Warfare Center, Fort Bragg; Advisor Chilean Special Forces and my MACVSOG assignments included duties as CO, FOB-1, FOB-2, FOB-3, and CCC, 5th Special Forces Group, (Abn), 1st SF. In addition to being a life member of the SOA, I am a Life member of the SFA, DAV, TROA and a member of the KheSahn Veterans Association.

Donald C. Benjamin, SOA #899-L:



I have been a member of the SOA since 1991 and have participated in SOAR activities since that time. I have worked as a member of the SOA Memorabilia Sales crew at SOAR's including serving as its "oversight" member for the SOA Board of Directors of which I have had the honor of being a member these past two (2) years. After retiring from the U.S. Army after 20 years, both as an enlisted member and as a commissioned officer, I established my own brokerage firm serving as President and CEO for 17 years, retiring in 1991 a second time. If the SOA membership sees fit to elect me to the Board of Directors for the term commencing on 1 January 1997, I will do my utmost to serve all of the SOA in any capacity that I am asked to serve. Thank you.



Robert "Bob" Leites, SOA #053-L:

I have been honored to be a Charter/Life member of the SOA. I have attended eight (8) SOAR's and have worked as a SOAR volunteer at SOAR II, III and XIX. I am fully retired now and if elected to the Board of Directors I will have the time to dedicate myself to serve the SOA in any capacity the Board deems appropriate. Thank you.

John E. Padgett, P.A.-C, SOA #404-L:



I have been a member of the SOA for the past 14 years and have attended nine (9) out of the last ten (10) SOAR's. The Special Operations Association is unique because of the men and women who compose its members - those people who have paid the price in service and dedication in the most difficult of circumstances. If elected to the Board, it will be my objective to diligently and honorably represent the membership, to be a representative as well as a Director. I would like to see us continue our close association with similar veterans organizations, as well as becoming more active in issues like supporting our Vietnamese and Montagnard comrades who were left behind, as well as those who were able to escape, only to live in poverty. We have a unique and special organization. If elected to the Board, I will do my best to serve the membership and uphold the principles of the SOA.

Alfred G. Platt, SOA #825-L:



I have been a member of the SOA and attended every SOAR since 1988. I have participated as a volunteer at each and every SOAR, e.g., take the SOAR hospitality bartenders to lunch, escort them to the Banquets, (somebody has to do that), assisted Clyde on the Las Vegas Quick Draw raffle, donated books, commemorative coins and other various items at each SOAR. I presently serve as the Deputy Commander, China Post #1, of the American Legion; I am a non-resident Director of the Air Commando Association, the Alternate Cheminot Nationale for the 40 and 8 in France; Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Raven FACs and Junior Vice for the VFW on the French Riviera. Additionally, I serve as the Secretary/Treasurer of the 189 Club, Inc., a Texas 501(c) 3 non-profit organization formed in 1994 that donates approximately \$20,000 annually for FFA and 4H student scholarships. I have been able to keep these commitments from over-lapping and am in a scheduling position to prevent these many activities from interfering with a duty to the SOA. I believe that I have the time and dedication to serve the Special Operations Association membership if asked to serve.



Clayton S. Scott, SOA #571-L:

I have been a SOA member since 1984. I served as your President during the term 1987-'88. I have been a member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Membership Committee continually since 1989 to the present. I have attended and participated in one (1) capacity or another at all SOARs since joining the SOA and enjoyed every moment. I have served in the 1st Special Forces Group and my assignments with the 5th Special Forces Group included duty at Camp Polei Kleng, the II Corps Mobile Strike Force and MACVSOG. I look forward to the opportunity to again serve the SOA if elected to the Board for the new term commencing 1 January 1997.

William "Bill" Shelton, SOA #890-L:

SORRY, PICTURE
NOT AVAILABLE

I attended SOAR I & II and became a Life member six (6) years ago. I was instrumental in assisting the SOA Reunion Committee in securing the Plaza Hotel and Casino as our current SOAR headquarters. I believe the SOA is important in assisting us to stay in touch with old friends and to stay abreast of the programs which affect all Special Operations forces. In view of the fact that I reside in the Las Vegas area, allows me to better assist in any requests the Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee may require. I look forward to serving on the SOA Board if elected.



Ian D.W. Sutherland, SOA #216-L:

I am the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Cape Girardeau County, Missouri. I have been a member of the SOA since 1981 and was elected to the current Board of Directors in 1994. I am the author of the "United States Army Special Forces, 1952-1982". I am presently working on a series of volumes on the U.S. Airborne Forces of World War II and the Korean War. I look forward to serving on the SOA Board if reelected.

Larry L. Trimble, SOA #163-L:



I joined the Special Operations Association in 1979 and have been an active participating member since that time. I have always been willing to assist at reunions when required. I volunteered to Chair the Special Operations Memorial Committee and have continued with this activity since the project was approved by the Board and General Membership. I look forward to the continued success of the SOA. I now reside in Orland, California with my wife Susan and I work as a Construction Safety Manager for the Department of Interior.

SOA FACTS AND FIGURES

IN MEMORY OF: It is with regret that the SOA Board reports to the membership that two (2) more SOA members have passed away since the last reported losses were reflected in the SOAR XIX AAR. **Gilbert B. Layton, 476-G** passed away on 2 May of lung cancer. Gil Layton representing the CIA was instrumental in 1962 in passing to George Morton representing the U.S. Army the CIDG program during Operation "Switchback". **Donald W. Bemis, 198-L** passed away on 12 May. The cause of Don's death was not mentioned at the time that SOA member Wm. E. Gore, 1072-G noticed his obituary in the local Leavenworth, Kansas newspaper and notified your Administrator. In this regard, all SOA members are requested to inform any member of the Board information relating to the passing of a SOA member. In view of the fact that our organization is spread throughout the world a member's passing could occur and the organization would not be aware of it. This should not happen.

SEPARATE BRIEFINGS, SOAR XX: Again, as has previously been held, members will have an opportunity following the SOA hosted luncheon on Saturday, 28 September 1996 to attend separate briefings as requested and presented by SOA members. A word of caution, during the conduct of SOAR XIX, SOA member **Peter Rothwell, 706-G** was scheduled to speak to those interested members on the "The Malaya Emergency, 1948-'60", but, was unable to do so due to prior scheduled speakers overrunning their allocated time. In order to assure Peter that he will have the opportunity should he desire it, his subject will be scheduled first on the "agenda" of separate speakers, followed by SOA member **Norm Doney, 665-L** who will brief on the latest POW/MIA information he has compiled since his last briefing at SOAR XIX. Following Norm, will be SOA members **Bob Donoghue, 680-G, Charlie Berg, 31-L, Dave "Bulldog" Smith, 1242-G, Robert Shippen, 540-L and Bruce Johnson, 1149-G** on their latest trip to Vietnam during the April-May time period. They will have maps, photos, video tapes and copies of the latest "Saigon Times", yes, the latest "Saigon Times", vintage 1996 to show to those members desiring to know the latest from Vietnam. Can you picture Charlie Berg climbing the hills of Khe Sanh? Well he did it, (with a little help at times). Wait until he relates his visit to the Bru village of Thon Cheng the day following an all night rain. Do you remember the red, wet and slippery mud conditions of earlier times, well, nothing has changed. Should any other member wish to brief the membership on a particular subject requiring time that should not be taken up during the General Membership Meeting due to meeting time-constraints, contact Clyde Sincere, (703) 620-0953, soonest and provide your subject, time required and any special equipment, e.g., Viewgraph, Video monitor and player, etc.

LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW: There will be only one (1) "Draw" during the conduct of SOAR XX and it will take place following the Banquet on the evening of Saturday, 28 September. (See inclosure relative to the conduct of the "Draw"). Tickets will be available throughout the SOAR until all 100 tickets are sold.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES: The following change of addresses are provided for the edification of the membership to add to their 1996 Membership Directory. As of this report your Administrator has already received a number of "1996 Spring Newspaper" mailings returned as a result of members moving and not providing a proper change of address. A special "thank you" to those members that were thoughtful enough to provide a change of address:

Roy W. Bahr 5225 East Harbor Village Dr. Suite 305 Vero Beach, Florida 32967	John R. Fryer 10912 Newbrighton Court Newport Richey, Florida 34654	Jose E. Vasquez 117 E. Williamson Ave. Harlingen, Texas 78550
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Harold Jacobson 4729 Huron Drive Pensacola, Florida 32507-8738	Les Silvernail 4810 SW 48th Court Lincoln City, Oregon 97367-1303	David Baratto 5821 Colfax Avenue Alexandria, Va. 22311
--	--	--

Thys K. Bui 105 Serra Way Milpitas, California 95035	Johnson S."J.C." Clark Box 30082 Honolulu, Hawaii 96820-0082	Stephen Howard P.O.Box 6096 Tampa, Florida, 33608
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Martin Kaufman 2508-E So. Arlington Mill Dr. Arlington, Virginia 22206-3359	Albert Kossman 613 So. Washington Ave. Greenville, Ms. 38701	David "Jed" Maxwell 5128 Dupont Road Santa Rosa, CA. 95409
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"Bud" C.O. McBroom County Road,261-D,Box I-16 Nathrop, Colorado 81236	Lillian Morton 975 E. Armour Road Oconomowoc, WI.53066	Allan L.Bucknell Dept.of Orthopedics 4701 E. Ninth Ave. Box E203 Denver,CO. 80262
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B.Sea Wyatt 5521 Randolph Crescent Burlington, Ontario Canada L7L 3E1	Stan Steenbock 3876 S. Mandalay Rd. Houma, LA. 70360-8055	Kenneth Pride 2321 S. Oneida St, Suite 272 Green Bay, WI.54304
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James A. Ramsden P.O. Box 45484 Boise, Idaho 83711-5484	Harve W. Saal P.O. Box 1477 Port Hadlock, WA.98339	Hudson Swanson 21 Warner Street Thomasville,NC 27360
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Harlan "Rip" Van Winkle
1400 El Camino Village Drive
Houston, Texas 77058

Robert B. Woodham
1923 Ashford
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

John Corley
5761 Waterwood Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28314

Richard Todd
16214 Fantasia Drive
Tampa, Florida 33624

Leigh Wade
1717 Rosemary
Tucson, AZ. 85716-3309

Jeffrey L. Wendling
P.O. Box 159
Rockford, Ill. 61105

Chuck Clayton
301 Church Street
Cobleburg, Iowa 52035

Mike Taylor
c/o OPM-SANG
Unit 61304
APO AE 09803-1304

Michael Farrell
3006 Cedar Hill Lane
Augusta, GA. 30909

Norman C. Taitano
177 B. Mall St. #C-301
Tamuning, Guam 96911

Charles Dirks
5090 So. Meade Street
Littleton, Colo. 80123

Laughlin Todd
2734 Wilborn
San Antonio, TX.
78217

1996 Reunion of Khe Sanh Veterans, Inc.: The Khe Sanh Veterans will hold a reunion during the period 24-28 July at the Ramada Inn, in Easington, Pennsylvania a suburb of Philadelphia. If you are at all interested in details, contact Vince Griffith at (909) 676-6047. *Your Administrator has been informed it is primarily a Marine get-together, but, he has also been informed there will be a number of FOB-3 (SOA) and First Cavalry Division personnel that will be in attendance.*

Raffle and Door Prize Donations:

a. As always and again, SOAR XX is going to have a number of outstanding prizes to offer to the attending membership and their guests. Your Administrator already has in hand a couple of "super" items that have been provided by SOA members. Remember, the proceeds from the "raffle" go to support the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Board wishes to thank those members that have provided items in the past and certainly those that will provide items in the future. It all goes to a super worthwhile project that all SOA members and their guests can be proud of.

b. If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XX and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the item(s) with you and give it to Clyde Sincere as early as possible in order that he can display the items and the members may then have an opportunity to purchase tickets against the raffle items of their choice. If you cannot attend this years reunion and you wish to donate either a door prize or a raffle item, you are requested to mail it directly to the PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO to arrive NLT 24 September c/o SOAR XX, Attn: Jack Abraham/Clyde Sincere. You may if you wish also mail the item directly to Clyde if timing becomes a problem. He will see to it that it gets to the reunion.

c. If you thought the raffle item (derringers) donated by Don Benjamin at SOAR XIX was "super", wait until you see what he has to offer this year. Two (2) years in a row Don has provided unusual prizes, at SOAR XVIII a Ruger Rifle and last year the pair of derringers. What possibly could be better? Let us come and see, right? Thank you Don.

Prairie Village: Are you interested in moving to Illinois? SOA member ***Cal Seybold, 1050-G*** has recently returned from Serbia where he worked with MPRI on their contract with the United Nations monitoring the border between Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia. He has recently joined the ranks of the "entrepreneurs of the world" and is building retirement homes in Mt. Carmel, Illinois - right smack in Wabash County overlooking the banks of the beautiful Wabash River. Cal can be contacted at (618) 262-8745 if you are at all interested.

TRAVEL NETWORK-Reston, Virginia: Reference is directed to your latest Spring Newsletter regarding the agreement between the SOA and Travel Network. Travel Network has agreed to provide 35% of their commission to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund on all travel performed by members of the SOA and their guests, not only to and from a SOAR, **but**, any travel at anytime, anywhere or anyplace year in and year out. Travel Network will provide the SOA Treasurer with a quarterly statement and check. Now, it is up to you the members to take advantage of this offer. Mrs. Sandy Kreer, the President of the Travel Network - Reston, Virginia office has offered to provide the SOA the lowest fares possible at the time of booking along with her 24 hour service. SOA members living outside the local Virginia office may contact Travel Network at 1-(800) 892-6470. Members living within the (703) area code are requested to utilize her local number 620-3001 and inform any of her staff that you are a member of the SOA desiring to purchase a ticket(s). Travel Network will insure your tickets will arrive at your desired location at the time you require them. However, help her, help you, by requesting tickets in a timely fashion in view of the fact that the earlier you order the tickets, the better price you will receive. Nothing precludes a member from checking other sources if you believe you have not received the lowest fare possible at the time you order your tickets. The SOA Board believes this is a win-win situation - Travel Network gets our business and SOA receives a rebate from ticket purchases that goes into the Scholarship Fund. A Travel Network brochure is included in this packet.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION REUNION XX (SOAR XX):

Do you know someone that is a member of the SOA and who has **never, never** attended a SOAR? If so, contact them **now** and urge that they make their plans **now** to attend this year. This is a hallmark year, the 20th Anniversary of the SOA. Shouldn't they get to know what you know - that the SOAR is an event that is likely never to be forgotten. Each SOAR people continually come "out-of-the-woodwork" and then go home stating that they will never again miss a SOAR. The binding fraternal comradeship that developed so many years ago is strengthened each and every SOAR.



THE PICTURE ABOVE REFLECTS THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICIAL RING. ITS DESIGN IS PROTECTED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT COPYRIGHT. IT IS AVAILABLE IN 10 KARAT GOLD FOR \$375.00 OR IN STERLING SILVER FOR \$175.00. SHIPPING IS EXTRA. PLEASE SEE THE MEMORABILIA SALES FORM. RINGS ORDERED NOW WILL BE SHIPPED WITHIN SIX (6) TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS. WHEN ORDERING, REQUEST YOU TYPE OR PRINT EXACTLY HOW YOU DESIRE YOUR NAME TO BE ENGRAVED INSIDE OF THE RING; ALSO, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AND CORRECT RING SIZE. THE SOA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IF THE WRONG SIZE RING IS ORDERED. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONTACT A JEWELER TO DETERMINE THE SIZING FOR YOU...THANKS.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

SUBJECT: Spring 1996 Newsletter

TO: Special Operations Association (SOA) Membership

PURPOSE: To provide the members with a brief update on the status of our organization, and inform each of you of various events that have occurred since we last met at SOAR XIX on 01-05 November 1995.

Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting: The Officers and Directors met earlier this month, on 03-05 May, at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas. Bill Gow, Memorabilia Committee Chairman, Larry Trimble, Special Operations Memorial Committee Chairman and Rolf Kirken, Memorial Designer also attended to provide updates on their respective projects. The purpose of the meeting was to take care of outstanding Association business and to coordinate SOAR XX requirements. Many things were accomplished at the meeting, much of which will be addressed later as separate topics. My heartfelt thanks to the Board for their support and effort getting ready for and contributions made at the meeting. Also, thanks to Bill, Larry and Rolf for taking the time and going to the expense to join us.

SOAR XX: (25-29 SEP 96, PLAZA HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, NV.)

SOAR XX will be our 20th anniversary and, as such, should be our best attendance ever. The Reunion Committee will make every effort possible to create a program deserving of this auspicious occasion. The majority of SOAR XX considerations and requirements have been coordinated and completed. However, if you would like to make recommendations for inclusion into the overall agenda, please submit them NLT 10 Jun 96 to Jack Abraham, PO Box 200999, Austin, TX 78720.

Pre-Reunion Packets (PRP) containing schedule of events and other details concerning the reunion will be mailed to the SOA Membership late June. When you receive the PRP, please fill out the spaces indicated for your estimated arrival and departure times/dates. This really helps the SOA Reunion Committee and the registration desk in planning for amounts of the food and drinks, availability of escorts, etc., especially in the Hospitality Suite. Also, we always need able and willing volunteers, so check that out on the form, too. In addition if you want to use a charge card for payment, only VISA and MasterCard can be used for payment...and, make sure you print your name as it appears on your Card. Of course, checks and money orders (in \$US) are also acceptable.

Individuals desiring to bring up any topic at the General

Membership Meeting and/or speak or show video tapes etc. to the General Membership during the reunion are requested to contact Clyde Sincere, SOA Administrator, NLT 15 Aug. The subject(s) can then be added to the General Membership Meeting Agenda and/or schedule of events and arrangements can be made to meet audio/visual requirements.

George C. Memorial Scholarship Program:

Jim Hawke, #221-L, assumed responsibility as the new Scholarship Chairman effective 1 May 96. Jim has been a member of the committee since its inception some 16 years ago and has been a great source of counsel and advise. He has also attended every SOAR since I can remember. I am sure Jim will do a super job as Chairman.

On behalf of the SOA Membership, I want to thank Ralf Miller, #60-L, for the outstanding job he has done as Chairman of The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee. A lot of effort and time goes into managing the program and during his tenure the scholarship program has run flawlessly. Thanks Ralf for a job well done---you will be a hard act to follow!

The SOA Scholarship Committee received and considered ten applications for scholarship awards for the academic period beginning the Fall of 1996. All ten applicants were highly qualified and consequently selected to receive a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship. Our congratulations go out to the following selectees:

Elsie L. Bailey
Sheila R. Bennett
Christopher J. Boswell
Jane E. Dwyer
Angela L. Harris

Christopher Herrell
Jenessa P. Howard
Kimberely S. Ridgeway
Shannon J. Smith
Sarah E. Walz

"A reminder for all the parents and/or sponsors and future SOA Scholarship recipients...and, this is very important!! Stipend checks are not mailed until proof of enrollment in the new/upcoming semester is received by the Scholarship Committee Chairman (this applies to new and old recipients). Once in the Program, the stipend checks cease unless (1) proof of enrollment (for the new semester) and (2) a copy of the latest semester official grades (showing the cumulative GPA) are received by the Committee Chairman within two weeks of the closing of a semester and/or the first of the month when a stipend is due, whichever is sooner. Students are reminded that they can (and should) communicate at anytime by phone, fax or mail with the Chairman if any unusual problems arise. Loss of stipend checks that are missed because of late submission of data is not made up or retroactive. If no communication is received from a student concerning this data for sixty days after the close of a semester/grading period or stipend due date, whichever is sooner, the student will be suspended from the Scholarship Program indefinitely."

