

THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XXIV

PRE-PRE-REUNION PACKET

PLAZA HOTEL/CASINO  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA



"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".

27 SEPTEMBER - 01 OCTOBER 2000



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **SOAR XXIV SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 27 SEPTEMBER - 01 OCTOBER 2000**

### **WEDNESDAY, 27 September 2000**

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

### **THURSDAY, 28 September 2000**

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1430 - 1700 - BOD Meeting

### **FRIDAY, 29 September 2000**

0730 - 1230 - Weapons Firing  
1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1230 - 1400 - Lunch - (Hosted by SOA)  
1330 - 1430 - POW/MIA Issues-Norm Doney  
1430 - 1630 - SOA MCR & Scholarship Briefing -  
C. Berg/J. Butler  
1630 - 1730 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited -  
B. Donoghue/D. Smith/C. Berg /  
J. Hetrick

### **SATURDAY, 30 September 2000**

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite  
0900 - 1000 - Late Registration  
0900 - 1200 - General Membership Meeting  
1230 - 1330 - Lunch - (Hosted by SOA)  
1330 - 1530 - PTSD Work Shop - Rob't Shippen  
1530 - 1615 - SOA Web Site - Bob Golden  
1800 - 1900 - Cocktails - (Hosted by SOA)  
1900 - 1915 - Posting of Colors  
1915 - 1920 - Toasts  
1920 - 1925 - Introduction of VIP's/Guests  
1925 - 1930 - Introduction of the New SOA  
Board of Officers and Directors for  
2001-2002  
1930 - 2100 - Banquet Dinner  
2100 - 2110 - Outgoing President Pro Tem,  
SOA Remarks  
2110 - 2125 - Retirement of Colors  
2125 - 2145 - Break  
2145 - 2245 - SOA Raffle  
2245 - 0200 - Hospitality Suite

### **SUNDAY, 01 October 2000**

0800 - 1200 - Hospitality Suite  
NLT 1200 - HOSPITALITY SUITE  
IS CLOSED  
NLT 1200 - Hotel Check Out

Revised: 7 June '00.



## SOAR XXIV

27 September - 01 October 2000

### PRE-REUNION INFORMATION

#### SOAR XXIV: 27 September - 01 October 2000:

1 - Have you marked your calendar yet? If not, why not? You are requested to do so immediately. Harry Claflin and his SOA Reunion Committee have completed all SOAR XXIV arrangements. All that remains is for you to phone the Plaza Hotel/ Casino and make your room reservations - (Call TOLL FREE: 1-800-634-6575, Overseas attendees are requested to call: (702) 386-2110), request Reservations and inform them that you will be attending SOAR XXIV. Provide your arrival and departure dates and secure your accommodations with a major Credit Card. Next, complete the enclosed SOAR XXIV Advance (Discount) Registration Form and mail it to John R. McClaskey, Treasurer, SOA, 7259 Riverside Drive, Algonac, Michigan 48001-4249. Additionally, any SOA member who attended SOAR I, II, III and IV that has not as yet received a 20-year SOA pin can receive your pin at SOAR XXIV along with those members that attended SOAR V (or joined the SOA in that time frame). I look forward to presenting 20-year SOA pins to any member with a SOA number 375 or lower, that has not as yet previously received his 20-year pin during the conduct of the SOA General Membership Meeting on Saturday morning, 30 September 2000.

2 - Registration rates for SOAR XXIV remain at \$80 for each SOA member and any guests for early registration. As you are aware, the SOA has maintained this \$80 rate for a number of years now and unless something drastically happens in the near future - there are no plans to change that rate. In order for you to take advantage of the Advance (Discount) registration fee, mail your registration form and fees to John McClaskey, SOA Treasurer, postmarked - NLT 12 September 2000. All registrations received or postmarked after 12 September will cost you and any guest each \$120. Why wait till then - register now! The rationale for the fee increase after 12 September was initiated in order to be better able to compensate for over-predicting attendance at the various catered functions. The Hotel management staff has insisted on knowing exactly how many they will be catering at any event or the Association will be penalized. This fact is in vogue no matter where you go in today's world. So help us help you. Plan early. In the past the SOA Reunion Committee has had to estimate up to 10% and more to compensate for any late registrations in order to ensure that sufficient catered items are available to satisfy



the entire reunion gathering. Also, in addition to paying your registration fees by check, you also have the option of utilizing your MASTERCARD or VISA charge cards with the SOA. As in past years, the SOA Board has structured the registration fees in order that the reunion will pay for itself. This has worked to date. Be advised, should any individual member's personal check be returned due to "insufficient funds", the SOA will assess a \$25 penalty and place the issuer of that check on a cash basis for the subsequent reunion. (See the enclosed Advance (Discount) Registration Form for additional details).

3 - Accommodations rates at the Plaza Hotel are \$40+ tax per nite. Again, in order for you to take advantage of this special SOAR negotiated room rate, you must call the Plaza Hotel Reservations now, (See phone numbers above). All major Credit cards will be accepted. Your accommodation request must be received by the Hotel NLT 26 August 2000. If you require any handicapped facilities and/or desire a non-smoking room, you must specify this when arranging your accommodations. If per chance you have been one of the few in the past who neglected to meet the deadline for one of the SOAR reserved rooms and had to arrange accommodations at another hotel - do yourself a favor - sit down and arrange your reservation request now. Why suffer an inconvenience? Don't wait until it is too late.

**SOAR XXIV VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE:** As in the past, volunteers are required to assist in the conduct of the reunion. Specifically, assistance is required in the management of the SOA Hospitality Suites, SOA Memorabilia Sales Table, SOA Range Firing detail and on a "as required" basis. Request you indicate your availability on the Advance (Discount) Registration Form. Your assistance will be appreciated by all.

#### **REGISTRATION/HOSPITALITY SUITES:**

1 - The SOAR XXIV Registration area and Hospitality Suites are located on the third floor of the Plaza/Hotel Casino. You will experience no difficulties in locating both areas - especially in that they are located exactly where they have been for the past several years. Those of you that are NON-SMOKERS will be pleased to learn that the SOAR Reunion Committee has secured two (2) IONIC BREEZE "Quadra Air Purifiers" to be utilized in a segregated section of the Hospitality Suite that will be designated as a "Smoke Free Area". These "air purifiers" were purchased and donated to the SOA by Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-GL. On behalf of the SOA, Thank you Charles, I know the NON-SMOKERS will appreciate your donation.



2 - SOA Member attendees are requested that when completing your SOA Advance (Discount) Registration Form that you fill in that space that reflects your estimated time/date of arrival and departure time/date. This info will assist the SOA Reunion Committee and the SOA registration desk personnel in their overall reunion planning. Thank you.

3 - Guests of members are more than welcome. However, guests will not be permitted to attend any reunion function without the attendance of the sponsoring SOA member. There have been a few instances in the past where a guest has arrived - expecting their SOA member sponsor to be there and he did not even show up for the SOAR. Embarrassing to say the least, for all concerned. Additionally, only SOA members are permitted to attend the SOA member briefings on Friday, 29 September 2000 at 1430 hours and the SOA General Membership Meeting on Saturday, 30 September 2000 at 0900 hours this year. Finally, be advised, it is imperative that all attendees, members and guests wear their SOA Reunion Badge to all SOAR XXIV activities.

4 - All SOAR XXIV activities will cease at 1200 hours, Sunday, 1 October 2000. FYI, the Hospitality Suites and Registration area revert to the Plaza Hotel/-Casino for their use as of 1200 hours, 1 October. Members are requested to ensure that they have no personal belongings, e.g. luggage, briefcases, etc. remaining in the SOA Hospitality Suites after 1200 hours. SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS.

**SOAR XXIV GUEST SPEAKERS:** A number of speakers have already been programmed to address interested SOA members and their guests on Friday, 29 September and Saturday, 30 September. Exact times will be posted in the SOAR XXIV Registration area. Speakers are requested to insure that any "special requirements" required in support of your presentation be provided to Harry Claflin, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee at: (417) 843-3555 or [hclaflin@u-n-i.net](mailto:hclaflin@u-n-i.net) (E-Mail), NLT 1 September 2000. The following presentations have been programmed:

**POW/MIA ISSUES BRIEFING UPDATE - NORM DONEY.**

**SOA MCR & SCHOLARSHIP BRIEFING - JIM BUTLER and CHARLES BERG. (Members Only).**

**LANG VEI/KHE SANH REVISITED - BOB DONOGHUE, DAVID SMITH, CHARLES BERG, JIM HETRICK and possibly DENNIS THOMPSON, (POW) I Corps Mike Force member taken prisoner at Lang Vei in early February 1968.**



**PTSD WORK SHOP - ROBERT SHIPPEN, POC assisted by other SOA Members and a Special Guest Speaker.**

**SOA WEB SITE - ROBERT GOLDEN.**

**SOAR XXIV VENDOR ACTIVITIES:** Vendors are reminded that the Vendor Fees will remain as in previous years - \$75 per table for the entire reunion. Members desiring to offer items for sale at SOAR XXIV must contact Harry Claflin, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee, NLT 1 September 2000 or hclaflin@u-n-i.net.