"Hey people....it's time to get really serious about raising money for the SOA Scholarship Fund! When you get your Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) this summer for SOAR XX, and find those raffle tickets inside, think long and hard about donating to the Scholarship Fund. Even though you won't be attending (or can't attend) SOAR XX in Las Vegas, we **REALLY** need for you to donate to the SOA George C. Morton Scholarship Fund by purchasing the \$5 raffle tickets for the EE Saving Bonds (or winnings in cash). Every dollar you use to purchase the raffle tickets is tax deductible from your Federal Income Tax....i.e., you'll get back 15-36% of your raffle donation from Uncle Sam. Also, two of the three winners of the Bond raffle last year DIDN'T attend the reunion....i.e., you do not have to be present to win! PLEASE, along with your dues or SOAR XX registration, include 50 bucks (tax deductible) for the EE Bonds raffle tickets!! (That's less than you'd pay for three bottles of good Scotch!) We need your continued support for the Scholarship Fund....we've provided 53 young students with \$1000 per year towards getting an education (a committed total of \$164,000). That's something to really be proud of!! Please...**EVERYBODY**, attending SOAR XX or not, buy your \$50 worth of raffle tickets when you get your PRP!! Support your SOA Scholarship Fund!! It all goes to the kids...the future!! Let's set a record this year in Scholarship Fund donations with raffle tickets!!"

SOA Memorial:

The SOA Memorial Committee has continued with their coordination and memorial design efforts since the project was approved at last years reunion, SOAR XIX. Larry Trimble, Committee Chairman and Rolf Kriken, Memorial Designer provided a Project Update Briefing to the Board of Directors on 3 May. The design and coordination efforts are going well.

In spite of the above, we seem to have a conflict. We recently learned (Mar 96) that the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Headquarters, MacDill AFB, Florida is in process of constructing a Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB in front of the Headquarters Building. The impact of the MacDill Memorial on the SOA Memorial will be investigated prior to SOAR XX. Our findings and recommendations concerning the SOA Memorial will be made at the SOAR XX General Membership Meeting.

Mystery Contest: \$0 = \$50 = \$2,000?? Zero dollars = Fifty dollars = Two Thousand dollars!!! We're talking about the identifying of the "mystery contest" personnel depicted in the SOAR XIX After Action Report photographs. Your winning effort (\$0) will bring you raffle tickets (\$50) that could result in your winning the SOAR XX Saving Bond prize (\$2,000). Entries must be RECEIVED by Clyde Sincere, SOA Administrator, 11722 Lariat Lane, Oakton, VA 22124-2323, NLT 10 Jun 96. The winner and runner-up will receive \$50 and \$25 worth of raffle tickets, respectively, and will be notified by publication of their names in the Pre-Reunion Packet in June.

TRAVEL NETWORK: TRAVEL NETWORK-Reston has agreed to offer 35% of their commission to The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund from the sale of tickets by their company to attendees of SOAR XX. TRAVEL NETWORK-Reston is part of an international chain of 350 travel agencies, but provide personalized service because they are locally owned and operated. They also provide the lowest fares at the time of booking along with 24 hour service. (NOTE: Always check to ensure you are in fact getting the lowest rates). A TRAVEL NETWORK Brochure will be included in the Pre-Reunion Pack.

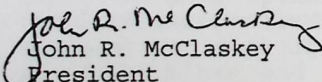
Revision to SOA By-Laws: Enclosed for your review and concurrence or nonconcurrence are proposed revisions to the SOA By-Laws. Please review the proposed changes carefully and return your completed ballot to Clyde Sincere NLT 10 June 1996.

Well that about sums it up. If you have any comments or suggestions I would appreciate hearing from you. Please do not hesitate to contact any of your Board members at any time. We are here to represent you.

President	John McClaskey	(810) 794-1066
Vice President	Bill O'Rourke	(904) 935-2513
Treasurer	Ralf Miller	(210) 666-5122
Administrator	Clyde Sincere	(703) 620-0953
Director	Jack Abraham	(512) 258-7798
Director	Don Benjamin	(303) 773-3501
Director	Dan "Rock" Myers	(703) 250-8954
Director	Clayton Scott	(415) 726-0107
Director	Ian Sutherland	(314) 334-6687

I look forward to seeing you at SOAR XX. It should be the best ever.

Best regards,


John R. McClaskey
President

Enclosure

The following text includes substantive changes and revisions to the Special Operations Association By-Law prepared by the Board of Directors. Administrative and clerical changes are not highlighted.

- (D) = delete; with deletion indicated in brackets () and bold text
A = added text in italics
C = changed text in italics

5 Oct '91

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

(This Corporation shall be called the "Special Operations Association".)

(D)

The name of this Corporation is the "SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC."

A

The SOA is incorporated in the State of Texas as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization. It is approved by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19) as exempt from federal income tax (EIN 74-2619854).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSES

- A. The purposes of this Corporation, herein after referred to as the "Association" are:
1. to unite fraternally all veterans who have or are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to military units which conducted such operations; and
 2. to perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps; and
 3. 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; and
 4. to perpetuate the memory of Col. George C. Morton through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- B. The Association is not organized for profit nor does it contemplate any monetary gain or profit to its members.

ARTICLE III

PROPERTY TITLE

The title to all the property of the association shall vest in this corporation.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

A. Definition of "Special Operations" units:

The unit/project must be or have been composed of military/paramilitary personnel, organized specifically to conduct special/unconventional operations, with a mission of conducting covert and classified combat and/or reconnaissance operations as its normal function, within hostile territory and forward of the area of influence of conventional ground support units

or

with the mission to conduct counter-terrorist operations as its primary function

or

on a ROUTINE basis to provide DIRECT combat support (fire-transport-forward air control) to organizations meeting the above criterion and approved by the Special Operations Association. This definition applies only to those who actually crewed these land, sea, or air weapons or vehicles. (Since the interpretation of "Special Operations" and the above guidelines may be relative to each applicant, the final definition shall rest with this Association.)

B. Application - Application for membership shall be signed by the applicant and mailed to the Association Membership Committee, together with first-year dues and sufficient documentation to verify assignment to a Special Operations unit. Upon receipt of a properly completed application together with dues and adequate supporting documentation, the Committee will verify the applicant's credentials and forward to the applicant a membership certificate and membership card.

C. Eligibility - Any person who meets the qualifications for membership under these By-Laws is eligible for membership. The Membership Committee may however, refuse to approve the application of anyone the Committee believes to be inimical to the Association's purposes, and will refuse to approve the application of anyone who submits false information or misrepresents information on his application for membership.

D. Classes - Membership in this Association shall consist of four classes: General, Associate, Life and Honorary.

1. General Member - General voting membership is granted upon application and approval of the Membership Committee, to those persons who are now conducting or supporting "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to units recognized by this Association which conducted such operations. The routine or normal duty of the applicant while at this assignment must have placed the applicant in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire.

The applicant must supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by this Association or one General Member in good standing must verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment.

2. Associate Member - Associate non-voting membership is awarded to any person, upon application and approval of the Membership Committee, who has served or is now serving, in a Special Operations unit recognized by this Association in a position in which the applicant's routine or normal duty did not involve direct threat or exposure to hostile fire.

The applicant must supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by this Association or one General Member in good standing must verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment.

or

The applicant must be sponsored by four General Members in good standing and receive the unanimous approval of the entire Membership Committee.

3. Life Member - Life membership may be granted upon application and approval of the Membership Committee, to members in good standing and receive the unanimous approval of the entire membership committee.
4. Honorary Member - Honorary non-voting membership may be granted upon approval of the Board of Directors, to a person who has contributed significantly to Special Operations and who would add to the prestige of the Association.

Any member may propose a candidate for Honorary membership by written application citing specific examples wherein the candidate has contributed significantly to Special Operations and how the candidate would add to the prestige of the Association. The application shall be submitted to the Membership Committee. The Committee shall consider the application and forward the application with the Membership Committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors. Upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, the Membership Committee shall confer Honorary membership status upon the candidate.

- E. Appeal of a Denied Application - Any applicant whose application for membership was denied may appeal that decision by filing an appeal in accordance with the provisions of these By-Laws.

F. Dues:

1. Annual dues are payable by 31 December to the Association by General and Associate members in amounts determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. Dues are payable for the first year upon the submission of the application for membership and annually thereafter at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.
2. No annual dues shall be payable by Life members, however, a Life membership fee in an amount determined by resolution of the Board of Directors shall be payable upon submission of the application for Life membership.
3. No annual dues or membership fees shall be payable by those persons granted Honorary membership in the Association.

- G. Non-liability of Members - A member of the Association shall not, solely because of such membership, be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the Association.

- H. Transferability of Membership - Neither membership in the Association nor any rights of or to the membership may be transferred.

- I. Termination of Membership - All rights of a member in the Association shall cease upon the termination of the member's membership. The membership and all rights of membership shall automatically terminate on the occurrence of any of the following causes:

1. The membership of any member of the Association shall automatically terminate on such member's written request *or his witnessed verbal request* for such termination. Requests shall be delivered in person or by mail, to the President (**or Secretary**) of the Association. Upon receipt by the President (**or Secretary**), the request shall be forwarded to the Membership Committee and the member's name shall be stricken from the membership rolls.
2. The death of a member.

A
(D)
(D)

3. The non-payment of dues within 90 days after they become due and payable.
 4. A member of the Association may be expelled from membership upon discovery by the Board of Directors that the member submitted false or misrepresented information on his application for membership. *Additionally, a General member may be expelled for falsely verifying the qualifications of an applicant for either General or Associate membership.* A
 5. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, may expel a member of the Association if that member persistently disrupts any meeting or function of the Association; misuses or destroys Association property; or the member's conduct and/or actions demonstrate an antagonism to, or such conduct and/or action becomes inimical to, any of the principles of the Association as set out in the specific purposes of the Association in the Articles of Incorporation.
 6. A member's expulsion becomes effective on the date the Board of Directors personally delivers or mails written notice of such expulsion or upon conclusion of the appeal process as prescribed in these By-Laws.
 7. The advertising of Association membership for either commercial or political purposes is prohibited. Violations of this **(By-Law)** paragraph will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors and may result in **(cause for automatic)** revocation of membership. C
- J. Appeal - An expelled member or a person whose application for membership was denied may request a hearing before the Appeals Panel by delivering in person or by mail, to the President of the Association, written notice of request within thirty days of the delivery or mailing of the notice of expulsion or denial of membership application. The President of the Association shall appoint an Appeals Panel and notify each Panel member of the request for hearing. The Appeals Panel shall set a date for a hearing convenient to its members and the person requesting the hearing. If following the hearing the Appeals Panel votes to affirm the decision, the decision becomes final and the Membership Committee is so notified. If following the hearing the Appeals Panel votes against the decision, the Appeals Panel shall remand the matter to the Board of Directors with its recommendations. If by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, the Board votes to expel the member or to deny the membership application, the decision becomes final and the Membership Committee is so notified. Upon receipt by the Membership Committee of notice from the Appeals Panel or the Board of Directors of the expulsion of a member, the member's name shall be stricken from the membership rolls.
- K. Reinstatement of Membership - A member who resigns or whose membership is terminated for non-payment of dues may apply for reinstatement by submitting a request to the Membership Committee. No action shall be taken on any request for reinstatement until the applicant has paid the annual dues and has paid the reinstatement fee in the amount as determined by a resolution of the Board of Directors. The applicant may be required to undergo the entire application process.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Number - The Board of Directors shall consist of seven elected members, plus the outgoing President, for a total of eight.
- B. Qualifications - The Directors of the Association shall be either General or Life (General) members in good standing and have attended at least *two of the last three* SOARs. A
- C. Title - The Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of four Officers: a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Directors (three elected and the outgoing President).

- D. Terms of Office - Members of the Association's Board of Directors shall be elected every two years by absentee ballot and within 120 days prior to a scheduled reunion of the Association. All members of the Board of Directors shall hereafter in these By-Laws be referred to as "Director". The office of President shall be limited to two consecutive terms and that individual shall then serve as the eighth member of the Board until replaced by his successor or as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. All other Directors shall be eligible for re-election without limitation on the number of terms they may serve, provided they continue to meet the qualifications required by these By-Laws. In the event a Director is removed in accordance with Article V, paragraph H of these By-Laws, that Director's term of office will cease at a date set by the majority of the remaining Directors.
- E. Nomination - **(The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee)** C
The outgoing President will chair a Nominating Committee which shall select qualified candidates and prepare the ballot for the election of the members of the Board of Directors. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition of the voting members presented to the Nominating Committee 90-days prior to the election. A
- F. Election - The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for their respective Board of Director's positions are elected. A tie vote is resolved by a majority of the Board voting for one of the candidates.
- G. Compensation - The Directors shall serve without compensation.
- H. Removal of Directors
1. Removal for Cause - The Board may declare vacant the office of any Director **(on the occurrence of any of the following events:)** *who's conduct is inimical to the Association, as determined by the majority of the other Directors.* C
 - (a. The Director has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court;) (D)
 - (b. The Director has been convicted of a felony; or) (D)
 - (c. The Director's membership has been terminated pursuant to these By-Laws.) (D)
 2. Removal Without Cause - Any or all of the Directors may be removed without cause if such removal shall be approved by the **(members within the meaning of the State Corporation Code.)** *majority of the members at an annual General Membership meeting.* C
- I. Resignation - Any Director may resign effective on giving written notice to the President or the Vice President, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. Vacancies may be filled in accordance with these By-Laws.
- J. Vacancies
1. Causes - Vacancies shall exist on the death, resignation, or removal of any officer.
 2. Filling vacancies by Directors - Except for **(a vacancy created by the removal of a Director),** *the position of President,* vacancies may be filled by appointees receiving a majority vote of the Directors. C
- K. Duties - The Board shall have responsibility for the general and financial management of the Association. They shall carry on the business and control the property of the

Association. The Board shall make rules governing the conduct of the members while representing or conducting activities on behalf of the Association.

- L. Meeting - The Directors shall hold regular meetings at such time as they may select.
- M. Audit - The Board shall cause a review of the books to be made within 90 days prior to scheduled General Membership Meeting and shall submit the results of the review to the membership at the General membership meeting.
- N. Special Meeting - Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or in his absence, by the Vice President or by two of the Directors.
- O. Conduct of Meetings - The President or Vice President, or in their absence, any Director selected by the Directors present, shall preside at meetings of the Board. The *Administrator or Secretary* of the Association or in the *Administrator's or Secretary's* absence, any person appointed by the presiding officer shall act as *Administrator or Secretary* of the Board. Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another. Such participation shall constitute personal presence at the meeting. *Voting by written proxy is authorized for any meeting of the Board of Directors.* C
C
A
- P. Action Without Meeting - Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting, if a majority of the members of the Board individually or collectively consent in writing to such action. Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as the unanimous vote of such Directors.
- Q. Quorum - A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
- R. Bequests - Whenever the Association shall receive a gift or bequest it shall be deposited or invested in such a manner as the Board and the Association's Treasurer may determine, except as otherwise specified in the gift or bequest. The income from any such gift or bequest may be expended from time to time in furtherance of the Association's purposes. The Board from time to time by resolution, may add any accumulated income to the principal, in which case it shall become part thereof and its expenditure shall be subject to the same restrictions as the original principal.

ARTICLE VI

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. President - It shall be the duty of the President to serve as the general executive officer of the Association. The President shall preside at all meetings, sign and acknowledge all instruments when required, and generally perform the duties pertaining to his office.
- B. Vice President - The Vice President shall assume and perform the duties of the president, in absence of the President, and other duties as may be assigned by the President. In the event that the Vice President is unable to assume the remaining tenure of the presidency, the elected Director who received the most election votes will assume those responsibilities. In the event that two or all three of the elected Directors received an equally high number of votes, the Director with the longest paid status as a member of the Association will assume that position.
- C. Secretary - *The Secretary shall keep minutes and records of all the meetings of* A

the members and Directors, shall give notice of meetings when required, and perform the duties generally performed by a secretary of an association.

- D. Administrator - **An Administrator, either a member or not a member of the Association, may be appointed by the Board at a salary as may be fixed by that body, holding office during its pleasure.** In lieu of a Secretary, the Board of Directors, with the majority of the Directors' approval, may appoint an Administrator at a compensation to be determined by the Board of Directors. The duties will encompass those of the Secretary, plus other duties as determined by the Board of Directors. *If salaried, the position of the Administrator is a non-voting position.* C
- E. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep the books of account and shall handle the finances of the Association. All money received shall be forthrightly deposited in a reliable bank approved by the Directors, to be withdrawn only upon the check of the Association signed by the Treasurer of the Association. Any check in the amount of two thousand dollars or above must be signed by two of the Directors whose names appear on the bank signature card. C
- F. Directors - The Directors, three elected and the out-going President (a total of four) shall be assigned duties as deemed appropriate by the President.

ARTICLE VII

REUNION AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. Date - The reunions of the Association (SOARS) shall **(generally) be held (during the fall of each year and) at a time and place selected at the previous Board of Directors (General Membership) meeting.** Notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the members at least 90 days prior thereto. C
- B. Special Meetings - Special meetings may be called by the President or by two members of the Board, or when requested in writing by ten members of the Association. Notice of a special meeting shall be given by the Secretary in the same manner as notice of a regular meeting. C
- C. Quorum - Fifty voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any general or special meeting of the Association.
- D. Proxies - No voting by proxy shall be allowed at any general or special membership meeting.
- E. Topics for Discussion - *Topics at either general or special membership meetings should be presented to the Board of Directors for inclusion in the meeting's agenda at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.* A

ARTICLE VIII

COMMITTEES

Executive and Other Committees - The Board of Directors may appoint committees as may be necessary from time to time, consisting of such number of its members and with such powers as it may designate, consistent with the Articles of Incorporation, these By-Laws, and the law. Committees, such as, but not limited to the following, shall hold office at the pleasure of the Board. All Committee members must be in good standing and have attended at least one of the last two reunions.

- A. Membership Committee - The Board of Directors shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of such number of members as may be designated from time to time by the Board.

The Membership Committee shall keep and maintain a register of the members, showing the names of the members, their addresses, type and date of membership and current status. The Membership Committee shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or these By-Laws.

- B. Reunion Committee - The Board of Directors shall appoint a Reunion Committee consisting of such number of members as may be designated from time to time by the Board. The Reunion Committee shall be responsible for scheduling, Planning, coordinating, and arranging all aspects of the SOAR and social events for the members of the Association. The Reunion Committee shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or these By-Laws.
- C. Nominating Committee - The **(Board of Directors shall appoint)** *outgoing President* will chair a Nominating Committee. This Committee shall select candidates qualified to be Directors under the provisions of these By-Laws and shall prepare a ballot for the election of Directors. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition of the voting members presented to the Nominating Committee *at least 90 days* prior to the election of Officers pursuant to the By-Laws. C A
- D. Tally Committee - In advance of any election, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Tally Committee to collect, authenticate and count votes. *The announcement of each election will include where to send ballots and the closing date for the receiving of ballots by the Committee. The results of all elections will be confidential and reported only to the Association President by the Chairman of the Tally Committee. Cast ballots shall remain confidential, be retained for thirty days after the election results are announced, and then be destroyed.* A
- E. Scholarship Committee - The Scholarship Committee shall manage the operation of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The duties will include the evaluation and selection of recipient students and the periodic appraisal of their academic progress. In concert with the Treasurer, the Scholarship Committee shall cause issuance of scholarship checks to recipient students. The Committee shall render an activities report at the Annual General Membership Meeting.
- F. Memorabilia Sales Committee - The Memorabilia Sales Committee shall be responsible for the sale of memorabilia items for the Association. This shall include the purchasing of items, related records management in coordination with the Treasurer, and the sale of items both by mail and at reunions.

ARTICLE IX

RULES OF ORDER

Rules of Order - All matters of procedures not otherwise provided for in these By-Laws shall be governed by Roberts Rules of Order.

ARTICE X

AMENDMENTS

An amendment to these by-laws shall be made in the following manner: A proposal to amend the by-laws shall be initiated either by the adoption of an appropriate resolution by the Board of Directors or by the adoption of an appropriate resolution by a majority of the members at any regular meeting or at any special meeting. Such amendment shall not be finally adopted until approved by a two-thirds vote of those present at any regular meeting or special meeting of the membership called for that purpose.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Ballot For Consideration by the SOA Membership

The effective date of these proposed SOA BY-LAWS revisions, if approved by the General Membership, will take place on 1 July 1996. Those members desiring to cast their ballot on this proposal, must do so, no later than 10 June 1996. The total number of ballots/votes received as of 10 June 1996 will be considered a quorum.

BALLOT

"The text provided includes substantive changes and revisions to the Special Operations Association By-Laws as prepared by the Board of Directors. Administrative and clerical changes are not highlighted":

1. (D) = delete; with deletion indicated in brackets () and bold text.
2. A = added in italics.
3. C = changed text in italics.

CONCUR: (YES) () NON-CONCUR: (NO) ()

NAME: _____ SOA# _____
SIGNATURE: _____



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

November 29, 1996

TO: All SOA Members

FROM: John McClaskey, SOA President

SUBJECTS: (1) Special Operations Memorial
(2) Nine Digit Zip-Code Requirement
(3) Membership Dues Reminder

Special Operations Memorial:

At last years reunion, SOAR XIX, the General Membership approved a project to design and construct a memorial in Wash DC, which will honor Special Operations personnel.

The SOA Memorial Committee put a lot of work into planning the project and everything seemed to be falling into place. Earlier this year, however, we learned that a Memorial Foundation had been formed at MacDill AFB, Florida to construct a Special Operations Memorial similar to what we were planning. Their memorial is to be located in the immediate vicinity of the Headquarters of the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill AFB.

After learning about the MacDill project, the SOA Board of Directors requested that I visit MacDill to determine the scope of the MacDill Memorial and report back to the SOA Board, Memorial Committee and General Membership at SOAR XX, earlier this fall.

My visits to MacDill AFB confirmed that there was in fact a memorial being planned at that location and all members of their Memorial Foundation were agreeable to all SOA recommended changes to their design as well as being very excited about the possibility of the SOA joining their project.

At SOAR XX, the General Membership was advised of the MacDill project and voted to redirect SOA efforts in support of the MacDill AFB Special Operations Memorial. The SOA will have three members on the Memorial Foundation Board of Directors and will provide design and fund raising support.

The memorial will be constructed using privately donated funds with the majority of the moneys being raised by selling pavers/plaques in memory of an individual or unit. (Attached at Enclosure 1 is a Paver Order Form.). Donations for Paver orders should be sent directly to PO Box 6696, MacDill AFB, FL. Donations other than paver orders should be sent directly to the SOA Treasurer, Ralf Miller (address noted below), who will consolidate all donations and forward to the Memorial Foundation. ***In order to make the memorial a reality we need your donation. THANKS IN ADVANCE for your support of this very important project.....it is appreciated!!!***

Nine Digit ZIP Code Requirement:

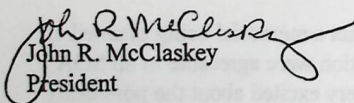
Effective 1 January 1997 the United States Postal Service will require all agencies utilizing Third Class Mail as their means of distributing information to whomever, will require that agency to use a nine digit ZIP Code on their mailings. In order for the SOA to provide you with your Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and Reunion After Action Report (AAR) via Third Class Mail, we are requesting each of you to provide us with your current nine digit ZIP Code.

Be advised the SOA realizes quite a monetary savings utilizing Third Class Mail whenever possible, so **please complete immediately, the form attached at Enclosure 2, and mail to Clayton Scott, PO Box 250161, San Francisco, CA 94125-0161.**

Membership Dues:

Just a reminder that membership dues are payable by General and Associate Members no later than 31 December 1996. (No dues are payable by Life Members and those persons granted Honorary Membership in the Association.) Please mail dues to the Association Treasurer, Ralf Miller, 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, TX 78244-1516.

Best Wishes For A Merry Christmas & Happy and Healthy New Year!!!


John R. McClaskey
President

Enclosures:

- 1 - Memorial Paver Order Form
- 2 - Nine Digit ZIP Code Form

USSOCOM Memorial Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 6696, MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida 33608-0696
Paver Order Form

Your Information

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: (____) _____ Office Phone: (____) _____

The Engraving

Eighteen Letters Per Line (Spaces_ Count!) We will center type. Foundation has the right to modify text.

Top Line:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Bottom Line:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Payment Method

Please do not send cash! Help the foundation further by placing a stamp on the self addressed envelope. Enclose this form and a personal or corporate check, MC/ VISA (card number with expiration date) or money order made out to the.....

USSOCOM Memorial Foundation, Inc.

In the lower left hand corner of your check mark the word "PAVER".
When we receive your check and the information is processed you will receive a letter of appreciation, confirmation of your order and a Paver number. A duplicate of that number will be on your cancelled check. Please place a stamp on the envelope. From time to time you will receive a newsletter keeping you aware of the organization and how the construction is coming along. An invitation will be sent out for the opening ceremonies at MacDill to all who have purchased pavers and wish to attend.

Enclosed: \$100.00 _____ \$250.00 _____ \$500.00 _____ \$Other _____

Your Signature: _____

SOA# _____

To be used for USSOCOM Memorial Foundation Paver Order Only

MC/VISA # _____ Expire Date ____/____



Date Rec'd: _____ Control _____

Special Operations Memorial

• P.O. Box 6696 •

MacDill AFB, Tampa, Florida 33608-0696

In association with

Special Operations Association



ORDER FORM - "ENGRAVINGS"

Your Information

Name: _____ SOA #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Office Phone: (____) _____

☐

Plan A - \$100.00

For \$100 - 4"x 12" Engraving with two lines of type.

☐

Plan B - \$250.00

For \$250 - 8"x 12" Engraving with three lines of type.

☐

Plan C - \$500.00

For \$500 - 12"x 12" Engraving with three lines of type.

Eighteen characters per line max. Spaces count as letters. Text will be centered.

The Foundation reserves the right to modify text. Please keep the wording professional and in keeping with the spirit of the Memorial.

Check one box above and use the spaces below for the engraving.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Payment Method: We prefer a check. Mail to address above. Enclose this form and a personal or corporate check, money order, MC/ VISA (card number with expiration date to be used for Special Operations Memorial. As soon as your order is processed you will receive a, thank you, confirmation letter and a control number. A duplicate of that number will be on your cancelled check. From time to time you will receive updates on the Memorial. Thank You.

Your Signature: _____ SOA # _____

MC/VISA # _____ Expire Date: _____/_____/_____

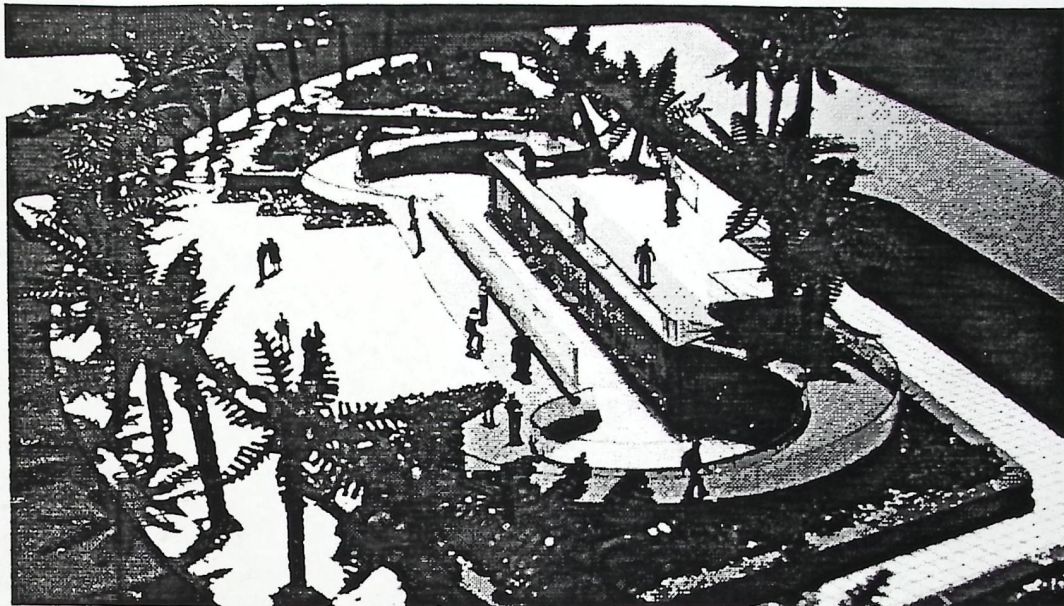
Special Operations Memorial Foundation

in association with

Special Operations Association

P.O. Box 6696

MacDill AFB. Tampa, Florida 33608-0696



GRANITE PLAQUE PROGRAM

Personalized Name Engraving \$100.00 - One line

4"x12" Medium PLAQUE \$250.00 -Two lines

12"x12" Extra Large PLAQUE \$500.00 - Up to four lines

**Unlimited Star Corporate Sponsorship or Personal
Benefactor Plaque Priced Accordingly**



Special Operations Memorial Foundation

Special Operations Association

1000 1st Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94104
Tel: 415.398.1000
Fax: 415.398.1001
Email: info@specialops.org

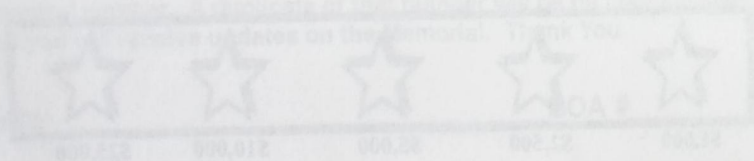


Personalized Name Engraving \$100.00 - One line
Personalized Name Engraving \$100.00 - One line
Personalized Name Engraving \$100.00 - One line

4"x12" Medium PLAQUE \$250.00 - Two lines

12"x12" Extra Large PLAQUE \$500.00 - Up to four lines

Personalized Star Engraving \$25.00 - One line
Personalized Star Engraving \$25.00 - One line
Personalized Star Engraving \$25.00 - One line





THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XX AFTER ACTION REPORT

25 - 29 SEPTEMBER 1996



"SOAR I Charter Members at SOAR XX"

Butler, #001, Chapman, #002, Myers, #003, Isler, #004, Newman, #006, Fryer, #007, Sincere, #010, Husar, #022 and Martin, #023. SOA President, John McClaskey on the left presents 20-Year SOA Pins. Missing from Photo, but present at SOAR XX, Waugh, #005 and Lyons, #008.

**"YOU HAVE NEVER LIVED, UNTIL YOU HAVE ALMOST DIED.
FOR THOSE WHO HAVE FOUGHT FOR IT, LIFE HAS A SPECIAL FLAVOR,
THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW".**

**PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**

NOTICE TO MEMBERSHIP

"The opinions expressed by the writers and editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the Special Operations Association. Advertisements for products or services do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Special Operations Association".

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XX

"Schedule of Events"

25 - 29 September 1996

WEDNESDAY, 25 September 1996

1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration

THURSDAY, 26 September 1996

0730 - 1200	Weapons Firing
1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration

FRIDAY, 27 September 1996

0730 - 1200	Weapons Firing
1000 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite
1000 - 1800	Late Registration
1200 - 1330	Lunch (Hosted by SOA)
1430 - 1630	Board of Directors Meeting

SATURDAY, 28 September 1996

0900 - 1800	Hospitality Suite
0900 - 1000	Late Registration
1000 - 1200	General Membership Meeting
1230 - 1330	Lunch, (Hosted by SOA)
1800 - 1900	Cocktails, (Hosted by SOA)
1900 - 2015	Posting of Colors/Banquet
2015 - 2030	Introduction of VIP's, Current BOD & Newly Elected BOD
2030 - 2045	Retirement of Colors
2100 - NLT 0200	Hospitality Suite

SUNDAY, 29 September 1996

0800 - 1200	Hospitality Suite
NLT 1200	Closing of Hospitality Suite
NLT 1200	Hotel Check-Out.





SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all, I would like to congratulate the 1997-98 Board of Officers & Directors on being selected by the membership to manage SOA activities for the next two years. I am certain, under the leadership of Clyde Sincere, our President-elect, the 1997-98 term will be very productive and the Association will continue to grow and prosper as it has for the past 20 years.

It has truly been an honor and privilege, for me personally, to have served as President of the Special Operations Association for the past three years. To even be a member of this most prestigious and highly selective organization is gratifying, but to be given an opportunity to serve as it's President was a great honor. I enjoyed every minute of it and will look forward to continue helping out when and where needed.

I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the Board of Directors and General Membership for your support, assistance and loyalty for the past three years. As a direct result of your support and involvement, the Association has continued to grow in membership, as well as become more financially secure. (We currently have approximately 1350 members and gross assets near \$165,000).

One of the great things about the SOA is that members do get involved. We rarely have a shortage of volunteers to help with a particular project and the individual generosity of our membership is overwhelming. Of particular note, are the efforts put forth by the Special Operations Memorial Committee. Approximately two years ago, the Committee, Chaired by Larry Trimble, took on the task to research, plan and coordinate a Special Operations Memorial to represent and honor all past and present Special Operations Personnel. To say that Larry and the Committee put a lot of time and effort into the project is a gross understatement. I was kept informed of the committee's progress and it never ceased to amaze me of their dedication and commitment to see the project completed. We all owe Larry and his committee a debt of gratitude for their efforts and a job well done.

At SOAR XX, the General Membership voted to redirect SOA efforts in support of the Special Operations Memorial being constructed in front of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill AFB, Florida. The SOA will provide design and fund raising support, as well as have four SOA members on the Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board of Directors.

Special Operations Memorial Board Members include:

*Joe Lutz (Chairman of the Board)
Roy Bahr
John McClaskey
Larry Trimble*

Questions regarding the memorial should be directed to one of the above individuals.

The memorial will be constructed using corporate and privately donated funds, with the majority of the funds being raised by selling pavers/plaques in memory of an individual or unit. (Enclosed in the AAR is a Paver Order Form)

In order to make the memorial a reality, we need your support and donations.

Again, thanks for everything and best regards for the New Year. I hope to see you all in Las Vegas at SOAR XXI


John R. McClaskey
resident, 1994-96



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

In-Coming President's Message

My fellow SOA members, I take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and thanks for your vote of confidence that allows me to serve as your President for the 1997-'98 term of office. As I look back to the 1982-'83 term when I last served as the SOA President, I cannot help but remain awed by what this Association has accomplished for the betterment of its members, their families, the many scholarship recipients, and the commitment that has always been maintained concerning the final resolution someday of the Vietnam conflict POW/MIA situation, especially those super individuals that we knew so well that served with us in special operations. We will miss them and always remember their sacrifice.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to our past President, John McClaskey. He has led this organization superbly during his tenure, and I look forward to working with him again as he serves as a Director on the Board for the next two years. Also, to my fellow Board members and Special Staff members from the 1995-'96 term, Bill O'Rourke, Ralf Miller, Jack Abraham, Don Benjamin, "Rock" Myers, Clay Scott, Ian Sutherland, Bill Lueders, Bill Gow, Jim Hawke, and last, but certainly not least, Larry Trimble. I say, thank you. This Association has profited immensely from your efforts and those of your committees. The Board and the SOA will miss the leadership that Bill O'Rourke, Don Benjamin, "Rock" Myers, and Ian Sutherland provided to the Board during the past two years. However, I look forward to working with their replacements on the Board, newly elected members Charlie Berg, Vice-President; Jon Cavaiani, Administrator; and Roy Bahr as one of the four authorized Directors. I congratulate Ralf Miller, Jack Abraham, and Clayton Scott on their reelection to the SOA Board and look forward to a very fruitful two years.

When I was first elected as President in 1982, our membership totaled 375. Today we now have almost 1400 members. Fantastic! Having said that, there are still many of our qualified friends that served with us in Special Operations that are totally unaware of our Association. In that vein, I charge each of you with the responsibility of "getting out there and recruiting" qualified individuals. The SOA will only be stronger for your efforts. FYI, that is the sole purpose of placing a SOA Application Form in each mailing to the membership. Also, thanks to Clay Scott and his membership committee, assisted by Steve Sherman's archival research that have accomplished a herculean task in an ever-ongoing recruitment effort. A "tip of the Beret" is in order. . . .

Additionally, I'd like to thank those members of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee, initially "chaired" by Ralf Miller and now Jim Hawke. I cannot state emphatically enough what has been accomplished through the George C. Morton

Memorial Scholarship. A total of 50 super young men and women have benefited as a result of that committee's efforts to ensure that only qualified individuals be recipients of a coveted SOA scholarship since the program's inception in 1983. In that regard, those scholarships could not have been awarded unless there were sufficient funds for these recipients. I must say that no one has worked harder than Ralf Miller, our Treasurer, to ensure the perpetuation of a self-sustaining scholarship fund capability. However, while Ralf does handle the financial aspects of the scholarship fund, the members are really the ones who have been responsible for the success of the program because of your many donations either in cash and/or raffle items. This worthwhile program could not have been accomplished without you. On behalf of the entire membership, I thank those many, many individuals who have consistently supported the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund over the years.

In another area of SOA interest, for the past two years the Association has been researching, with the consent of the membership, the feasibility of supporting the construction of a Special Operations memorial to ensure that those comrades that "gave the ultimate" during the conduct of a special operations mission will never be forgotten. At SOAR XX, the membership approved the Association's support of the construction of a Special Operations memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida (home of USSOCOM). I realize, too, that some members of the SOA are of the opinion that the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund may suffer as a result of the Association taking on another project, even though that project is also extremely worthy. I, for one, do not agree. The members of the SOA have spoken in the affirmative for this project and are truly unselfish. Members were fully cognizant of what they were undertaking when they voted to support the Special Operations memorial in Florida. We can, and will do it. Certainly, if the membership assists by increasing the roles of the SOA by recruiting qualified individuals, that will make the task that much easier. I look forward to John McClaskey, Larry Trimble and Roy Bahr keeping the Association apprised of this all-important project. They have volunteered to serve on the Special Operations Memorial Board of Directors at MacDill to ensure that the SOA's interests are fully considered in all aspects of this memorial. Additionally, in order to continue to facilitate the raising of funds to support the memorial project at MacDill, Larry Trimble will continue to "chair" a Special Operations Memorial Committee. It will be much smaller than when it operated as the Special Operations Memorial Research Committee. Larry, on behalf of the Board and the membership, a very special thanks to you and your tireless committee for the superb efforts put forth over the past two years.

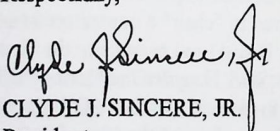
Also, as in previous instances when a member has had an idea to proffer to the membership that required membership participation, that individual automatically volunteered to "chair" a committee in order to study the idea and to provide the results to the SOA Board (and eventually the General Membership). At the last General Membership meeting, SOA Founder Jim Butler challenged the membership by querying, "Where do we go now, in view of what the SOA has accomplished these past 20 years?" Jim has volunteered to "chair" the "Steering Committee" to research this subject and report back

to the Board with his committee's findings/recommendations. Ed Wolcott, Cliff Newman and Charlie Berg have consented to work with Jim. Jim's challenge remains very open. He is requesting that each and every SOA member reflect on his "challenge" and provide him or any other member of his committee with ideas for consideration. Thank you all.

It has been reported to the Board that SOAR XX did not make a profit, in fact, we suffered a loss. As the membership is aware, after all billings relating to a SOAR are satisfied, any excess funds are then transferred to the SOA scholarship fund. While I realize the scholarship fund is very important, I also know that the fund is in excellent shape (thanks to the efforts of Ralf Miller). Therefore, in my opinion, it is not necessary for a profit to be realized each and every year, because the fund does receive other monies generated by the many truly super raffle items and cash that are donated by members and their guests each year. At the same time I don't advocate losing money as a routine, but I will also be satisfied if we "break even". In those rare instances when the Board elects to return a better-than-average attendance "give-away-gift" to those members and/or their guests attending a SOAR, and we suffer a loss, so be it, as long as the SOA remains solvent overall. I have heard nothing but praise for the denim shirts that were provided as a "give-way-gift" to each member attending SOAR XX. By the way, at last count, there were 49 remaining shirts at \$35.00 each. If you desire one, write to Bill Gow, Chairman, SOAMS Committee.