**SOAR XXIV RANGE FIRING:** On Friday, 29 September 2000, the SOA will again operate for the benefit of SOA members and their guests a weapons firing range in the Nevada desert. A special thank you to Mrs. Toby Thomas, widow of the late SOA member John Thomas, who is providing the range area for this activity. SOA members and their guests will have an opportunity to fire a number of various weapons and ammunition that have been graciously supplied for a number of years now by SOA member Mark Kinsler. SOA members and their guests are requested to contribute a reasonable monetary donation to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund based on their total ammunition expenditure following the actual weapons firing activity. SOA member Ben Baker has again volunteered to collect any and all donations. (By the way - he takes excellent pictures too). All monies collected are "earmarked" directly to the Fund. No monies are used to defray the cost of ammunition. All weapons and ammunition are donated for the enjoyment of Reunion members.

**NOTES:**

**1 - Range Safety is of paramount interest to the SOA Board and the SOA Membership.**

**2 - Participants must be 14 years of age or older to fire any weapon on the range. Young adults between the age of 14 and 17 must be accompanied by an adult sponsor while participating in range activities and appropriate liability releases must have been previously signed before any firing takes place. All interested range firing participants are requested/required to review the "SOA SMALL ARMS RANGE FIRING OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS" provided in this Pre-Reunion Packet.**

**3 - Buses/Vans will depart the Plaza Hotel/Casino at 0730 hours SHARP. You can expect to be returned to the Hotel at approximately 1230-1300 hours.**



### **THE GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE:**

Enclosed within the PRP are ten (10) tickets (costing \$5 each) for the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. As in past years, the SOA will be raffling three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds valued at maturity at \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 respectively. The raffle will be conducted following the banquet on Saturday evening, 30 September 2000. Everyone is requested to support this all important scholarship program. Buy, sell as many tickets as you can. If you require additional tickets, contact Clyde Sincere (703) 620-0953 or [sincere@patriot.net](mailto:sincere@patriot.net) (E-Mail) or John McClaskey (810) 794-1066 or [jmcccl@futnet.net](mailto:jmcccl@futnet.net) (E-Mail). Also, additional tickets for the raffle will be available at almost anytime at the SOA registration desk and at the banquet just prior to the drawing of the three (3) lucky winners. Ticket sales are not restricted to SOA members. All ticket monies collected directly support the many scholarship grants the SOA provides annually to our young men and women. You need not be present to win. Ticket stubs, along with your check for tickets sold, (made payable to the SOA) should be returned to the Treasurer, SOA, John R. McClaskey, 7259 Riverside Drive, Algonac, Michigan 48001-4249, NLT 12 September 2000 or turned in at SOAR XXIV prior to the drawing and awarding announcement at the banquet. (You are also requested to return to John any tickets not purchased in order that they can be provided to someone else desiring additional tickets).

**SOA RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS:** If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXIV for the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program and you will be attending the Reunion, please bring the item(s) with you and provide it/them to Clyde Sincere as early as possible in order that he can display the items and members may then have an opportunity to purchase tickets against as many different raffle items of their choice. If you cannot attend SOAR XXIV and you desire to donate either a raffle item or a door prize, you are requested to mail the items directly to the Plaza Hotel/Casino, at Number One Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89125-0760, c/o SOAR XXIV, Attn: Clyde Sincere/Harry Clafin. Also, if timing becomes a problem, contact Clyde Sincere at: (703) 620-0953, or [sincere@patriot.net](mailto:sincere@patriot.net) (E-Mail). He will insure that your gift gets to the Reunion. Raffle/Door Prize items are tax deductible and the Treasurer, SOA will be pleased to provide you a "statement" for tax purposes to you following SOAR XXIV. Your support in this vital area keeps the SOA scholarship program financially viable. Thank you.



**SOAR XXIV GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA:** UP Article VII, (Reunion and Special Membership Meetings), paragraph E. (Topics for Discussion), SOA By-Laws. 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. If any SOA member has an item that they wish to be added to the General Membership Meeting Agenda scheduled for 0900 hours, 30 September 2000, you are requested to contact Clyde Sincere, NLT 31 August 2000, either by phone at (703) 620-0953 or [sincere@patriot.net](mailto:sincere@patriot.net) (E-Mail). This is extremely important and necessary due to the time constraints established for the entire General Membership Meeting.

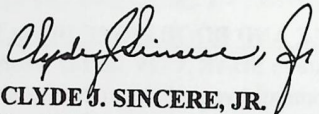
**AND FINALLY:** If any SOA member has any queries, suggestions, etc., please give me or any SOA Board member a call/email. (The SOA Board is listed on Page 1 of your 2000 SOA Membership Directory). Be advised two (2) SOA Board members have had a Change of Phone Numbers:

Roy W. Bahr, SOA # 315-GL - (828) 479-3187 or [bahrmax@aol.com](mailto:bahrmax@aol.com) (E-Mail).

Don Benjamin, SOA # 899-GL - (308) 394-5552.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,



CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President Pro-Tem, SOA

Incls: a/s



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **FACT SHEET**

The SOA is a 1700+ 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 personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider and Force Recon personnel and veterans of other elite military 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 Colonel George C. Morton, the first Commander of U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$304,500 has been awarded or committed to thus far to 95 deserving young scholars.