Finally, Jack Abraham and his Reunion Committee continually perform outstandingly in their efforts to ensure successful SOAR's. Jack has agreed to my request to continue to "chair" the Reunion Committee. FYI, unless you have had an opportunity to plan, organize, and conduct any type of convention activity, I daresay most attendees are unaware of all that goes into and behind the scenes in the operation of a successful convention. Jack and his committee strive to ensure that the SOA "gets the most for the money invested" for each attendee. Jack and his people have that requisite experience. By the way, Jack is appreciative of any SOA member volunteering to serve on his committee or assist in the many areas he is responsible for, like the hospitality area, VIP/guests, escort/airport pick-ups, etc. requiring support during the conduct of the next SOAR. Volunteers are requested to call or write Jack personally, expressing their desire to support where needed, when needed. Check that block for SOAR volunteers on the Advance Registration Form when you receive it in the PRP next year. SOAR XXI will be conducted during 1-5 October 1997. Mark your calendars and plan to attend now. I will be there; will you? Thank you again for voting for me to serve the next two years as your SOA President. I will do my best to provide the requisite leadership the SOA demands.

Respectfully,



CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.
President

THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, 1000 HOURS, 28 SEPTEMBER 1996

I. Call to Order: President

The Special Operations Association General Membership Meeting was called to order by SOA President, John McClaskey at 1000 hours, Saturday, 28 September 1996 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

II. Mr. John Thomas, Sergeant At Arms led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Mr. John McClaskey requested the membership remain standing for a moment of silence for our fallen and absent comrades.

IV. Roll Call:

A. Mr. McClaskey announced that in accordance with the SOA Constitution and By-Laws, that for the purpose of this meeting, the membership present constituted a quorum for any business purposes.

B. The following named Officers and Board of Directors were present:

John McClaskey	President
William O'Rourke	Vice-President
Ralf M. Miller	Treasurer
Jack Abraham	Director
Donald C. Benjamin	Director
Dan "Rock" Myers	Director
Clayton S. Scott	Director
Ian D.W. Sutherland	Director
Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.	Administrator

C. The following Special Staff Members were present:

Bill Lueders - Chairman, SOA Talley Committee.
Bill Gow - Chairman, SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee.
Larry Trimble - Chairman of the Special Operations Memorial

Research Committee.

James Hawke - Chairman of the George C. Morton Memorial
Scholarship Committee.

D. The following Special Guests were present:

MG (Ret) Joseph C. Lutz, a SOA member and a member of the
USSOCOM Memorial Foundation invited to address the Board of Directors and the
General Membership

Mr. Richard A. Tappan, Florida Businessman/USSOCOM
Memorial Foundation member.

III. Business Meeting:

A. Old Business:

1. Minutes of 4 November 1995 Meeting: John McClaskey

The minutes of the 4th of November 1995 were included in the
SOAR XIX AAR. All members had been provided a copy via mail prior to this meeting.
A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be accepted as provided. Motion
approved.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Ralf M. Miller

Mr. Miller reported to the membership that the financial health
of the SOA is sound. In addition, Mr. Miller stated that the SOA is financially capable of
meeting its operational expenses, Life Membership maintenance expenses, scholarship
stipends and the SOA Reunion expenses. The SOA has invested \$30,000. in U.S. "EE"
Savings Bonds (purchased in 1992 and 1993) and they are guaranteed at no less than six
percent interest if kept for five years; and, it also has \$85,000 in a CD at six percent
interest. The greatest sources of income remain, of course, the SOA Reunion (SOAR)
and the SOA Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS). Participation by the membership in these two
efforts is vital. It means dollars into the Convention and Memorabilia Sales accounts. This

is later transferred to the Scholarship Fund after all SOAR and SOAMS expenses have been paid. It was again, Mr. Miller's pleasure to remind early registrants (those that paid the \$80 registration fee) that the Friday luncheon, the Saturday buffet/luncheon, the Saturday evening Banquet (with all the beverages you can handle), the Hospitality Suite hors d'oeuvres and all bar beverages were generously increased for all registered members and their guests at no additional cost to them. In addition, the Plaza Hotel/Casino always provides each registrant with a free coupon booklet good for a variety of chances and a breakfast following SOA registration. All of this for about \$20 per day. For further financial information, see the Financial Status Report in the SOAR XX AAR for year end financial results and SOA bank account details. Additionally, on 20 September 1996, the independent audit firm of Simpson & Associates of Austin, Texas, finished a complete review of SOA finances, including bank statements and check registers. The review found the SOA to be solvent and in full compliance with all appropriate financial practices. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as provided. Motion approved.

3. SOA Financial Bond Report:

Ralf M. Miller

Mr. Miller reported to the membership that the SOA is now insured (bonded) for up to \$200,000 by ITT Hartford Casualty Insurance Company against any dishonesty and forgery. Terms of the policy require that the monthly bank statement(s) reconciliation be verified by the SOA Administrator on a monthly basis. The Administrator cannot be eligible to deposit or withdraw any funds. In accordance with the SOA By-laws, two signatures are required on any SOA check over \$2,000. The two individuals involved in signing checks will normally be the President and the Treasurer, but, any other Board member that is on the bank signature card can fulfill this requirement. The insurance coverage costs the SOA \$251 annually, effective 1 May 1996, and is good until cancelled. The Policy # is 65 DDD GR8340. No motion required.

4. Scholarship Fund Report:

James Hawke

(a) Mr. Hawke, Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee reported to the membership that the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund has paid to, or has committed to, \$157,000 through the school year commencing with the Fall of '99. Of this total amount, \$71,000 is committed over the next four (4) years. The Scholarship Committee and every member of the SOA should be proud of this achievement! There are 24 current recipients. They are as follows:

Erin Abraham	Erika Howard
Elsie Bailey	Jenessa Howard
Sheila Bennett	Eileen Kinsley
Kara Bieber	Alana Laurence

George Blakey	Sara Lee
Chris Boswell	Abby Lois
Cliff Burns	Matt McGiffert
Kira Burns	Robyn Marasco
Stephanie Butler	Kimberly Ridgeway
Jane Dwyer	Shannon Smith
Angela Harris	Sara Walz
Chris Herrell	Renee' Waskovich

(b) There have been a total of 50 individual recipients of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship awards since the program inception in 1983.

(c) Additionally, FYI, the SOA Treasurer dispatches a \$100 check each school month to each recipient (a total of \$1,000 per year per student). Currently that amounts to a monthly SOA commitment of \$2,400. It is readily apparent why we need to continue to strengthen the Scholarship Fund. Mr. Hawke further stated that he wished to reemphasize the tremendous importance of all members' attendance at the annual SOA reunions; the importance of raffle ticket purchases (which are tax deductible), voluntary contributions, (large or small) directly to the Scholarship Fund, (again, tax deductible); and, purchases from SOA Memorabilia Sales. Net proceeds from all of these different entities/accounts support the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. A motion was made and seconded that the report of the Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.

5. Membership Committee Report: Clayton Scott

(a) Mr. Scott reported to the members that the Membership Committee had processed 91 applications since SOAR XIX. Eighty-two applications were approved and nine were disapproved. Two individuals, James M. Thompson, #1014 and Anthony Jordan, #1210 were expelled for fraudulent credentials. Six members had passed away since SOAR XIX: Robert Shoff, #1244 on 12 November; Buck Swannack, #0743 on 13 December; Fred Zabitosky, #0157 on 08 January 1996; Gil Layton, (#476) on 02 May; Don Bemis, (#198) on 12 May and Michael Regnier, (#1169) on 22 July.

NOTE: Subsequent to this report, the Membership Committee had learned of the death of SOA Member, James E. Fickling, (#771) who passed away on 22 July 1996 bringing the total to seven SOA members that have passed away since SOAR XIX..

(b) Additionally, Mr. Scott reported that the Association has currently 855 active members; 379 inactive members and 93 "other" members as of 18 October 1996 for a combined total of 1327 members on its roster..

(c) The Membership Committee members are as follows:

*Clayton S. Scott - Chairman
Harry Claflin - USMC
Ray Dawson - USAF
Bob Gilstrap - USA
Curtis Williams - USN

A motion was made and seconded that the report of the SOA Chairman, Membership Committee be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.

6. 1997-'98 Board of Officers and
Directors Tally Results Report:

John McClaskey

(a) Mr. McClaskey reported to the membership the results of the voting as compiled by the SOA Tally Committee relative to the composition of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors for the 1997-'98 term commencing 1 January 1997 and ending on 31 December 1998:

(1) Board of Directors: (Three).

a Jack Abraham
b Roy W. Bahr
c Clayton S. Scott

(2) Administrator: Jon Cavaiani.

(3) Treasurer: Ralf M. Miller

(4) Vice-President: Charles Berg

(5) President: Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.

Note: IAW the SOA Constitution and By-Laws, Mr. John McClaskey, SOA President during the 1995-'96 term, automatically becomes the "fourth" Director on the Board for the 1997-'98 term of office.

(b) Mr. McClaskey thanked Mr. Bill Lueders, Chairman, SOA Tally Committee for the work he and his committee had accomplished in compiling the results of the ballots of the voting membership that determined the SOA leadership for the next two years. No motion required.

7. SOA By-Laws Ballot Results:

John McClaskey

Mr. McClaskey reported to the membership that in excess of 200 ballots had been returned to the SOA Administrator relative to deletions, additions and/or changes to the SOA By-Laws that had been recommended to the membership by the Board for their concurrence/nonconcurrence. Of these, only three (3) ballots nonconcurred with the recommendations. Additionally, Mr. McClaskey informed the members that Mr. Scott had available at the registration desk, for member viewing, copies of the SOA By-Laws that had been approved by the General Membership as of 10 June 1996. No motion required.

8. SOAR XX, Report:

Jack Abraham

(a) Mr. Abraham, Chairman of the Reunion Committee reported to the membership that SOAR XX activities were all on schedule and that no major problems were occurring and that his committee had/were continuing to coordinate as necessary to insure a successful reunion.

(b) The current 1996 Reunion Committee Members are:

* Jack Abraham, Chairman
Harry Clafin
Bill Gow
Bill O'Rourke

No motion required.

B. New Business:

1. SOAR XXI Report:

Jack Abraham

Mr. Abraham, Chairman of the 1997 Reunion Committee reported to the membership that preparations for SOAR XXI had already been initiated:

- (a) Dates: 1-5 October 1997.
- (b) Location: Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada
- (c) Cost: Hotel - \$34.00 plus tax per nite.
- (d) Cost: SOAR XXI:
 - (1) Early Registration: \$80.00.
 - (2) Registration at the Hotel: \$100.00.

Mr. Abraham reiterated that additional coordination with appropriate Board/Special Staff members and the hotel staff would continue as required to insure a successful reunion. In concert with the SOA President and Administrator, any additional data relative to SOAR XXI will be provided to the members via the 1997 Spring Newsletter and the 1997 Pre-Reunion Packet. No motion required.

2. Special Operations Memorial Report:

John McClaskey

(a) Mr. McClaskey reported to the membership the results of his visits to MacDill Air Force Base, (USSOCOM Hqs.) Florida as it related to both the current SOA initiative regarding a Special Operations memorial in Washington, D.C. and the planned memorial being considered at MacDill honoring Special Operations.

(1) Mr. McClaskey informed the members that he visited MacDill on three (3) separate occasions since the Board of Directors May Mid-Year Planning and Coordination Meeting in order to insure that he had all of the information available to provide to the Board and the General Membership, to include the best option for the Board's consideration as it related to either continuing on the course as previously approved by the General Membership or recommend to the General Membership that the Board desired to amend the direction the SOA would take as it regarded the Special Operations memorial that had been researched by Mr. Larry Trimble and his committee.

(2) Mr. McClaskey stated that based on the information he had ascertained during his visits, he had invited Major General (Retired) Joseph C. Lutz (a SOA member) and Mr. Richard A. Tappan, of the MacDill Special Operations Memorial Foundation to come to Las Vegas during the conduct of SOAR XX and brief the Board and the General Membership as to the current status of the planned memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida and their rationale as to why the SOA should seriously consider only one Special Operations Memorial and why that memorial should be located at MacDill, AFB, Florida instead of Washington, D.C.

(b) Mr. McClaskey then introduced General Lutz, Mr. Tappan and Larry Trimble to the members.

(1) Larry first briefed the members on the meetings he and his committee had held with General Lutz and Mr. Tappan. In the final analysis, Larry stated that the USSOCOM delegation had satisfied his committee that most of their concerns would be met and those few outstanding items would receive serious consideration and that he was recommending to the membership that an amended motion favoring SOA support of the MacDill effort be adopted. He further stated that he was prepared to present this motion following the briefing that General Lutz would present to the membership.

(2) Following Larry, General Lutz provided the membership on behalf of the MacDill Special Operations Memorial Committee their rationale for the SOA to consider supporting the design and construction of a Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida and why he believed it to be in the best interest of both the SOA and the MacDill Special Operations Memorial Committee to consolidate their efforts. He then reiterated what Larry Trimble had informed the membership as it related to a series of concerns that Larry's committee had surfaced. General Lutz informed the membership that he and Dick Tappan had been very pleased to meet with Larry's committee and that he honestly believed that he had answered all of the committees queries and satisfied their concerns. He further explained the thought process that had gone into the initial design, to include those concerns that Larry's committee had surfaced. For example, "PAVERS" would be slightly raised thereby precluding anyone from walking on them because they represented individuals or units being honored and thus the inherent sensitivity of the "PAVER" would be preserved. He also explained the rationale behind what and who this memorial would represent as it related to Special Operations personnel; U.S. personnel; (military and civilian), allied personnel, (military and civilian), foreign personnel, etc. He stated that he and Larry's committee had a very long discussion on this point alone and that he was well aware of the differences of opinion as it regarded "who should or who should not be represented or recognized". General Lutz believed that all of these differences could be worked out and invited the SOA to provide two or three members to represent the SOA's interests on the Special Operations Memorial Board of Directors at MacDill AFB. General Lutz then went on to explain the detailed coordination with both the civilian and military leadership in the area that had taken place, to include the methodology, site location selection, (including the enhanced security the site would offer in its proximity to USSOCOM headquarters); the estimated cost, (to include the rationale of selecting the best designer for the best price available, incorporating where feasible, the ideas of the two designers involved at this time and of course receiving the proprietary rights of one or the other following the final selection of the designer to accomplish the design project). Also, he covered the estimated time-frame this project would undergo prior to its anticipated completion in late 1997. All in all, General Lutz stated that a Special Operations Memorial would be constructed at MacDill AFB, Florida and that he hoped that the Special Operations Association would be associated with it because they were a very important integral part of the whole theme behind this memorial. General Lutz thanked the membership for inviting him to brief the membership and looked forward to answering any other questions that any member may have relative to this project.

(3) Following the briefing a number of questions were surfaced by members in the audience, and, in one case specifically, Ed Wolcott queried General Lutz as to the feasibility of having a memorial at MacDill AFB, basically a closed post as opposed to having it in Washington, D.C. where many more thousands of individuals would have an opportunity to visit the site. Ed reiterated his objection to the

memorial being constructed at MacDill by restating the relevant purposes of the SOA which included:

a Perpetuation of the Special Operations "esprit de corp".

b Fitting commemoration of the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the free world.

Ed then stated that it was his belief, that in order to keep faith with these purposes, we have an obligation to pass on the Special Operations legacy by informing the general public of the historical significance of Special Operations and by memorializing the heroism and accomplishments of Special Operations personnel. He reiterated that the vast majority of the U.S. population were unaware of the accomplishments and legacy of Special Operations. Ed stated that he believed that the memorial should be located in Washington, D.C. -- where the memorial would be most visible to the American public; where hundreds of thousands of Americans come to view such memorials annually. He further stated that he believed our purposes were not served by siting the memorial at MacDill AFAB, which is a closed installation (not readily accessible to the general public); that the Special Operations legacy, accomplishments, and heroism would be concealed from the public if the memorial is sited at MacDill; and that the people most exposed to a MacDill memorial are those already very familiar with Special Operations history. He added that he also understood that MacDill had been considered for deactivation in recent years as a consequence of Defense Budget reductions and BRAC; and that the memorial would be at risk if further reductions/inactivations are required. Ed's final comment was that there were many defense contractors with Special Operations business interests who may be amenable to memorial contributions, if the SOA desired to make a concerted effort to lobby them.

General Lutz responded by conceding that a MacDill memorial site would receive virtually no public exposure. However, anyone, civilian or military desiring to visit the memorial would be allowed to do so. Also, based on his research he believed that MacDill was not in jeopardy of closure and also that the SOA could not afford the costs of a memorial such as was contemplated for the Washington, D.C. area and therefore he believed it was in the best interests of all to combine its resources with the SOCOM memorial fund and opt for the less expensive memorial site.

(4) Key arguments which supported the Lutz position included:

- a Difficulty in securing Congressional sponsorship.
- b Difficulty in dealing with Federal Agencies.

c High costs associated with the siting and construction of a memorial in the Washington, D.C. area (approximately 5-8 million) versus the relatively modest costs for the memorial at MacDill, (at this time it appears the cost is in the range of 1.3 million dollars).

d Lack of sufficient SOA funding. (It would take many years to raise the monies up-front that Congress would insist on before they would consider approving a site, whereas, MacDill has already provided a site and the memorial is estimated to be completed by the end of 1997. FYI, the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. waited over 40 years to be built).

(5) Following the questions by the membership and answers by General Lutz, Larry Trimble then addressed the membership by stating that he was proposing an amended motion that would permit the SOA to join with the SOCOM Memorial Foundation and support the design and construction of a Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida. Motion made and seconded. Motion approved.

3. Honor Roll of Donors to SOA: Jack Abraham

(a) Mr. Abraham recommended to the membership that they consider initiating a published "Honor Roll of Donors to the SOA" similar to that which the SFA publishes in their quarterly "Drop" reflecting donations made to the SFA National Building Project Fund. He further recommended that this "Honor Roll" be published twice a year by the SOA, in the AAR and the PRP and reflect as a minimum, any donation of \$100 in cash or any raffle item worth \$250 or more.

(b) A motion was made and seconded that the SOA commence a "Honor Roll of Donors to SOA" effective with the SOAR XX AAR and subsequently the 1997 PRP. Thereafter, annually, in both publications to include the minimum requisite amounts as stated above.. Motion approved. **Note:** Mr. Ralf Miller and Mr. Jack Abraham will research the SOA past records and provide the Administrator with a roster/list of past donors based on their best ability to reconstruct this initial "Honor Roll" for inclusion in SOAR XX AAR..

4. Roster of Deceased SOA Members: Clay Scott

Mr. Scott reported to the Board that members had requested that the Board publish a "roster of deceased SOA members" as they had in prior years, but, had not done so in the past year or so. Mr. Scott further stated that there would be no problem in accomplishing this request. The publication of deceased members had previously been reflected on the inside back cover of the SOA Directory, but, in view of the fact that so many members have passed away since the last publication, it was decided

for the future to include it in the AAR as a separate entity. Mr. Scott will work in concert with the SOA Administrator in insuring the roster is as current as possible and published in the SOAR XX AAR.

5. Nine-Digit Zip Code Requirement: Clyde Sincere

Mr. Sincere reported to the membership that effective as of 1 January 1997, the United States Postal Service (USPS) would require all agencies utilizing Third-Class Mail as their means of distributing mass-mailing information to use a nine-digit ZIP CODE:

(a) Mr. Sincere stated that to facilitate the up-dating of the SOA Directory to reflect a nine-digit ZIP CODE he had provided in each registrants packet a form and requested the SOAR attendees to fill out the form and either provide it to the Administrator at SOAR XX or mail the form directly to the Chairman, SOA Membership Committee in the event that they were not knowledgeable at this time of their complete nine-digit ZIP CODE.

(b) Further, in concert with another letter Mr. McClaskey will prepare to the membership relative to the Special Operations Memorial, the Administrator will provide the General Membership with this same nine-digit ZIP CODE form by "First Class Mail" to be returned by them directly to the Chairman, SOA Membership Committee ASAP prior to the mailing of the SOAR XX AAR. No motion required.