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 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$250 U.S. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Spring Newsletter, the Pre-Reunion Packet and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report.

The SOA will hold its twenty-fourth annual reunion (SOAR XXIV) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 27 September - 01 October 2000. We anticipate in excess of 600 members and guests.



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**FACTS:** The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grants awarded by the SOA must be used at an accredited, four-year college or university which will produce a Bachelor's Degree. Each Grant is for not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 per year. (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at a rate of \$500 semi-annually per year.)

**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 as 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 status), or (2) who is currently a member of the SOA in good standing, and (3) others that meet the grant criteria.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The "announcement" of the availability for this George C. Morton Memorial 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 1 June of the year the grant is intended to be awarded.

**AWARDS:** Approximately 1 July of that year, selectees/recipients of a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** As of August 1999, 95 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the program in 1983.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

JAMES E. BUTLER  
Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 22613  
Carmel, California 93922-0613  
(831) 659-3701  
<rtpython@redshift.com>



## SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL		\$1,500.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Richard Sommers)	\$ 250.00
Adcock, Gene, SOA # 925-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Aderhold, "Heine", SOA # 900-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
*Amundson, Rolande, SOA # 098-GL		\$1,000.00
Anonymous	(IMO Jack Long)	\$ 150.00
Anonymous	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Anonymous		\$ 450.00
Anonymous	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Augustin, "Gus", SOA # 1016-GA	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL		\$1,000.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL	(SOM)	\$ 900.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL		\$ 806.00
Barker, Geoffrey T., SOA # 919-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Beard, Jim, SOA # 156-GL	(IMO Dale Denkhe)	\$ 500.00
Benjamin, Donald C., SOA # 899-GL		\$8,075.00
Bennett, Dale R., SOA # 910-GL		\$1,035.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(IMO FOB-3, "The Siege")	\$ 602.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(SOM, IMO Robert Scully)	\$ 250.00
Bernard, Woodie, SOA # 1281-GA		\$ 460.00
Bilitzke, Joseph M., SOA # 1139-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Birdsall, Hank, SOA # 1241-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Blakey, George, "Moe", SOA # 551-GL		\$1,200.00
Boggs, Bill D., SOA # 667-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Bost, Robert, SOA # 1409-GA	(SOM)	\$ 400.00
Browder, William, SOA # 645-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Brubaker, Paul, SOA # 596-GL		\$2,600.00
Butler, James E., SOA # 001-GL		\$10,500.00
Butterworth, W. E., SOA # 879-HL		\$2,500.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Camacho, "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Camacho, "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL	(IMO Dick Meadows)	\$ 500.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL		\$ 500.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Charette, Will, SOA # 1410-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Clayton, Chuck, SOA # 1267-GA		\$ 120.00



Clough, Ed, SOA # 043-GL		\$16,400.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL		\$1,000.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(IMO Christian Girard)	\$2,500.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(SOM, IMO Christian Girard)	\$2,500.00
Cole, Richard F., SOA # 207-AL	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Crane, Fred, SOA # 1199-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Dawson, Ray, SOA # 657-GL		\$1,800.00
de Fontaine, Sully, SOA # 177-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Deacy, John, SOA # 1321-GL	(SOM)	\$2,700.00
Dean, James, SOA # 123-GL		\$ 100.00
Duffy, Paul, SOA # 918-GL		\$ 200.00
Edens, Ralph, SOA # 438-GA		\$ 150.00
Edmunds, John E., SOA # 1197-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Elrod, Harold, SOA # 1239-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Estes, Richard, SOA # 597-GA		\$ 100.00
Fields, Arthur T., SOA # 310-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fisher, George, SOA # 636-GA		\$ 100.00
Fleming, Allan, SOA # 753-GL	(SOM)	\$ 300.00
*Friend, AL, SOA # 158-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fronabarger, Carl, SOA # 632-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fry, James, SOA # 288-GL	(IMO Ben Fry)	\$2,500.00
Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-GL		\$2,450.00
Gaudet, Ken, SOA # 964-AL		\$1,125.00
Gavigan, Gene, SOA # 1567-GA		\$1,000.00
Gilstrap, Bob, SOA # 737-GA		\$ 750.00
Ginder, Jerrald, SOA # 618-GL		\$5,160.00
Ginder, Jerrald, SOA # 618-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Golden, Bob, SOA # 1282-GL		\$1,050.00
Golden, Bob, SOA # 1282-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL		\$ 100.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 100.00
Graham, Robert J., SOA # 184-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hall, Gene, SOA # 722-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamilton, Joseph, SOA # 1187-AA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamner, Gene D., SOA # 833-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hanson, T. R., SOA # 1214-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hawke, James, SOA # 221-GL		\$ 250.00
Hephner, Patrick, SOA # 1249-AL		\$ 850.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL		\$ 100.00
Hinsch, Rod, SOA # 073-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL		\$ 500.00
Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00



Kearns, Michael S., SOA # 949-AL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Keaton, LaFayette, SOA # 1168-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA	\$ 100.00
Kinsler, Mark, SOA # 700-GL	\$16,025.00
Kreuziger, Peter W., SOA # 1389-GL (SOM)	\$ 700.00
Kull, Jack, SOA # 538-AA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
LaDue, Mike, SOA # 464-GA	\$ 500.00
LaMotte, Jim, SOA # 552-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Landau, H. H. , SOA # 493-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Laurence, Pete, SOA # 456-AA	\$ 350.00
Lear, John, SOA # 495-GL	\$ 500.00
Lesesne, Edward R., SOA # 614-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Long, Jack, SOA # 441-GL	\$1,500.00
*Lutz, Joseph C., SOA # 960-GL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Manes, Larry, SOA # 064-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Mar, Al/Ann, SOA # 439-GL	\$12,150.00
Marich, Thomas, SOA # 1037-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Martin, James, SOA # 023-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00
Martin, John P., SOA # 345-GL (IMO Mary Watson)	\$ 100.00
Martin, John P., SOA # 345-GL (SOM)	\$1,000.00
McBroom, C.O."Bud", SOA #768-GL(SOM)	\$ 100.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL	\$2,500.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
McClintock, Matthew, SOA # 1186-AL(SOM)	\$ 500.00
McGiffert, Peter H., SOA # 854-GL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Messinger, Keith, SOA # 090-GL	\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf, SOA # 060-GL	\$1,000.00
Miller, Ralf, SOA # 060-GL (IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Miller, William, SOA # 1276-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Millett, Lewis L., Sr., SOA # 505-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Morrell, David, SOA # 905-HL	\$1,350.00
*Morton, George/Lillian, SOA # ,059-GL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Muldowney, Richard, SOA # 1319-GA	\$ 285.00
Newman, Al., SOA # 952-AA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Newman, Cliff, SOA # 006-GL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Nissley, Bob, SOA # 359-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
*O'Rourke, Bill/Jan, SOA # 379-GL	\$3,120.00
Owens, John, SOA # 1143-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00
Parks, Robert, "Spider", SOA # 465-GL	\$1,050.00
Perchard, John, R. Jr., SOA # 341-GL	\$ 300.00
Perchard, John, R. Jr., SOA # 341-GL(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Pershing, John, SOA # 1307-AL (SOM)	\$ 250.00



*Pierson, Roger, SOA # 644-GL		\$ 100.00
*Pinn, Lionel, SOA # 019-GL		\$1,050.00
Place, Elon, A., SOA # 887-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Plaster, John, SOA # 726-GL		\$ 540.00
Platt, Fred, SOA # 825-GL		\$2,745.00
Pollack, James, SOA # 426-AL		\$1,000.00
Ramirez, Antonio, SOA # 561-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Raye, Martha, "Maggie", SOA # 097-HL		\$2,780.00
Redman, Darrell, SOA # 1160-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Rheault, Robert, SOA # 215-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Richter, Ken, SOA # 1406-GA	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Roberts, John, SOA #1227-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Scholes, Edison E., SOA # 1350-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Sherman, Steve, SOA # 759-AL		\$ 500.00
Shippen, Robert, SOA # 540-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Sholtis, Donald M., SOA # 1174-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Siugzda, Herb, SOA # 030-GL		\$ 500.00
Snyder, Kenneth O., SOA # 816-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Squires, Ben, SOA # 356-GL		\$1,010.00
SOA Memorabilia Sales		\$20,700.00
Stern, Mike, SOA # 324-GL		\$ 850.00
Stockdale, Bryan, SOA # 234-GL		\$ 300.00
Sutherland, Ian, SOA # 216-GL		\$1,000.00
Sylvester, Bill, SOA # 973-GL		\$3,000.00
Trimble/Lamotte, Larry/Jim, SOA # 163-GL/552-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Van Lerberghe, Ross, SOA # 1394-HL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Van Winkle, H.E. "Rip", SOA # 697-GL	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Walker, Jimmy, SOA # 846-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Wang, Jon, B., SOA # 1092-GL		\$ 100.00
Warkocki, Ken, SOA # 1231-AA	(IMO "Frenchy Amundson)	\$ 100.00
Waskovich, Tom, SOA # 366-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL		\$28,060.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO P.Tracy/A.Fontez)		\$1,000.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO Walt Shumate)		\$1,000.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO "Choo-Choo " Pinn)		\$ 500.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO "Budda" Grant)		\$ 500.00
Whittington, E. Ray, SOA # 049-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00

• Deceased Member

(SOM): Special Operations Memorial Foundation, MacDill AFB, Florida.