6. Travel Network: Clyde Sincere

Mr. Sincere reported to the membership that he had received a check in the amount of \$121.59 from Mrs. Sandy Kreer, President of Travel Network, payable to the SOA Scholarship Fund. As a reminder to the membership, Travel Network had agreed to pay the SOA 35% of their commission from the sale of airline tickets to SOA members and their families at any time throughout the year. Revenues received from Travel Network will continue to go to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund on a quarterly basis. This is the first of what we hope will be many checks. Hopefully members will continue to take advantage of Travel Network's offer. At the time you order your tickets you must inform Travel Network representatives that you and/or your family member are members of the SOA. No motion required.

7. SOG, "The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam": John Plaster

Mr. Plaster, SOA # 726 informed the membership that he had recently authored a full-length history of SOG, based upon his interview of over 100 SOG

veterans from its inception in 1964 through its deactivation in late 1971. The book would be available to general public in early January 1997. He requested the SOA assist in publicizing his effort by:

- a. Ordering the books through a local bookstore.
- b. Assist in locating "book reviewers" at local newspapers.

Mr. Plaster also stated that the publisher, Simon and Schuster had directed that he "shorten" his final manuscript prior to publication and therefore he offered his apology to those members that he was unable to incorporate into this book. Having stated this, Mr. Plaster was researching the feasibility of producing a "sequel" (photographic in nature) that would incorporate those individuals that were "slighted", and would include additional interviews. He further stated that following the successful production of this sequel he would be more than willing to work with the SOA leadership to provide some revenues based on the sales that would go into the George C. Morton Scholarship Fund. No motion required.

8. Any Other New Business:

John McClaskey

Mr. McClaskey queried the membership as to whether or not anyone had any further new business to discuss prior to his presentation of 20 year, SOA pins to SOAR I attendees and the awarding of SOAR XX Door and Raffle prizes by Mr. Sincere.. The following subjects (Items of New Business) were presented to the membership:

- a. "Free" Medical Care for Military Retirees over the age of 65:
"Jake" Jacobson

(1) Mr. Jacobson, SOA # 069 and National President of the Special Forces Association informed the membership that Colonel (Ret) George "Bud" Day, a former fighter pilot, Vietnam War POW and a recipient of the Medal of Honor recently filed a class-action suit on behalf of the "65 or older military retirees", alleging a breach of contract by the government in denying access to military health care. Colonel Day filed the suit in U.S. District Court, Pensacola, Florida. Colonel Day seeks to restore free medical care for military retirees 65 and older. He has also requested reimbursement of all monies withheld from their pay over the years to finance Medicare, and relief from future Medicare deductions..

(2) "Jake" further stated that those individuals interested in joining in the Class Action lawsuit must have more than 20 years of service, be 65 or older drawing Social Security, paying for Medicare, and be willing to contribute \$100 for expenses. Volunteers of the Class Act Group are on hand to answer questions. Write to CLASS ACT, 32 Beal Parkway, SW, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida 32548 or call (904) 664-6324. No motion required.

b. Martha "Maggie" Raye:

Tommie Ponder

Mr. Ponder, SOA #308, reported to the membership that he was in the process of contacting the "estate" of Martha Raye and requesting that only the Bronze Plaque commemorating the birthday of "Maggie" that was attached to the hot tub purchased by the SOA for "Maggie" some years ago be returned to the SOA. He believed that one way or another this mission would be accomplished. No motion required.

c. ANZAC Permitted to Accept and Wear U.S.

Decorations:

Tom Henry

Mr. Henry, SOA # 993, informed the membership that he and Lew Millett, SOA #505 had recently returned from a trip to Australia where they learned that ANZAC forces can now accept and wear U.S. decorations that had been awarded to them. Notably, SOA members from Australia, Keith Payne, SOA # 978 (awarded the DSC) and Arthur, "Robbie" Robinson, SOA #1026 (awarded the Silver Star) can wear their U.S. decorations that they had earned during the Vietnam Conflict. No motion required.

Note: No doubt there may be other members within ANZAC that are members of the SOA that received U.S. awards. However, at this time the SOA is not aware of them. It is requested that any SOA member from Australia, having been awarded a U.S. combat award, please inform the SOA Membership Chairman in order that the SOA can update it's record. Thank You.

d. History of the SOA:

Jim Butler

Jim Buter, SOA #001 reiterated for the edification of the SOA membership a capsulated history of the SOA. He queried and then "challenged" the membership of the SOA as to where we (the SOA) go now after all that has been accomplished by the SOA in the 20 years since SOAR I was held at Ceasar's Palace in 1977. No motion required.

Note: Subsequently, Mr. Butler agreed to chair a "Steering Committee" assisted by Charlie Berg and Ed Wolcoff to research his "challenge" and make recommendations to the Board for further consideration by the General Membership.

9. Recognition of 20 year SOA Members: John McClaskey

Mr. McClaskey presented 20 year SOA pins to nine SOA members present at SOAR XX who attended the first SOAR held in 1977 at Ceasar's Palace. The members so recognized were:

Jim Butler, #001	Les Chapman, #002
Dan "Rock" Myers, #003	Jack "Iceman" Isler, #004
Cliff Newman, #006	John Fryer, #007
Clyde Sincere, #010	Adam Husar, #022
Jim Martin, #023.	

10. Award of SOAR XX Door Prizes and conduct of
General Raffle: Clyde Sincere

a. Mr. Sincere conducted the awarding of door prizes first and subsequently awarded the majority of raffle items. Selected raffle items and the three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds would be awarded at the banquet.

b. Over 100 door and raffle prizes were donated by the membership and/or their guests during SOAR XX. Some unusual gifts to say the least - examples, the large bottle of California Napa Valley wine etched with the SOA logo, motto and dedicated to SOAR XX; the 12 gauge, Remington Shotgun; the Colt Python Hunter .357 pistol. I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the many, many knives, (two (2) years in a row) that Paul Brubaker, SOA #596 donated and as always, the beautifully manufactured Al-Mar knives that for so many years have been donated by the Al-Mar family. There were other "super" items and I know there was something for everyone this year - why, we even had a pair of Saigon pink panties (old type), donated by Al Newman, SOA #952 and won by Jack Abraham, SOA #365. Hopefully, I did not miss recognizing a donator to the Scholarship Fund, and I may still have done so, but, believe me, it was unintentional. The following reflects those individuals who donated door prize and raffle items to SOAR XX. On behalf of the SOA membership, thank you:

Don Benjamin	Fred Norris	John Plaster	Paul Duffy
Ray Chambers	Mike Stern	Ken Gaudet	John Martin
Harry Munc	Dennis Chericone	Paul Brubaker	Russ Mann
Carl Crantz	Fred Platt	Spider Parks	Jim Hawke
Don Snowwhite	Steve Sherman	Mark Kinsler	David Morrell
Bill Kilpatrick	Bill Butterworth	Mike Hass	"Jake" Jacobson
Frank Kennemur	Lafayette Keaton	Jim Beard	Al Newman
Dale Libby	Al-Mar Family	Plaza Hotel	Dale Bennett

c. The Las Vegas Quick Draw was a success with all 100 tickets being sold and the big \$1,000 prize split between: **Tony Herrell and Dale Libby**. Twenty-four other lucky winners won either \$25.(14), \$50.(5), or \$75 (5).

d. The three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds were won by: **Don Swain, \$2,000 (\$1,000 cash); Suzanne Gaspard, \$1,000 (\$500 cash) and Richard Simpkins, \$500 (\$250 cash).**

Note: Winners were advised that they may elect a cash award in lieu of a Savings Bond. All accepted cash.

e. The membership is reminded that the monies realized from the sale of raffle tickets go a long way in assisting in the sustainment of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. Also, if you have a particular item or items that you wish to donate to SOAR XXI, contact Clyde Sincere to arrange for its delivery. Thank you.

f. Special Operations Memorial Fund Awards:

On behalf of the Special Operations Memorial Research Committee, Larry Trimble announced the following winners of the Special Operations Memorial fundraiser activity:

- (1) Trip to Florida: Jim Lamont.
- (2) Shotgun, Remington: John Thomas.
- (3) Special Forces Ring: Mark Kinsler.
- (4) Special Forces Ring: Roger Holbrook.
- (5) \$500.00 U.S. "EE" Savings Bond: Eugene Hall.

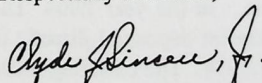
VI. Adjournment:

There being no further items of business, Mr. John McClaskey adjourned the General Membership meeting at 1230 hours, 28 September 1996 with the announcement that the next General Membership meeting would take place on 4 October 1997.

Incl: a/s

CJS/cjs

Respectfully submitted,



CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.
Association Administrator



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

To: The President, SOA, and Board members.

1 Dec 96

This is the financial status of the SOA as of 1 Dec 1996 (all figures rounded to the nearest \$100).

ASSETS:

CASH/CERTIFICATES/BONDS

Operating Account cash	\$ 7,300	
Scholarship Account cash	15,400	
Life Member Account cash	2,600	
Convention Account cash	2,700	
Memorabilia Account cash	6,000	
Memorabilia Account inventory(cost)	7,800	
Certificates of Deposit	85,000	
EE Savings Bonds	40,100	
<u>TOTAL ASSETS:</u>		<u>\$166,900</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Scholarships Payable (thru Jun '00)	\$62,400	
SOAR XX Expenses (thru Jan '97)	3,000	
Total current liabilities		\$65,400

EQUITY:

Uncommitted SOA resources	\$101,500	
Total Equity		\$101,500

<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:</u>		<u>\$166,900</u>
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Notes: The accrued EE Savings Bond interest (since 1992) is included in the above figures (interest rate is 6%). The EE bonds will be worth \$60,000 at maturity 12 years from date of purchase... in the year 2004. The Scholarship Fund CD is for 2 years at 6% with monthly interest deposited directly into the Scholarship Account. This CD matures 18 November 1998. The checking accounts, the EE Bonds and the CD all earn interest that is tax exempt. Checking accounts have been reduced to the minimum appropriate balances to avoid service charges. See Atch 1 for an annual comparison.

Ralf M. Miller
RALF M. MILLER, Treasurer, SOA

1 Attachment

Attachment Number 1 to Letter, SOA Treasurer's Report, dated 1 December 1996

MEMORANDUM

SOA CASH ASSETS ON: 1 December 1996: \$166,900

As Compared to:	1 December 1995:	\$167,984
	1 December 1994:	\$160,022
	1 December 1993:	\$132,235
	1 December 1992:	\$108,745
	1 December 1991:	\$ 83,068
	1 December 1990:	\$ 59,614

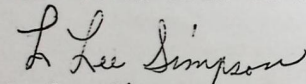
/s/Ralf M. Miller

/t/RALF M. MILLER, Treasurer, SOA

September 19, 1996

To The Board of Directors
Special Operations Association
Las Vegas, Nevada

We have reviewed the bank accounts of the Special Operations Association for the eight month period ending August 31, 1996. The reconciliation of bank balances was performed using bank statements and the Association's check registers. The registers were found to be in balance and appropriately maintained.


L. Lee Simpson

SOA ODDS and ENDS

IN MEMORY OF:

It is with deep regret that the SOA Board reports to the membership that **Bill O'Rourke, # 0379** passed away on 26 November 1996 as a result of a heart attack at his home in Florida. **Bill** was instrumental in supporting all aspects of the SOA. He recently served as your SOA Vice-President during the period 1995-'96. Also, **Bill** served many years on the SOA Reunion Committee, most noticeably during the many, many late hours that the Hospitality Suite remained open. **Bill** was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 11 December 1996. A few of **Bill's** friends that were able to attend his interment at Arlington were Mike Eiland, Charlie Norton, Ed Wolcott, John Haralson, Roger Pezelle, Harlow Stevens, Bill Lueders, "Rock" Myers, Billy Thompson and Clyde Sincere. **Mrs. Jan O'Rourke** has informed the Board that anyone desiring to contribute any donations **IMO BILL O'ROURKE** should do so by contributing to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. **Bill**, "Rest in Peace". **Jan**, all of our prayers go out to you and **Bill's** family. **Bill** will be missed by all of us in the SOA.

Additionally, on 17 December 1996, your Administrator received word from Ben Baker, #0897 that **Ross Bailey, SOA # 941** passed away on Tuesday, 18 November 1996 of lung cancer in Texas. **Ross** had most recently attended SOAR XX. **Ross** served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. **Ross** was buried on Thursday 21 November 1996 at Bandera Cemetery, Bandera, Texas. The SOA wishes to extend its heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Also, all SOA members are requested to inform any member of the Board with any information relating to the passing of a SOA member. In the case of **Bill O'Rourke**, our thanks go out to Bryan Stockdale, #0234 who informed your Administrator of his tragic loss. Again, in view of the fact that our organization is spread throughout the world a member's passing could occur and the organization would not be aware of it. This should not happen.

REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Although the attendance at SOAR XX was below that of SOAR XIX, (296 versus 319 banquet attendees), SOAR XX was a success and enjoyed by all. BG "Heinie" Aderholt, SOA# 900, commented that if he had known what he had been missing for so many years - he would have attended an earlier reunion. He stated he never intends to miss another. He and his lovely wife, Jessie truly enjoyed SOAR XX. Other distinguished guests/ attendees included MG (Ret) Joe Lutz, Lew Millett (MOH), Jon Cavaiani (MOH), John Baca (MOH), Dick Tappan, David Morrell and "Frenchie Amundson. Additionally, we really had a lot of "AF" Special Operations types this time - In addition to "Heinie"



JAN & BILL O'ROURKE



Sue Miller, Jan O'Rourke, Ralf Miller, Bill O'Rourke and Harry Clafin

Aderholt, we had Mark Berent, Mike Hass and of course we can't forget our own Ralf Miller, "Treasurer Extraordinaire" and also from "DOWN UNDER", Ron Workman and his lovely wife, Marge. We thank them for making the long trip from Australia.

For your advance planning, the following reflects the dates for future reunions:

- a. SOAR XXI: (1997) - 1-5 October.
- b. SOAR XXII: (1998) - 30 September - 4 October.
- c. SOAR XXIII: (1999) - 29 September - 3 October.
- d. SOAR XXIV: (2000) - 27 September - 1 October.

The SOA will commemorate and celebrate SOAR XXV in the year 2001. Towards that noteworthy event, each of us should make a concerted effort to attend. If any member has a suggestion for making any of our reunions better - please forward your comments to Jack Abraham, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee.

MEDICARE PREMIUMS TO INCREASE:

As a follow-up to our report last year concerning Medicare, the U.S. Health and Human Services Department has recently announced that monthly Medicare premiums will rise by \$1.30 in 1997 for the nearly 37 million elderly and disabled individuals enrolled in Part B of Medicare, which covers doctor bills. The department stated that the premium increase, to \$43.80 from \$42.50 reflects changes in health care costs and is determined each year under formulas set by Congress. The department also announced that under Medicare Part A, which covers hospital bills, patients admitted to a hospital in 1997 will have to pay \$760. for the first day. In 1996, the first-day deductible was \$736. After the first day, Medicare pays the bills for the next 59 days of a hospital stay.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION:

If you are contemplating on submitting for any benefits in the near future under Social Security, you are advised to obtain a "Request for Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement Form" SSA-7004-SM from your local Social Security Administration office. It will take you only five minutes to read the instructions, gather the necessary facts and fill out the form and mail it in. You should receive your statement in six weeks or less. When you submit for Social Security benefits, you will be required to have the following documents - "originals", Your DD Form 214; your birth certificate with a raised seal and your marriage certificate (if married). If your wife is filing with you, her birth certificate is also required.



The "Old" Board, Left to Right: Clyde Sincere, Ralf Miller, Don Benjamin, John McClaskey, Jack Abraham, Bill O'Rourke, Clay Scott and "Rock" Myers. Missing - Ian Sutherland, He probably was taking the picture....



The "New" Board, Left to Right: Ralf Miller, Jon Cavaiani, Clyde Sincere, Charlie Berg, John McClaskey, Jack Abraham, Clay Scott and Roy Bahr.

SEPARATE BRIEFINGS:

a. **POW/MIA ISSUES:** Adam Husar, #022-L, substituted for Norm Doney, 665-L who was unable to attend SOAR XX and briefed a number of interested attendees on the latest POW/MIA information he had received from Norm since his last briefing at SOAR XIX. Thank you Adam for filling in. Norm, we look for you at SOAR XXI.

b. **KHE-SAHN REVISITED:** Bob Donoghue, 680-G, Charlie Berg, 31-L, Dave "Bulldog" Smith, 1242-G, Robert Shippen, 540-L and Bruce Johnson, 1149-G briefed quite a few members and their guests on their latest trip to Vietnam during the April-May '96 time period. They had maps, photos, video tapes and copies of the latest "Saigon Times", yes, the latest "Saigon Times", vintage 1996 to show. We are all waiting to hear what happens in April 1997 during their next scheduled trip to Southeast Asia. Thank you guys.

Should any member wish to brief the membership on a particular subject requiring time that should not be taken up during the General Membership Meeting due to meeting time-constraints, contact Jon Cavaiani (209) 874-1371, soonest and provide your subject, time required and any special equipment, e.g., Viewgraph, Video monitor and player, etc.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS:

a. SOAR XXI will, as always, have a number of outstanding prizes to offer to attending members and their guests. Remember, the proceeds from the "raffle" go to support the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Board wishes to thank those members that have provided items in the past and most certainly those that will provide raffle items in the future. It all goes to a super worthwhile project that all SOA members and their guests can be proud of.

b. If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXI and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the item(s) with you and give it to Clyde Sincere as early as possible in order that he can display the items and the members may then have an opportunity to purchase tickets against the raffle items of their choice. If you cannot attend SOAR XXI and you wish to donate either a door prize or a raffle item, you are requested to mail it directly to the PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO to arrive NLT 30 September 1997 c/o SOAR XXI, Attn: Jack Abraham/Clyde Sincere. You may if you wish also mail the item directly to Clyde if timing becomes a problem. He will see to it that it gets to the reunion.

TRAVEL NETWORK- RESTON, VIRGINIA:

Reference is again directed to last years Spring Newsletter regarding the agreement between the SOA and Travel Network. Travel Network has agreed to provide



"The Presidents": John McClaskey, SOA, Harold "Jake" Jacobson, SFA.



"The Registrars": Clyde Sincere and Ralf Miller.

35% of their commission to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund on all travel performed by members of the SOA and their guests, not only to and from a SOAR, **but**, any travel at anytime, anywhere or anyplace year in and year out. Travel Network will provide the SOA Treasurer with a quarterly statement and check. (See, SOAR XX AAR paragraph 6, under New Business). Now, it is up to you the members to take advantage of this offer. Mrs. Sandy Kreer, the President of the Travel Network - Reston, Virginia office has offered to provide the SOA the lowest fares possible at the time of booking along with her 24 hour service. SOA members living outside the local Virginia office may contact Travel Network at 1-(800) 892-6470. Members living within the (703) area code are requested to utilize her local number 620-3001 and inform any of her staff that you are a member of the SOA desiring to purchase tickets. Travel Network will insure your tickets will arrive at your desired location at the time you require them. However, help her, help you, by requesting tickets in a timely fashion in view of the fact that the earlier you order the tickets, the better price you will receive. Nothing precludes a member from checking other sources if you believe you have not received the lowest fare possible at the time you order your tickets. The SOA Board believes this is a win-win situation - Travel Network gets our business and SOA receives a rebate from ticket purchases that goes into the Scholarship Fund. A Travel Network brochure is included in this packet.

THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS TO THE SOA:

a. There have been some great "givers" to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund in the past... Billy Waugh is the undisputed "champion of champions", having given over \$27,000 in cash. Jim Butler, in past years, has contributed over \$10,000 in cash and merchandise, and Keith Messinger has enriched the Scholarship Fund to the tune of a little over \$6,000. Big Ed Clough raised over \$18,000 in raffle ticket sales at various PX and shopping malls...and, Al and Ann Mar have generously donated over \$12,000 worth of their super elegant knives. The fund has indeed been fortunate to have had these folks out beating the bushes and donating their time, resources and energy in pursuit of assisting our youngsters go to college (50 have been helped, so far). The Honor Roll of Donors depicts those individuals who have donated cash (a minimum of \$100) or merchandise (a minimum value of \$250) to the Special Operations Association in the past. The SOA will publish an updated Honor Roll with each SOAR AAR and PRP in the future. If requested by the donor, contributions made after 1 January 1997, can be earmarked for the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund or the recently approved Special Operations Memorial Fund project...Donations to either of these two funds can also be designated IMO (in memory of) an SOA friend or fallen comrade and will be so annotated. Anonymous donors' wishes will be respected. Donations to the SOA are exempt from Federal income tax and your gift is fully tax deductible. The SOA is a tax exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(19) with an EIN #74-2619854 (the SOA Treasurer will be pleased to issue a letter to you attesting to any donation over \$250....for tax purposes). Be assured that Ralf and Jack have made



UL: John and Anna Fryer, Dolly and Ray Whittington.
UR: "Mystery #1" and Sue Miller.



LC: "Mystery #2" and Jack Abraham

\$50!!

every effort and attempt to insure the accuracy of the initial Honor Roll. If you have any questions on these guidelines, or if you can provide evidence that your name/donation should be on the Roll, please contact the SOA Treasurer, Ralf Miller, by phone, fax or mail at his address/ number as listed in the Membership Directory. And, if you wish to make a donation, send it to the Treasurer (don't forget, you may use MASTERCARD /VISA as well).

b. Subsequent cash donations (minimum \$100 cash) or merchandise (minimum \$250) will be added to the donor's name after the initial contribution as stated above. If a donor has more than one listing of past contributions (i.e., Scholarship or Memorial), subsequent donations should specify for which listing the contributions is being made. Unspecified or anonymous donations will automatically go into the Scholarship fund.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION REUNION XXI (SOAR XXI):

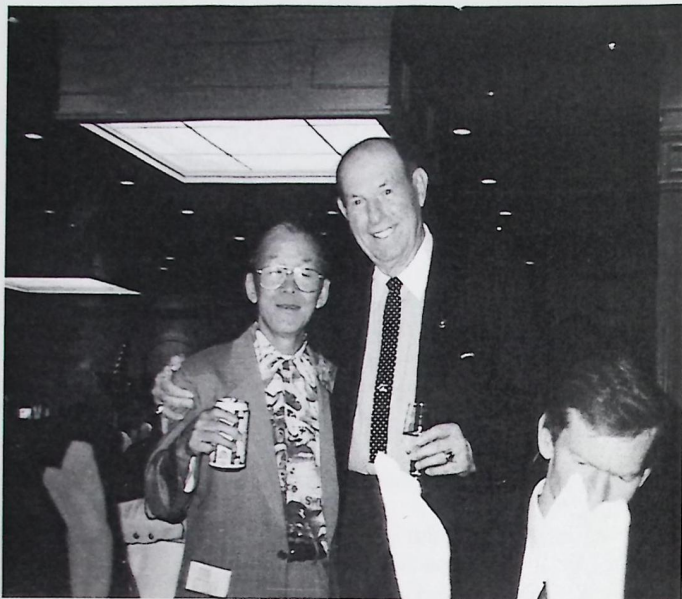
Do you know someone that is a member of the SOA and who has **never, never** attended a SOAR? If so, contact them **now** and urge that they make their plans **now** to attend SOAR XXI during the period 1-5 October 1997..

SOA LOST SOULS:

The following list reflects those "Life Members" whose addresses are not current and their whereabouts are unknown. Can you assist the Chairman, Membership Committee in locating these individuals? They are "Life Members" and deserve to receive any correspondence the SOA has for them:

Rick Rodriguez, 16-L
John Silk, 70-L
Jimmie Parsley, 128-L
Joseph Alford, 282-L
James Craig, 346-L
Ernest Mallet, 362-L
James Hanlon, 427-L
Jim Shults, 500-HL
Roy Peterson, 535-L
Thomas Wilson, 595-L
Kenneth W. Henry, 778-L
Walter Wertz, 806-L
Melvin Hill, 832-L
Resang, Dim S., 843-HL
Lemous, Hakuhn, 878-HL
Glenn Dahl, 953-L

Jesse Siglow, 38-L
David Ryder, 119-L
Thomas Smith, 138-L
David Standfier, 337-L
Arnold Bales, 353-L
George Carrelli, 400-L
John Mead, 471-L
Michael Koessick, 508-L
Jerry Roush, 591-L
Walt Simpson, 654-L
Sami Ayun, 805-L
Kabour, Y Jon, 824-HL
Nie, David, 834-HL
Nie, Y-Mao Kdam, 848-HL
James Ramsden, 889-AL
Ben Hancock, 1136-L



TOP: Mizuho "Bo" Bobroskie, Jack Isler and "Mystery #3".



LOWER: Curtis Williams, "Rock" Myers, Roy Bahr, Ian Sutherland, Clyde Sincere, Tom Sincere and John Baca.

THE 1996 SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES:

For the edification of those members who have not had an opportunity to attend a Reunion, your Board wishes to inform you of those SOA members other than the elected SOA Board of Officers and Directors that have volunteered their services in support of SOA activities (In some instances, a Board member may also serve on a committee). It takes more than just your elected Board to insure that the operation of the organization continues to run smoothly throughout each year. Thanks to one and all.

SOA REUNION COMMITTEE SOA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

* Jack Abraham
Don Benjamin
Bill Gow
Bill O'Rourke

* Clayton S. Scott
Harry Claflin
Ray Dawson
Bob Gilstrap
Curtis Williams

SOA MEMORABILIA SALES SOA MEMORIAL RESEARCH

* Bill Gow
Don Benjamin
Ray Chambers
Joe Frey
Bill Garcia
Ken Gaudet
Dan Junevics
Bob Johnson
Len Mollica
Bob Moon
Al Newman
Bob Strange
Tom Tatten

* Larry Trimble
Saul Arrendondo
James Butler
Alex Jongbloed
Jim LaMotte
Thomas Marich
Cliff Newman
John Padgett
Bryan Stockdale
Susan Stockdale ***
Jeffrey Wachter
Bill Wolf

*** Research/Administrative Assistant

SOA NOMINATING COMMITTEE SOA TALLY COMMITTEE

* John McClaskey
Jack Isler
James P. Monaghan
Ray Whittington

* William "Bill" Lueders
Patrick Mahoney
Harlow H. Stevens
William Cervenak



TOP: Left to Right: Carl Crantz, Ron and Marge Workman, Anna Fryer, Barb and Bob Johnson and "Mystery #4"

\$50!!!



LOWER: Left to Right: Gene McCarthy, John Fryer, "Mystery #5", "Jake" Jacobson and Billy Boggs.



Left to Right: Hank Luthy, Steve and Nguvet Sherman and Chivo Baker.



"Mystery Couple" and Ross Bailey.

\$50!!!

The Department of Veterans Affairs is requesting all veterans assist them in eliminating these rumors by passing the above information along to any of their friends or to any veterans' group to which you belong. Thank you.

DECEASED SOA MEMBERS:

The following reflects those SOA members who have passed away:

<u>SOA #</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SOA #</u>	<u>NAME</u>
0206	Abt, Fred	0941	Bailey, Ross N.
0396	Baldwin, Daniel	0792	Bayless, Clyde Y.
0550	Beckwith, Charles	0198	Bemis, Donald
0391	Brunkhardt, John	0307	Campbell, Tom
0115	Carter, Tennis H.	1024	Chamberlin, Richard
0908	Cincotti, Joseph G.	0516	Cipolla, James
0112	Coffin, Robert	0065	Compton, Marvin
0220	Crabtree, Ken	0415	Daniels, Horton
0071	Debellis, Vince	0530	Delima, William
0781	Duarte, Antonio	0062	Duffield, E.W.
0729	Feola, Avio	0771	Fickling, James
0243	Firth, John	0165	Hanretty, John
0990	Harrison, Marshall G.	0126	Hiner, "Chuck"
0103	Houston, George	0200	Kasler, Charles
0870	Keeton, James Sr.	0785	King, Robert M.
0087	Kinsley, Edward	0921	Kirtchen, Fred E.
0476	Layton, Gilbert	0236	Leverton, Terry
0439	Mar, "Al" Alfred	0795	Martin, Gary R.
0176	McDonald, Larry	0113	McElveen, Clifford
0055	McKenny, Richard	0766	Meadows, Richard
0026	Meehan, "Mick" Bernard	0873	Moore, George W.
0059	Morton, George C.	0420	Noe, Howard
0793	O'Neill, Lawrence	0379	O'Rourke, William H. Jr.
0033	Patterson, Rod	0431	Phillips, Dean K.
0097	Raye, "Maggie" Martha	1169	Regnier, Michael N.
0749	Rivers, William	0638	Schaible, David
0332	Schielig, Karl	0106	Scully, Robert
1244	Shoff, Robert	0144	Shumate, Walter
0104	Smercek, Dennis	0196	Spinaio, Edward
0356	Squires, Ben	0743	Swannack, Buck
0447	Tocci, Mark	0924	Triponi, Anthony
0137	Westall, Bynum	0157	Zabitosky, Fred

"May They Rest In Peace, and God Watch Over Them".



"Mysterv #7" and "Cowboy" Khanh Van Doan.

\$50!!



Left to Right: Joe Fry, "Mystery #8", Pat Barrett and Steve Wilson.

MYSTERY CONTEST:

Well, we are going to try it again. No one, I repeat, no one took advantage of the Board's offer of \$50.00 worth of raffle tickets towards the "EE" U.S. Savings Bond raffle at SOAR XX. We have decided to list certain SOAR XX attendees as "MYSTERY". Some are well known and some are not so well known. Their number totals 25. Can you name names? The first person to correctly identify the most "MYSTERY" individuals will receive the \$50.00 worth of raffle tickets. (Note: You do not have to be present to win!!!). The runner-up will receive \$25.00 worth of raffle tickets. Submit your entries, (as many as you wish) to Clyde Sincere, 11722 Lariat Lane, Oakton, Virginia, 22124-2323. **Good Luck!!!** The winners (and the membership) will be informed via the SOAR XXI PRP. For your added information, all SOA Board Members - (Old Board and the New Board) are prohibited from entering the "Mystery Contest".

1.5 LITER BOTTLE OF WINE:

Remember the "special" bottle of wine etched with SOAR XX, the SOA Logo and Motto that was raffled off? Well, for you folks that didn't win (Jim Butler won it) and wish to purchase one, the following is provided for your information:

Ken Gaudet, #964 donated the "special" bottle for our SOAR XX raffle. To say that this was an impressive item and a very much sought after raffle item would be an understatement. It was most elegant!! Mr. Gaudet, in addition to generously agreeing to donate another like bottle for the SOAR XXI raffle will provide to the attendees a means by which they can special order this most sought after item. Additionally, one can have an etched personalization of his choosing, in addition to the SOA logo and motto. The cost per bottle will be approximately \$125. - and they are worth every cent of the price. For those members that for one reason or another are unable to attend SOAR XXI and we hope everyone will attempt to attend and are interested in this item should contact Ken directly at 1325 Imola Avenue West, Suite 427, Napa, California 94559, or call him at (707) 252-6732 for any other queries.

PAUL BRUBAKER, SOA # 596-L:

Paul has requested that any individual who was lucky enough to win one of the many knives that he has donated to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship program these past two years, to write him and let him know what you think of it. As many of you are aware Paul writes extensively on knives that he has received from throughout the world and in turn he then donates them to the SOA annual raffle. Additionally, Paul has a rather extensive inventory of SF/SOG/ARVN replica patches and other Vietnam era items for sale to anyone that may be interested. Paul can be contacted directly at: Box 30, Circleville, West Virginia 26804 or call him at: (304) 567-2227. **Remember, it is great to support those members who continually support the SOA and its programs.** Thanks Paul.



Michael Walsh and Clav Scott.



Curtis Williams, "Bentley" and "Rock" Myers.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM

Facts relating to the Special Operations Association George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund:

The scholarship grants awarded by the SOA are used only for work leading towards a Bachelor's Degree. Each grant is for not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 per year, (maximum of four (4) years and paid at \$100.00 per/month).

BASIC GRANT CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY: A high school graduate or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, unmarried and under the age of 21 years at the time of application. Preference will be given to a son or daughter, natural or adopted, of (1) an individual who served in a Special Operations Unit during the Vietnam War (includes POW/MIA), or (2) who is currently a member of the SOA and in good standing, and others that meet the grant criteria.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The announcement of the availability for this scholarship grant is made through various educational institutions, the news media and fraternal organizations.

APPLICATIONS: The deadline for all informal inquiries and application information is **15 March** of the year that the grant is intended to be awarded. The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is **15 April** of the year the grant is intended to be awarded.

AWARD: Approximately **1 May** of that year, selectees/recipients of the scholarship grant(s) will be appropriately notified by mail.

For more information and application forms, please contact:

JAMES HAWKE
Chairman, SOA Scholarship Committee
7801 Southmoor Circle
Reno, Nevada 89502
(702) 857-3477



TOP: Left to Right: Jim Kennedy, Jack Isler, Les Chapman, "Rock" Myers, JimButler, Ben Lvons, Cliff Newman, Clvde Sincere, and "Mvsterv #9".



"Cowboy" and Don Benjamin.



THE PICTURE ABOVE REFLECTS THE ASSOCIATION'S OFFICIAL RING. ITS DESIGN IS PROTECTED BY U.S. GOVERNMENT COPYRIGHT. IT IS AVAILABLE IN 10 KARAT GOLD FOR \$375.00 OR IN STERLING SILVER FOR \$175.00. SHIPPING IS EXTRA, PLEASE SEE THE MEMORABILIA SALES FORM. RINGS ORDERED NOW WILL BE SHIPPED WITHIN SIX (6) TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS. WHEN ORDERING, REQUEST YOU TYPE OR PRINT EXACTLY HOW YOU DESIRE YOUR NAME TO BE ENGRAVED INSIDE OF THE RING; ALSO, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER AND CORRECT RING SIZE. THE SOA IS NOT RESPONSIBLE IF THE WRONG SIZE RING IS ORDERED. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU CONTACT A JEWELER TO DETERMINE THE SIZING FOR YOU...THANKS.



"The Range Gang".



AL MAR KNIVES



SPECIAL FORCES ONE-ZERO

SF/SOG

"Variations of the knives are better because they are different from what other collectors have.....Almost every military unit needed a knife for a different reason."

BLADE Magazine

"The Special Forces One-Zero will be a fine addition to the military collector's trove of historical combat blades...AL MAR has brought what was a lost piece of combat cutlery history into the present for everyone's enjoyment and benefit."

KNIFE WORLD

During the early 1960s the Green Berets began issuing a combat knife of their own design to members of their elite reconnaissance teams. These teams operated throughout Indo-China and were involved in some of the most secretive operations of the Vietnam War. The knife became a mark of distinction, and later a remembrance for those that fought under the motto "De Oppresso Liber".

AL MAR, former Green Beret, has brought the knife that made history back. Named in honor of the numerical

designation assigned recon team leaders, the One-Zero is dedicated to the memory of those men who carried this blade into combat. AMM's commitment to form and function have brought about improvements in both the knife's cosmetic as well as practical aspects without compromising the heritage that makes the One-Zero so unique.

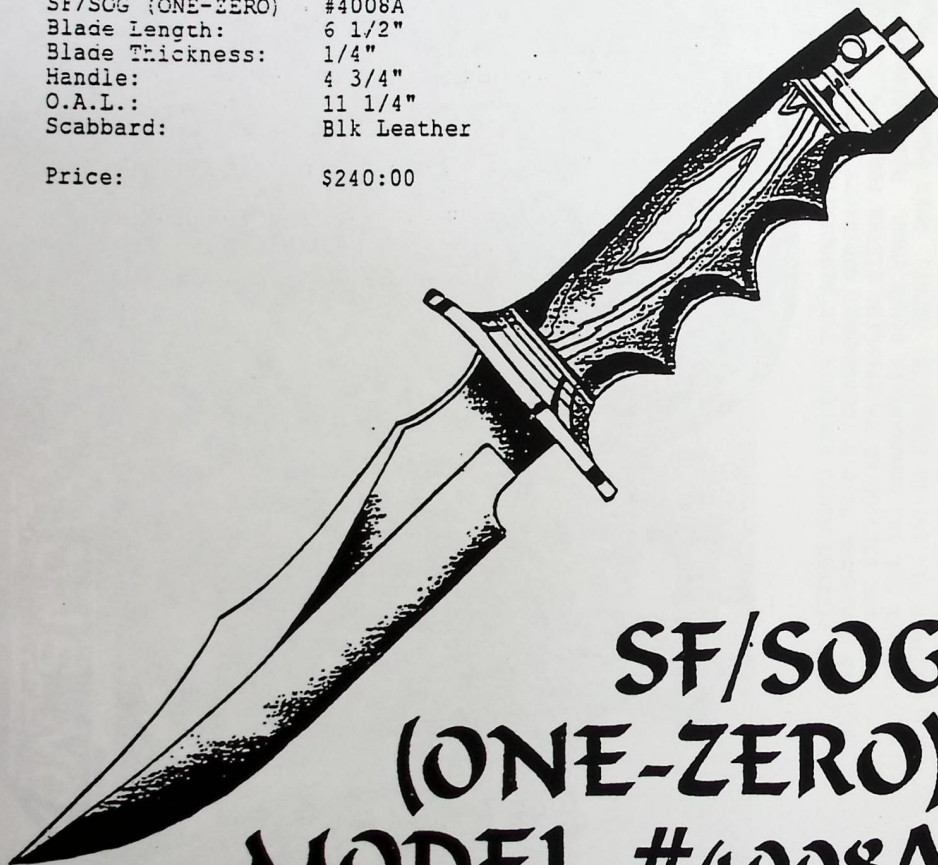
THE SPECIAL FORCES ONE-ZERO - Display it with pride.

Your knife is first and foremost a tool. Treated with respect, given the proper care before, during, and after use, it will serve you well. As with all quality tools, examine your intended task with care and use the tool that will insure you the greatest degree of success.

AL MAR KNIVES THE WARRIOR'S EDGE

SF/SOG (ONE-ZERO)	#4008A
Blade Length:	6 1/2"
Blade Thickness:	1/4"
Handle:	4 3/4"
O.A.L.:	11 1/4"
Scabbard:	Blk Leather

Price: \$240:00



SF/SOG
(ONE-ZERO)
MODEL #4008A





"Can you find the "Navy Seal" in this picture?" Obviously, Mike Walsh thought he blended in with the scenic Nevada desert. Well, when you take a duck out of water!!!



Left to Right: John McClaskey, Jack Isler, Bill Shelton, Jack Abraham and Jim Ramsey.

Managing Editor Mike Linderer, a former Army editor and photographer, says *Behind The Lines* has something for everybody. "We publish true-life missions, current events, historical pieces, special ops people in the news, as well as regular columns and book reviews. The mission articles are especially popular, because they're written by the men who were actually there--those who faced the danger and lived to tell about it. In fact most of the stories we run and the photos we use have never before been published."

Linderer says BTL's editorial content is not limited to current or recent events. "We try to cover the whole of U.S. special operations, from the founding units to present-day special warfare."

Most BTL readers, says Linderer, have served in U.S. special ops units. Others include foreign special ops troops, military history buffs, policemen and gun enthusiasts. "We've also seen a strong interest by many non-veterans," Linderer notes. "There's a growing curiosity among the general public about the training and missions of military special operations units today. It's satisfying to see that America's best are getting the recognition they've earned. For many, it's long overdue."

"He downed four North Koreans before emptying the clip...and then charged, swinging the pistol like a club."

BEHIND THE LINES

THE JOURNAL OF U.S. MILITARY SPECIAL OPERATIONS

They're America's elite fighting forces—SEALs, Special Forces, LRRPs, Rangers, Marine Force Recon, Air Commandos. Read about their true-life missions, history, tactics, arms and more. Special warfare by those who fought it. The Men. The Missions. The Untold Story. It's all in *Behind The Lines*!