FYI: The SOA is a Tax Exempt Organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19).

The SOA EIN Number is: EIN 74-2619854.



## **SOA FACTS AND FIGURES**

**In Memory of: TAPS:** Again, it is with regret that the SOA Board reports to the membership that five (5) additional SOA members have passed away since those that were last reported in the SOA 2000 Spring Newsletter that was dispatched in April 2000.

**LOUIS ULUNAHELE AUSTRIA, SOA # 1424-GA,** 73 years of age passed away on 28 March 2000 after a long bout with cancer at the Spark Matsunaga Veteran's Center, Tripler Army Hospital, Hawaii. Lou served with FOB-2 and FOB-4 during his Vietnam service while a member of the 5th Special Forces Group, (Airborne). In addition to being a member of the SOA Lou, was a long-time member of Chapter VIII, SFA in Hawaii. He was also a dedicated volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America, (Aloha Council). He was born in Ka'eleku, Maui, 23 September 1926. Lou is survived by his sons, Francis Kakananui of Pauoa and Douglas "Mike" of Paia, Maui, Richard Pao'o of Keizer, Oregon and daughters, Francine "Noelani" Guerra-Ng of Pahoa, Hawaii, Bernadette "Moni" Oto of Kaneohe and Lynette, "Nene" Maynard of Hilo. He had eleven grandchildren and one great grandchild. He was interred on Monday, 10 April 2000 at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (PUNCHBOWL). His memorial service was attended by a large gathering of family and friends.

**LAWRENCE "LARRY" R. TRAPP, SOA # 017-GL,** 68 years of age passed away on 22 April 2000 after a long bout with cancer at his home in Salinas, California. He was born on 15 August 1931 in Norfolk, Virginia on Larry's 22 year Army career included a tour with the 1st Special Forces Group, (Airborne) on Okinawa and two (2) tours of duty in Vietnam with MACVSOG. He is survived by his wife, Eiko; son, Terrence of Monterey; two (2) daughters, Tomi and Janet Trapp, both of Los Angeles and three (3) grandchildren. He was interred with full military honors on Saturday, 29 April 2000 at the Castroville, California District Cemetery in Moss Landing following a memorial service El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey. Larry's family remarked how pleased they were to see so many of Larry's Special Operations friends in attendance.

**IVAN BOMARK, SOA # 1284-GL,** 60 years of age passed away on 25 April 2000 after battling cancer for quite some time at his home in Salome, Arizona. Ivan served in the 10th and 5th Special Forces Groups. During multiple tours in Vietnam Ivan served in II Corps on A-Detachment A-227 and a subsequent tour as a recon team member in Danang with FOB-4. Ivan is survived by his wife Dagmar, his son James and his daughter Jennifer. He had two (2) grandsons, ages four and two. He was presented with full military honors on 8 May 2000 and a number of members of the Special Operations community were in attendance..



**NIE KPA WIK, SOA # 835-HL**, 65 years of age passed away on 3 March 2000 in High Point, North Carolina. He was interred in Westminster Gardens in Greensboro, North Carolina. He relocated to the United States with his family from Vietnam in 1982. Unfortunately, no other details were made available.

**M.P. HUBBARD, SOA # 1102-GL**, 69 years of age passed away on Friday, 16 June 2000 at the Golden Rule Nursing Home in Richmond, Indiana. He had lived most of his life in Union County, Indiana except for the 28 years he served in the U.S. Army. He entered the Army in 1950 and served in Korea, Indochina and Vietnam. As a Sergeant he received a battlefield commission during the Korean Conflict and retired as a Colonel. In addition to the SOA he was a member of the VFW, American Legion, Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis and the Tarum Shrine Club of Richmond. Survivors include his wife, Jeanne Hubbard, one son, Dan K. Hubbard of Liberty, Indiana; two daughters, Lynn Brown of Huber Heights, Ohio, and Susan Carney of Sleetmute, Alaska; his mother, Thelma Johnson of Liberty; and eight grandchildren. Interment was at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Brookville, Indiana on 22 June with full military honors.

The passing of these gentlemen brings the total number of deceased SOA members to 119 since the founding of the Association in December 1977 in Las Vegas, Nevada during the conduct of SOAR I. The SOA wishes to express its condolences and sympathy to all of their families.