☐

YES! Send me a TRIAL issue! Enclosed is \$4.

☐

SIGN ME UP! for 1 full year, 6 bimonthly issues for \$24 (\$35 foreign).

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

VISA or MC No. Exp. Date

Make checks payable to BEHIND THE LINES, PO Box 456, Festus, MO 63028

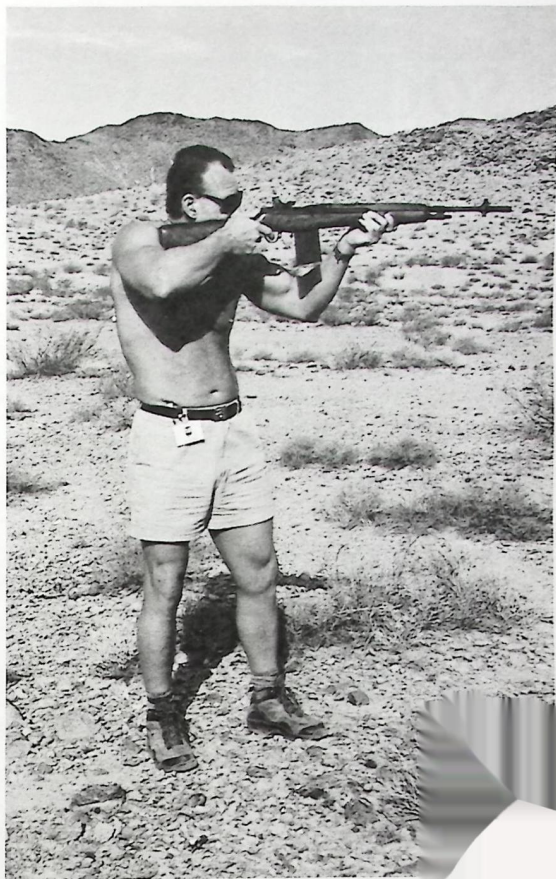


*Subscribe
Today!*

Don't miss a single issue.



Hank Luthy showing everyone how it is done.



"Mysterv # 10"



Joe Lutz addressing the General Membership.

\$50!!

Available this January through your local bookstore:

SOG:

The secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam

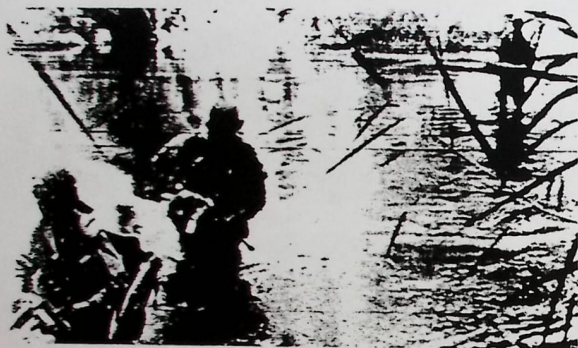
Based upon interviews of 100 SOG veterans plus thousands of pages of declassified documents, SFA member and three-tour SOG veteran John Plaster tells the never-before revealed true history of top secret combat deep behind enemy lines in Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam.

SOG's raids, ambushes and sabotage missions compelled the North Vietnamese to divert 40,000 troops from combat in South Vietnam to rear security along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, a phenomenal **600 NVA tied down per U.S. Special Forces soldier** operating in Laos. Roaming deep behind enemy lines, SOG teams were pursued by hundreds — at times *thousands* — of NVA, often led by native trackers and bloodhounds.

Executing the war's most dangerous missions, SOG operators sustained casualty rates not equaled since the Civil War; by war's end, a dozen entire teams were missing and although signal intercepts confirmed some had been captured, Hanoi

still denies any knowledge of them. SOG's were the war's most highly decorated units, with, for instance, the Kontum-based, 60-man CCC Recon Company earning five Medals of Honor and twice that many DSCs. In a single year, CCN men were awarded two Medals of Honor and three DSCs.

Read about CCN Recon Team Kansas, whose 14 men were mass-assaulted by a reinforced NVA regiment, **odds seven times worse than the Alamo**, probably the most lopsided engagement in U.S. history. Or the true story of Charles Wilklow, badly wounded, captured and laid out



as human bait to lure rescue helicopters. Read about the true exploits of Bob Howard, the Vietnam War's most highly decorated soldier and a fine SOG recon man.

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT "SOG":

"At last, a quarter-century after their top secret deeds, we can recognize the Vietnam War's greatest unsung heroes, S.O.G.'s covert warriors. The dramatic true stories in SOG fill a major gap in special operations history."

-Maj. Gen. John K. Singlaub, USA (Ret.)

"The enormous contributions of S.O.G. in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos is a story that needs to be told."

-Dr. Henry Kissinger

"S.O.G. played an important role during our operations against the Communist enemy in Vietnam. SOG is a superb and compelling account of their dedication and heroism."

-Gen. William C. Westmoreland, USA (Ret.)

"A magnificent book of enormous power and a milestone in the literature of special operations. SOG is an excellent account of secret warriors who gave their all for country, for mission and for each other."

*-Col. Robert Howard, Medal of Honor winner,
The Vietnam War's most highly decorated soldier*

THIS IS ONE BOOK YOU MUST NOT MISS!!



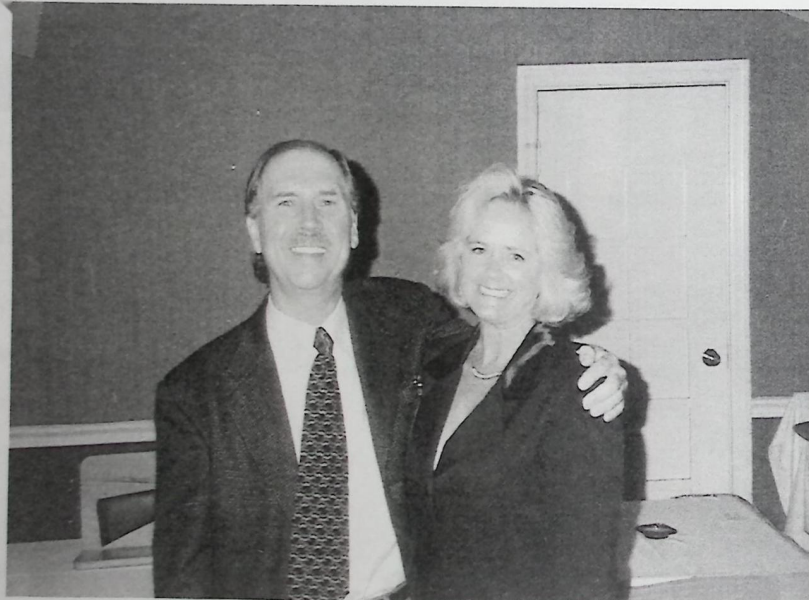
TOP: Left to Right: Tom Sincere, John Sincere, "Rock" Myers, Sue Sincere and Katy Leites.



LOWER: Steve Wilson, "Mom" Masterjoseph, "Mystery #11", Chiyo Baker and Bob Masterjoseph.



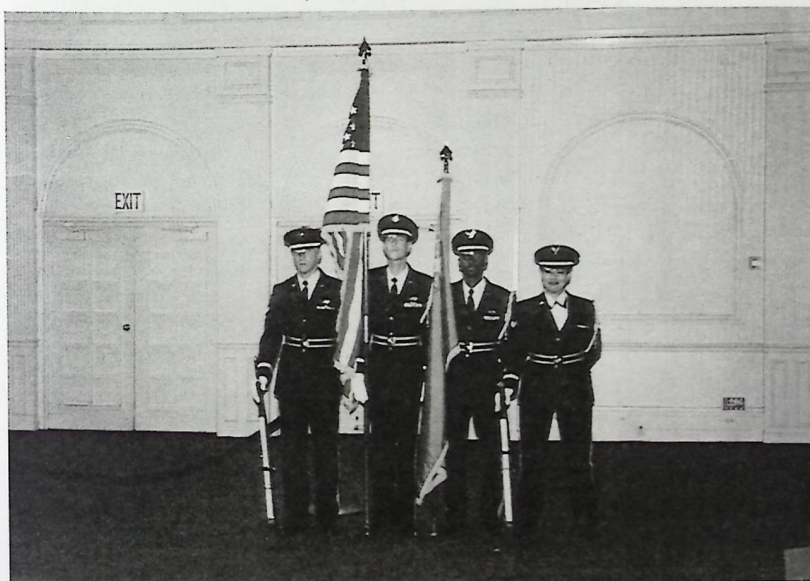
TOP: Left to Right: "Mystery #12", Bob Donoghue, Adam Husar, Dave "Bulldog" Smith, Charlie Berg and "Mystery #13 and #14"



David Morrell and Carolyn McClaskey.



Left to Right: "Mysterv # 15", "Heinie" Aderholt and Ben I.vons



LOWER" The USAF Nellis AFB Honor Guard. Thank you for participating in the SOA Reunion.



Our friends from "Down Under". Marge and Ron Workman.



Left to Right: Jim Ramsey, Debbie Columbo, Mark Kinsler, Jan Roush and "Mystery #16."

!!\$50



"Mystery # 17", Ben Baker, Ron Workman and Rav Chambers.

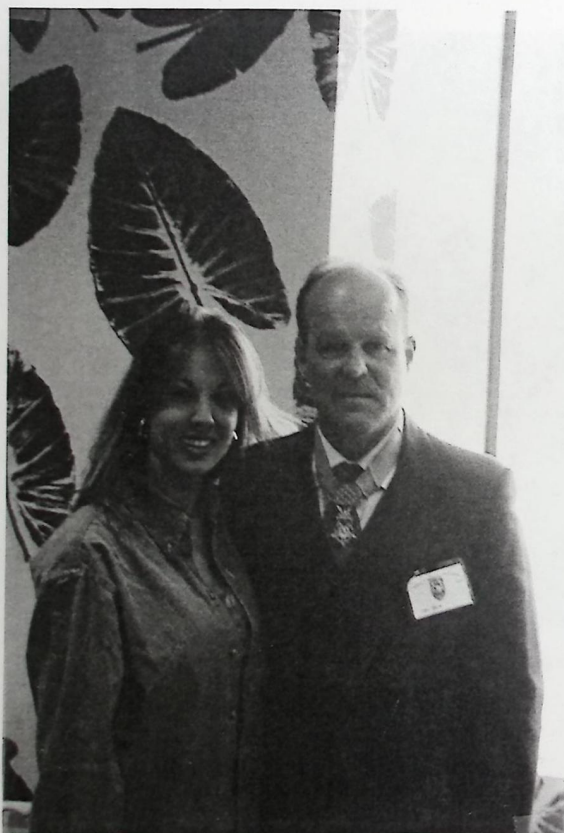


Richard Weber, Tena Houser and Jack Abranam.

\$50!!



TOP: Theresa King, "Mystery # 18" and Shellee Re'nee. Who cares who the "Mvsterv" is in this photograph?



Debbie Columbo and John Baca.



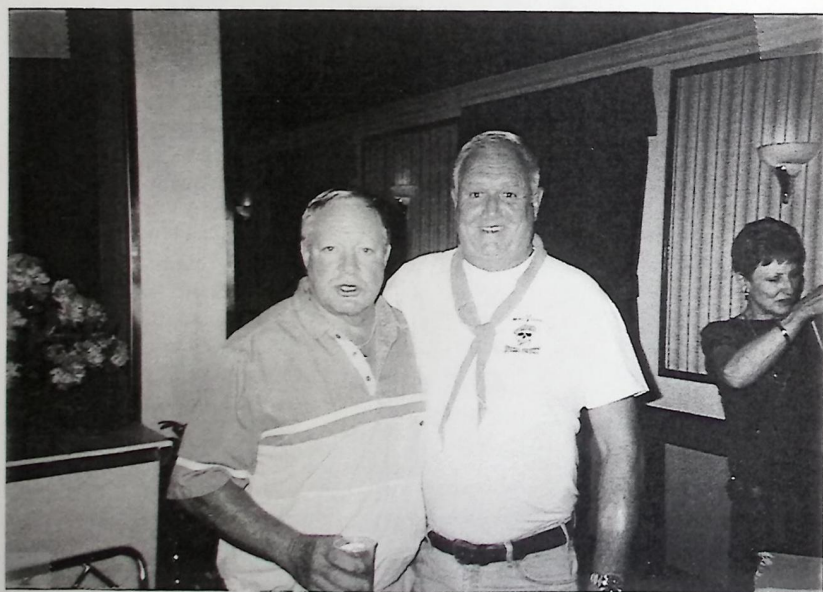
Exercising the Pool. Left to Right: Curtis Williams, Roy Bahr and "Rock".



Left to Right: Debbie Columbo, Shellee Re'nee and Theresa King. SOAR XX Hospitality hostesses. The members and their guests attending SOAR XX, thank you.



"Bentlev" and Ian Sutherland.

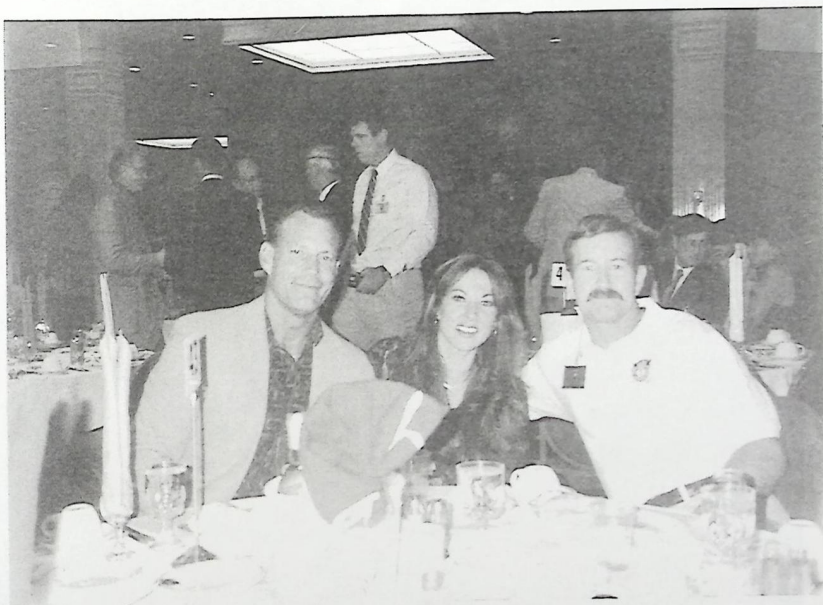


Joe Lutz and the "Rock". Oh, can't forget Sue Miller off to the right.



TOP: "Mystery # 19", the "Rock" and Mary Ann Harrison. In the right rear, we find Ron Workman, Bill Kilpatrick and Tom Henry.

\$50!



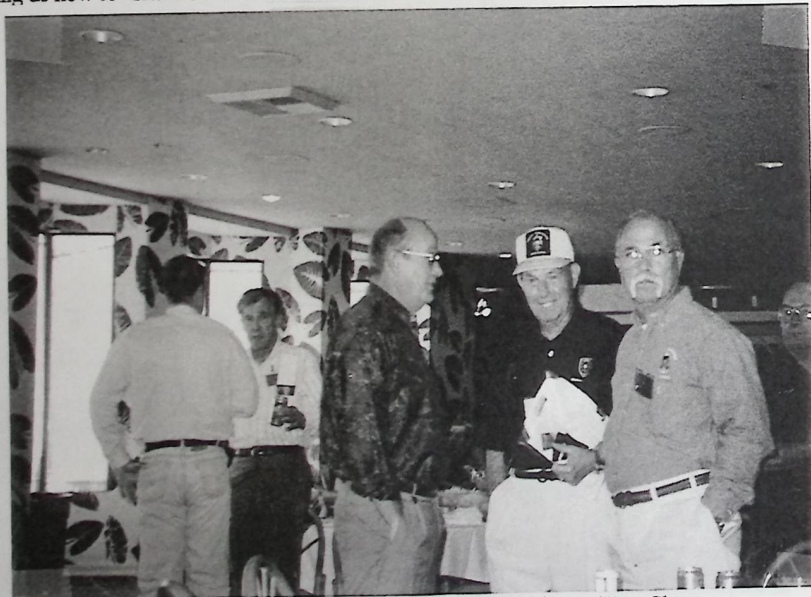
"Mystery # 20", Debbie Columbo and Mark Kinsler.



Joe Lutz showing us how to "skeet". Now is that a stance?



Some of the "Range Gang",



Clay Scott, "Mystery # 21", Jim Butler, Jack Isler and Les Chapman.

\$501



"Frenchie" and Clyde Sincere. May I have the next ticket please.



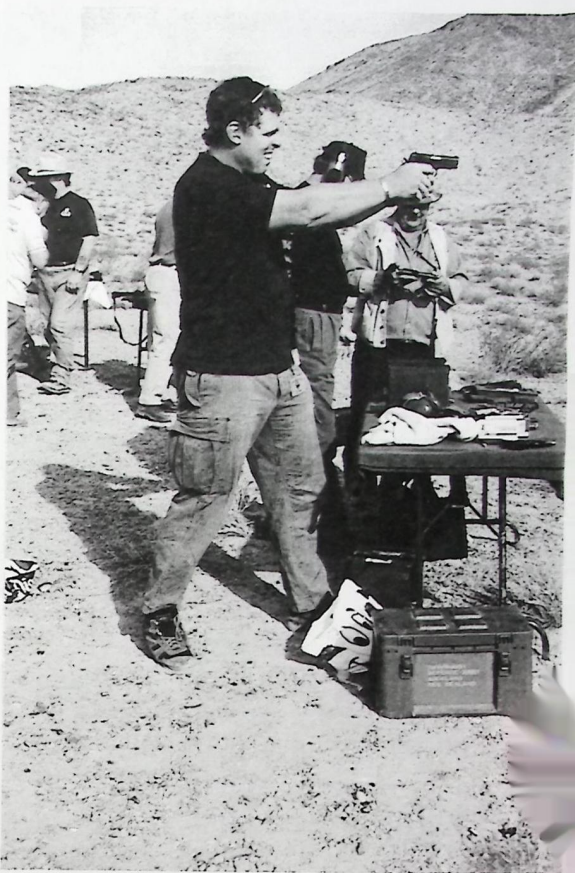
"Frenchie" and Larry Trimble. One may think "Frenchie" won.



"Frenchie", Dick Tappan, Carolyn McClaskey and "Jake" Jacobson.



"The Prez": John McClaskey.



"The Prez", John McClaskey showing his skills on the range. "Mystery # 22" and Frank Kennemur in the background.



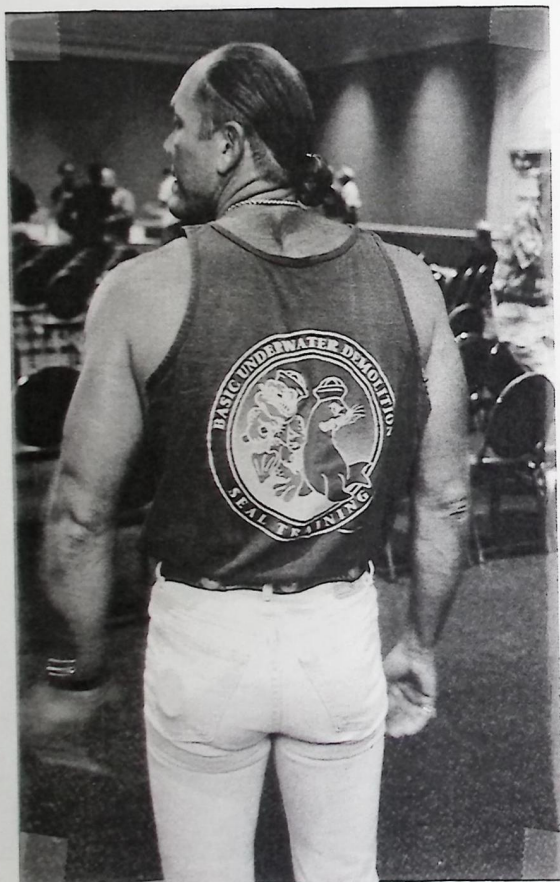
Clyde Sincere and "Heinie" Aderholt.