**"May the living serve faithfully and the dead rest peacefully".**

#### **SICK CALL:**

1 - In all probability by the time you read this portion of the PRP, one of the great SOG Recon individuals of our time will have gone on to meet his Maker. **Franklin "Doug" Miller, MOH recipient, SOA # 968-GL**. Having stated the obvious and in anticipation of his passing, I can tell you that at this moment that this great American has been extremely ill as a result of Pancreatic Cancer that has left him extremely weak. I can apprise each of you that "Doug" was bearing up fantastically throughout his ordeal. He realized that his time on this earth was limited and he had taken all of the necessary steps to provide for his three (3) children's future within his means. Ross Perot has graciously provided the support of his legal team and other required assets. Additionally, General "Pete" Schoomaker, CINCUSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida had assigned personnel from his staff to assist in this very personal life saga. SFA Chapters throughout Florida were all involved and the SOA stayed abreast of "Doug's" situation on a daily basis. "Doug" had planned for a memorial funeral service in Florida - followed by cremation. Afterwards, his son Josh and daughter Dannie will spread his ashes over the mountains of New Mexico where "Doug" was raised. "Doug" hoped that as many SFA and SOA members as possible be in attendance at both of these events. These were his wishes and hopefully they all will be respected. The entire Special Operations community wishes "Doug" God Speed on this, his last major recon mission.



2 - Other SOA members that are still reportedly suffering from various illnesses or have recently been recovering from surgery are:

**E. Ray Whittington, SOA # 049-GL**  
**Robert C. Kingston, SOA # 099-GL**  
**Fred Jackson, SOA # 230-GL**  
**David "Dirty Shirt" Johnson, SOA # 290-GL**  
**Arnold Astrada, SOA # 735-AL**  
**George W. Petrie, SOA # 818-GA**  
**Randolfo "Randy" Cesani, SOA # 1632-GA**

Drop any of the aforementioned SOA members a card - serious or funny. Let them know you are thinking of them. All SOA members are requested to contact any member of the SOA Board when they have determined that a member is seriously ill, undergoing a major medical operation, or have passed away in order that the entire SOA membership may be apprised as to the status of a former comrade-in-arms.

**SOAR XXIV Sergeants-at-Arms:** Each year it is an honor and privilege for the President, SOA to select two (2) members of the SOA to lead the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance at the annual General Membership Meeting, the SOAR Banquet and for the duration of the Reunion, act in the capacity of a Sergeant-at-Arms. The SOA Board has long established that this small, but important gesture provides an opportunity for the SOA Board and the SOA membership to recognize two (2) of its members, chosen annually for the unrecognized volunteer efforts during past reunions. Again, as in past years, the SOA is fortunate to have many individuals that attend every reunion and contribute to the overall success of each SOAR. It is difficult to thank the many deserving members with a honor such as this, but, be assured that the two (2) members selected represent all of you. Be assured, the SOA Board wishes to express its thanks to all of the volunteers that assist at a SOAR, insuring that it will be the best to date. Final selection of the two (2) SOAR XXIV Sergeants-at-Arms will be determined upon close of Advance Registration on 12 September 2000.

**ATTENTION! SOA BALLOT'S ENCLOSED:** Enclosed in this SOAR XXIV PRP you will find two (2) Ballots and a Referendum for your consideration:

1 - **BALLOT:** New SOA Board of Officers and Directors for term of office commencing 1 January 2001 through 31 December 2002.

2 - **BALLOT:** Proposed Change to the current SOA By-Laws.

3 - **REFERENDUM:** A "Sense of the SOA Membership" - This is not a final ballot per se, it is a referendum seeking guidance from the SOA membership. This study is being provided to the entire membership for the purpose of "gleaning" from the members a



"Sense of the SOA Membership" as it relates to the future of the SOA as it regards the various organizations and individuals that may seek consideration of eligibility for membership in the SOA. The responses from the entire membership at-large will be provided to the SOA "General" members in attendance at the SOAR XXIV General Membership Meeting on 30 September 2000. Pros and Cons will be debated and the SOA "General" members in attendance will cast the final ballot. If you have a strong, burning belief in this important agenda item one way or another, it behooves you to be present and let your beliefs be known. You, the SOA member, will have a say in deciding the future of the SOA. The SOA Board awaits your "Sense of the SOA Membership", **ATTEND SOAR XXIV AND BE COUNTED.**

You are requested to read each item carefully and follow the voting instructions as explained on the various ballots/"Sense of the Membership" referendum.

**YOUR RESIDENCE ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER AND E-MAIL ADDRESS:**

Each member of the SOA is requested to ensure that his correct personal data is provided to the SOA as it relates to Residence, Phone Number and E-Mail address, (if applicable). It is imperative that you also provide a complete nine-digit ZIP-Code. By doing so, the SOA receives a discount when dispatching mail via THIRD CLASS Mailing. Check with your local Post Office and they will advise you as to what your entire ZIP-Code is if you are not aware of the nine-digits,

1 - Check carefully the current SOA 2000 Membership Directory and SOA 2000 E-Mail Address Directory. If you see any error whatsoever and you have not already provided a correction - you are requested to do so immediately to: B. Ray Chambers, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee at: 437 North 110th Street, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220-2216, (480) 986-2542 or <commosgm@earthlink.net> .