\$50!!



Left to Right: Clyde Sincere, "Cowboy", "Mystery # 23" and Ralf Miller.

\$50!!!



"Mystery # 24".



UL: Dick Tappan - "On the Firing Line", Joe Lutz to the right rear.
UR: "Mystery #25".



SOAR XX BANQUET CROWD. A great time was had by all.

\$50!!!



"THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS TO THE SOA"

(as of 1 January 1997)

Abraham, Jack, 365L	\$1,500.00
Amundson, Rolande, 98HL	\$1,000.00
Bahr, Roy, 315L	\$1,000.00
Benjamin, Don, 899L	\$4,075.00
Bennett, Dale, 910L	\$600.00
Blakey, George "Moe", 551L	\$1,200.00
Brubaker, Paul, 596L	\$2,600.00
Butler, Jim, 1L	\$10,500.00
Chambers, Ray, 627L	\$500.00
Clough, Ed, 43G	\$16,400.00
Dawson, Ray, 657L	\$500.00
Fryer, John, 7L	\$2,450.00
Gilstrap, Bob, 737G	\$750.00
Ginder, Jerry, 618L	\$4,660.00
Isler, Jack, 4L	\$500.00
Kinsler, Mark, 700L	\$5,425.00
Lear, John, 495L	\$500.00
Long, Jack, 441L	\$1,500.00
Mar, Al/Ann, 439L	\$12,150.00
Messinger, Keith, 90L	\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf, 60L	\$1,000.00
Morrell, David, 905HL	\$850.00
O'Rourke, Bill, 379L	\$3,120.00
Pinn, Lionel, 19L	\$1,050.00
Platt, Fred, 825L	\$1,125.00
Pollack, Jim, 426AL	\$1,000.00
Raye, Martha, 97HL	\$2,780.00
Siugzda, Herb, 30L	\$500.00
Squires, Ben, 356L	\$1,010.00
Stern, Michael, 324L	\$250.00
Sutherland, Ian, 216L	\$1,000.00
Waugh, Billy D., 5L	\$27,100.00
Waugh, Billy D., 5L (IMO Walt Shumate)	\$1,000.00



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 1997 P.O. BOX 6832 COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80934-6832



Pre-Registration Information

Colorado in the Summer! Mountains, Rivers, Ghost Towns, Trees—You can almost feel the excitement of the Pikes Peak Region. The 1997 Special Forces Convention will be held in these surroundings.

Whatever you are looking for, you'll find it in the Pikes Peak region and Colorado Springs. 14,110-foot Pikes Peak, Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, Manitou and Pikes Peak Railroad, Cripple Creek, Victor, Royal Gorge, US Olympic Center, etc. Over 50 attractions besides the convention activities and social gatherings. There's truly more of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

The 1997 Special Forces Convention will meet in Colorado Springs from 24 to 29 June 1997. The Convention Headquarters will be the Red Lion Hotel (Exit #138 from I-25), Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Your registration fee of \$65.00 will include the Hospitality areas, Welcome Reception, Picnic (with transportation), Banquet, as well as all meetings. There will be vendors available for your pleasure and shopping. All official activities (except the Golf Tournament and picnic) are located at the convention hotel.

There will be demonstrations by the 10th and 5/19th Special Forces Groups during the picnic as well as displays at the Convention Headquarters. There will also be an open house of the 10th Group's new facilities on Fort Carson. We are getting their full support for this event.

Hotel Information:

Reservations should be made directly with the Red Lion Hotel at (719) 576-8900. You need to mention the 1997 Special Forces Convention to get the special rates.

We have contracted all rooms at a daily rate of \$75.00 plus tax. This is for a single, double or two-bed room. If the requested rooms are already sold out, reservations will be made at alternate accommodations within close proximity. The hotel will coordinate ground transportation as needed.

Travel Agency Information:

We have contracted with Carlson/Guide Travel Agency in Colorado Springs to handle your travel arrangements. You will receive a 5% discount off the lowest applicable fare on United and Delta Airlines. Additional discounts will be offered for qualified groups. They can also get discount fares on other airlines. **Everyone who purchases their travel from our official agency will be entered into a drawing for a complimentary airline ticket.**

Please contact Sara Stoen at 1-800-672-1190. Discount fares will be available after 1 August 1996. Make your reservations early to ensure getting the lowest fares.

RVs, Campers, etc.:

Contact the Colorado Springs Visitor Bureau at 1-800-DO VISIT (368-4748) for campgrounds and hookup sites.

Vendors:

For information contact: Vendor Chairman, SFA Convention 97, PO Box 6832, Colorado Springs, CO 80924-6832.

Outside Activities:

- Cripple Creek Gaming
- Old Colorado City
- Rafting

Flying W. Ranch
Air Force Academy
Hiking/Biking

Royal Gorge
Fort Carson
Pikes Peak



SFA Convention '97

Tentative Schedule of Events



Tuesday—24 June 1997	Registration	1000 - 2200
	Hospitality	1000 - 2400
Wednesday—25 June 1997	Registration	0800 - 2200
	Coffee & Donuts	0800 - 1000
	National Board of Chapter Presidents Meeting	0900 - 1300
	Hospitality	1000 - 1800
	Welcome Reception	1800 - ?
Thursday—26 June 1997	Registration	0800 - 2200
	Coffee & Donuts	0800 - 1000
	Golf Tournament	0700 - ?
	Hospitality	1000 - 2400
	Tour 10th SFG(A) Area	1300 - 1700
	POW/MIA Conference	(TBA)
Friday—27 June 1997	Registration	0800 - 2200
	Coffee & Donuts	0800 - 1000
	Picnic/Demonstration	1130 - 1600
	Hospitality	1700 - 2400
Saturday—28 June 1997	Registration	0800 - 1700
	Coffee & Donuts	0800 - 0900
	General Membership Meeting	0900 - 1300
	Hospitality	1300 - 1600
	Reception/Cocktails	1800 - 1930
	Banquet	1930 - 2015
	Program	2015 - 2100
	Dancing & Music	2100 - ?
Sunday—29 June 1997	Coffee & Donuts	0800 - 1100
	Checkout	

CHECK CHANNEL 55, THE HOTEL INFORMATION CHANNEL, FOR CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
CONVENTION 1997
P.O. BOX 6832
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO
80934-6832



Registration: Prior to 18 May 1997 - \$65.00
18 May 1997 and later - \$75.00

All registrations *postmarked* 18 May and later are \$75.00. Registrations with insufficient funds will be returned to applicant.

Name:

_____/_____
(Last, First & MI) (Name to appear on name tag)

Address:

(Street, Apt., Space, Unit)

(City, State, ZIP, APO, Country)

(Telephone # and/or FAX # [Area Code & Nr] and/or E-mail address)

SFA Member # _____ Chapter # _____

Nr. of Guests _____ Include names for guests' name tags _____

Full Registration:

Prior to 18 May — Yourself + Guest x \$65.00 each = \$ _____

18 May and later — Yourself + Guest x \$75.00 each = \$ _____

Registration fee includes: Reception, Picnic, Banquet and Hospitality Room

Limited Attendance Registration:

_____ Reception Only \$15.00 per person = \$ _____

_____ Picnic Only \$25.00 per person = \$ _____

_____ Banquet Only \$25.00 per person = \$ _____

_____ Hospitality Room Only \$32.50 per person = \$ _____

Convention Shirts (See Reverse) Total amount for Shirts = \$ _____

Grand Total and Money Enclosed \$ _____

Golf Tournament Registration

Entry Deadline: 1 June 1997 - First 120 Players

Date: 26 June 1997

Location: Woodland Park

Format: Four-Man Blind Draw Scramble

Cost: \$65.00 per Person (includes Transportation, Greens Fee, Cart, Refreshments and prizes)

Tee Time: 260700L Jun 97 (Shotgun Start)

Please provide Handicap (index) and/or Average Score with entry fee.

Official Convention Shirts may be ordered in advance. Indicate the number of shirts, in correct sizes, include the cost in your convention fees. The shirts will be given to you during SFA Convention '97.

Convention T-shirts (\$15.00 or \$17.00 each, depending on size)

_____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL Total Shirts _____ X \$15.00 = _____
 _____ XXL Total Shirts _____ X \$17.00 = _____

Convention Polo Shirts (\$25.00 or \$28.00 each, depending on size)

_____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL Total Shirts _____ X \$25.00 = _____
 _____ XXL Total Shirts _____ X \$28.00 = _____

There are some additional activities in the area that you may want to attend or take part in. Please indicate those that are of interest to you:

- _____ 1. Bungee Jump (from a hot air balloon)
- _____ 2. NORAD Facility at Cheyenne Mountain
- _____ 3. Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
- _____ 4. Royal Gorge Bridge
- _____ 5. Whitewater Rafting (Arkansas River in the vicinity of the Royal Gorge)
- _____ 6. Gambling and sightseeing trip to Cripple Creek (Imperial Hotel & Casino)
- _____ 7. Flying W Ranch (Barbecue Dinner, Show and Shops)
- _____ 8. Cog Railway to the summit of Pikes Peak
- _____ 9. Hot Air Balloon Ride

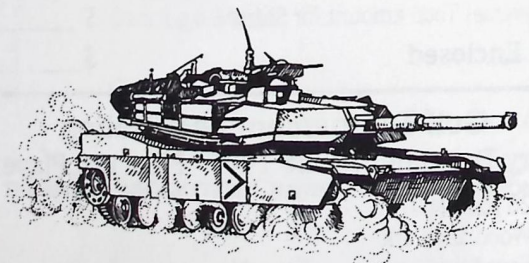
Other _____

NOTE: The above activities are not included in the convention registration fee and would be at your own expense.

VENDORS: For information contact

Vendor Chairman
 SFA Convention '97
 P.O. Box 6832
 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-6832

Remember to consider military hops to Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs





SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122

TO: The Special Operations Association Membership

SUBJECT: Spring 1997 Newsletter

PURPOSE: To provide the SOA membership with a brief update on the current status of the SOA, and to inform each of you of the various events that have occurred or will occur since SOAR XX at the Plaza Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 25-29 September 1996, as we look forward to SOAR XXI.

IN MEMORY OF: Following publication of the SOAR XX AAR, it was ascertained that two (2) more SOA members have passed away. **Jimmie Parsley, SOA # 128-L.** Jimmie died on 27 March 1993. Jimmie had been listed as a "Lost Soul" and it is for that reason that the SOA had not learned of his death or the reason that he passed away until Jimmy Dean, SOA # 123-G and the SFA Administrator informed Clay Scott, Chairman of the Membership Committee of his passing. The other SOA member, **William E. Gore, SOA # 1072-G** died on 14 December 1996 in Leavenworth, Kansas. Again, other than the notice of his passing, relayed by his wife to Larry Trimble, SOA # 163-L, no other details were made available. The SOA wishes to extend its sympathy to their families. Their untimely deaths remind all of us just how fragile our society is, and the importance of maintaining a current address with the SOA.

REUNION RECOMMENDATIONS: The Chairman, SOAR XXI Reunion Committee, Jack Abraham, SOA # 365-L, encourages any member to submit their ideas for improving a SOAR. Jack is, and has been a firm believer in the old adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". However, having stated his beliefs, he and his committee will consider any idea for making what is already considered, "the best annual reunion for the money, anywhere" even better. Additionally, Jack is always looking for "volunteers", if one or more of you are so inclined. You can also indicate on the SOAR Advance (Discount) Registration Form your willingness to assist Jack and his committee. Thank You. Jack can be contacted directly at: P.O. Box 200999, Austin, Texas, 78720-0999 or at (512) 258-7798 (0) and/or (512) 250-0794 (F).

SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS: The SOA Honor Roll of Donors is published twice yearly, in the SOAR After-Action-Report (AAR) and the SOA Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP). The "Honor Roll" reflects those individuals who have donated \$100. or more in cash or \$250. or more in merchandise (generally, these items are SOAR door and raffle prizes). For the next two (2) years, donations may be made to the SOA for either the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund or the Special Operations Memorial to be

constructed at McDill AFB, Florida. Following construction completion of the memorial (scheduled for NLT the end of 1998), all donations will be accepted for the Scholarship Fund. Furthermore, if the donor so desires, donations will be accepted and reflected on the "Honor Roll" in memory of (IMO) any SOA member. Letters will be dispatched in the near future to all former scholarship recipients and their parents, affording them the opportunity to assist in the perpetuation of the Scholarship Fund which rendered financial assistance to them in the past. Request each SOA member look at the current roster of these past generous donors - Wouldn't you really like to see your name there too? Many, most of the "Honor Roll" have been individuals who have not had dependents that will or have applied for a coveted SOA scholarship. A small, but generous donation will be greatly appreciated. It will earn you a place on the "Honor Roll" of our Association's distinguished supporters. Recognize also, that there are those members who have donated in the past and/or will donate in the future that have requested anonymity. Be assured, your contributions have been and will be continued to be gratefully accepted. Your desires to remain anonymous will also be so honored. Either credit card or cash contributions may be made. You are requested to contact the Association Treasurer, Ralf M. Miller SOA # 060-L at 7035 Hidden Hills North, San Antonio, Texas 78244-1516 or (210) 666-5122 (H) and/or (210) 666-0525 (F). Remember, a contribution made NLT 15 May 1997 will be reflected in the next SOA Pre-Reunion Packet.

SOA 1997 DUES: Each SOA non-life member is requested to look closely at the mailing label that brought you this Newsletter. If it has '96 on it, that indicates that you haven't paid your '97 dues which were due by 31 December 1996. If you fall in that "lapsed" category, annual dues are \$25. and should be mailed immediately to Ralf Miller, SOA Treasurer. The "year number", on the label reflects the latest year you are paid through, (some of you are paid up through '98 and a few for '99). The SOA Treasurer reports that as of 24 February 1997, there are still 58 members that are delinquent in their '97 dues. Are you one (I) of the 58? Also, for your edification, to preclude future "lapsed" dues occurring, Life Membership is \$250, payable by cash, check or credit card, (VISA or MASTERCARD only), payable to the SOA and mailed to the SOA Treasurer. Deduct from that amount \$25. if you have already paid your '97 annual dues....or, if you attend SOAR XXI in Las Vegas, the \$25.00 will be deducted/refunded upon your arrival.

UNITED FUND CAMPAIGN DONATIONS: The SOA Treasurer has reported that one (I) member has donated to the United Fund Campaign, or an off-shoot of the same, through a payroll deduction naming the SOA as the recipient of his donation. That's great, and the SOA Board encourages such worthwhile donations, but, the SOA itself will probably never see the money. It never has (coming from a second party). You are requested that any donations, large or small be made directly to the SOA. Any donation you make to the SOA is tax deductible and the SOA Treasurer will provide each donor a letter on SOA Letter-Head stationery to back up each donation for IRS purposes. Again, as a reminder, donations to the SOA in excess of \$100. will reflect your donation on the "SOA Honor Roll of Donors".

SOAR XXI: (1-5 October 1997), Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada: Make your plans to attend now! Mark your calendars now!! Jack Abraham, Chairman, SOAR XXI Reunion Committee has reported that the majority of SOAR XXI requirements have been coordinated with the staff of the Plaza Hotel & Casino. As a part of Jack's normal negotiations are the nightly rates for your hotel accommodations. Jack has been able to hold the line for a number of years on accommodation costs to you and your guests. This year the cost for your room at the hotel will be \$34. plus tax, per nite. That equates to only a \$2. increase over the past four (4) years. Not too shabby. Early registration (Advance/Discount) will be as in previous years, \$80. Registration at the SOAR will cost you \$100. SOA Registration and Hotel accommodation forms/envelopes will be in your next mailing - the SOA Pre-reunion Packet (PRP). As a reminder, don't forget when deciding to travel by air to consider **Travel Network**. Travel Network has agreed to offer 35% of its commission to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund from the sale of any tickets by their agency to attendees of SOAR XXI. Travel Network-Reston is part of an international chain of 350 travel agencies, but, through its individual franchise owner, (Mrs. Sandy Kreer), provides our membership with a personalized service. She seeks to provide the membership with the lowest fares possible at the time of booking along with 24-hour service. (Sandy invites all members to check, prior to actual booking with her agency to ensure that they are in fact getting the lowest rates available at the time of booking). A Travel Network brochure will be included in the Pre-Reunion Packet. One last item as it regards SOAR XXI. I look forward to presenting 20-year SOA pins to those SOA members that attended SOAR II. Also, there were a few SOA members that attended SOAR I that were not at SOAR XX who have 20-year SOA pins coming to them. Hopefully, they and all of SOAR II attendees look forward to SOAR XXI.

SOG, "The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam: John Plaster, SOA # 726-G has a winner in his most recent publication. The book is available at just about any major book outlet throughout the nation. Reviews by the various major news service relative to John's book have been laudatory. That's great considering how the media has normally treated the Vietnam conflict and its veterans in previous years. Thank you John. Your book is a credit to the many professional "Special Operations" personnel and their deeds of that era. We look forward to your sequel. For you SOA members that have not as yet purchased this book - you are missing a bet. Don't delay - get your copy now!

SICK CALL: It has been reported that two (2) SOA members have been, or are seriously ill. **Patrick "Pat" Mahoney**, SOA # 499-L recently underwent an emergency heart by-pass operation. We understand Pat is recovering satisfactorily. Hopefully, his recovery will be rapid - we would miss him and his unusual wit at our annual reunion. The other member, **Martin Kaufman**, SOA # 938-A is currently battling a bout with cancer at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland. We wish him well and a speedy recovery. Marty - if at all possible, keep us informed, all of our prayers are with you.

NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE REQUIREMENT: Clayton Scott, SOA # 571-L, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee reports that the response from the membership as it relates to obtaining a nine-digit ZIP Code on each member has been very positive. However, there are a few of you out there that have not been responsive. I urge you for the benefit of the Association relative to lower Third Class mailing costs that you immediately provide Clay with your nine-digit ZIP Code. Everyone has one.

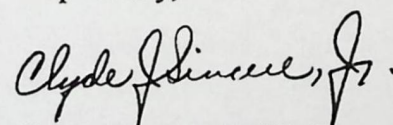
SOAR XXI RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS: Reminder. If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXI and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the item(s) with you and give it to me as early as possible in order that I may display the various donated items for the benefit of the members and their guests attending the reunion. If for some unfortunate reason you are unable to attend SOAR XXI and you wish to donate either a door prize or a raffle item, you are requested to mail the item(s) directly to the PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO, (Attn: Linda Hartman/SOA) to arrive NET 25 September 1997, but, NLT 30 September 1997. Linda will see to it that either Jack Abraham or Clyde Sincere receive the items. If timing becomes a problem, you may mail the items directly to Clyde Sincere. Thank you.

SOA RINGS: FYI, there is a strong probability that the manufacturer of SOA rings will increase his prices sometime during this year. For those of you desiring to purchase a ring prior to this likely increase of five (5) to ten (10) percent, you should submit your order ASAP to Bill Gow, Chairman, SOA Memorabilia Sales, 4036 Fairport Drive, North Las Vegas, Nevada 89030. Bill's FAX is (702) 631-0686. Sterling silver rings are \$175. Ten-carat gold rings are \$375. An embellishment of 18 diamonds, totaling .4 ct weight, is offered for either style for an additional \$325. Don't forget to include your ring size!. Inside engraving of your name and membership number (not to exceed 20 letters and spaces) is also available at no extra cost.

SOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD) MEETING: Last, but not least. The SOA BOD will meet during the period 1-4 May 1997 for the purpose of conducting necessary Association business prior to dispatching the SOA Pre-Reunion Packets to the membership in late June, early July. Members desiring any input to this meeting are requested to provide their comments in writing to any member of the Board. You will notice that the BOD addresses are provided at page 1 of your 1997 Membership Directory.

That's it. If you have any questions, comments and/or suggestions, I would appreciate hearing from you. Do not hesitate to contact any BOD member, at any time. The BOD is elected to represent you, the membership. I look forward to seeing each of you at SOAR XXI.

Respectfully,



CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.
President, SOA