2 - If you are attending SOAR XXIV (and we hope everyone does), as you report to the SOAR XXIV Registration Area the first action that you will accomplish is to check Ray's Membership File Folder - "This File Contains Information about YOU!". Please review it carefully and sign it. If any corrections are required, please make a note of it in the last column. The file is sorted by SOA Number.

The purpose of this drill is to insure that you the SOA member receive all of the SOA correspondence that is dispatched to the entire membership. By the very nature of your membership you are entitled to receive all correspondence. You are requested to HELP US, HELP YOU. Thank you.



## **SPECIAL FORCES MEDICAL PERSONNEL:**

1 - It is about time that someone has elected to write about the Special Forces Medic. A book of this nature is long overdue. I daresay every member of the SOA and SFA could tell a spectacular story about the medical personnel they served with in Vietnam. Len Blessing in concert with SOA member Charles L. Berg has decided to do just that, by having the Special Forces/SOG medic tell it like it was "in his own words". Enclosed as a part of this PRP is a "Survey Form" entitled, "Survey of Special Forces/SOG Medics". All Special Forces medics are requested to take part in this - "Your Story" whether you were a medic on a SOG RT or in one of the various SF Detachments throughout Vietnam. This will be the basis of Len's book as he prepares to put together a book that will reflect what it is to be a medic in Special Forces. The type of individual, their physical and mental attributes, the training that they undergo, and most importantly, their contributions and accomplishments during their service as a U.S. Army Special Forces/SOG Medic.

2 - While Len will be primarily concentrating on the story from the "medics" first hand. If you, the non-medic have a particular story relating to a Special Forces/SOG medic that cannot tell his own story due to many reasons - KIA, MIA, POW, etc. Please, on behalf of that special person, pass his story on to Len for the edification of his comrade-in-arms. Len wishes this book to reflect a true account from the medic's first day in the service to the present day.

3 - A portion of the profits from the sale of this great book will be provided to assist the various humanitarian projects supported by Special Forces/SOG medics such as the "Cedar Point Foundation" that directly assists the BRU Montagnards in Northwest corner of what previously was South Vietnam - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh region. As you are all aware, Bob Donoghue and others from the SOA exert tremendous energies annually supporting these folks in an attempt to improve their daily lives.

4 - Len can be reached via the following:

**LEONARD D. BLESSING JR.**

**135 Paladin Drive**

**Wilmington, Delaware 19802**

**(302) 762-6022**

**Lbizhere@aol.com or Lbles@wilmcoll.edu**

## **CONVENTION PLANNING:**

### **Special Operations Association Reunion (SOAR XXIV):**

Plaza Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada - \$40+ Tax per nite.

(800) 634-6575 - 27 Sept. - 01 Oct. 2000.

POC: John McClaskey: (810) 794-1066, Clyde Sincere: (703) 620-0953.

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**1st Special Forces Reunion 2000: 22-27 Oct. 2000.**

Ocean Drive Beach and Golf Resort - \$60.+Tax per nite.

98 North Ocean Boulevard

North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

(800) 438-9590

Attn: Barbara Timmons - Tell her you are attending the 1st SFGp Reunion.

Contact POC; Jesse/Grace Simmons - (910) 485-5433 for other details.

**SFA Convention 2001: 19-24 June 2001.**

Radisson Hotel Astrodome - \$92.+ Tax per nite.

8686 Kirby Drive

Houston, Texas 77054

(800) 627-6461 or (713) 748-3221

Inform them that you are attending SFA Convention '01.

Sponsored by Chapter XXXIX, SFA, Houston, Texas

Contact POC: Mark Kinsler: (281) 568-1919 for details..

**PRESENTATION OF THE SOG COLORS:** During the conduct of the Special Forces Conference on Strategic Reconnaissance in April 2000, 17 SOG RT and HT members presented to the United States Army John F. Kennedy Museum the original SOG Colors. (See photo enclosed) Colonel David Maki, Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Special Forces Command accepted the colors on behalf of Lieutenant General William P. Tangney, Commander, U.S. Army Special Operations Command. The colors bear the signatures of the four (4) living Chiefs SOG (MG Jack Singlaub, BG Don Blackburn, Colonel Steve Cavanaugh and Colonel John "Skip" Sadler) plus MOH recipients Robert Howard and Franklin "Doug" Miller.

**AIR COMMANDO ONE, "Heinie" Aderholt and America's Secret Air Wars by Warren A. Trest, published by Smithsonian Institution Press.** The first biography of Heinie Aderholt, "*Air Commando One*" tells the story of a renowned leader of counter-insurgency operations. The book also integrates U.S. Air Force and CIA accounts of some of the most pivotal events of the past fifty years. This book is dedicated to all of the people that "Heinie" worked with throughout his 33 years in the Military service. "Heinie" states that his promotion to General Officer came as a direct result of the tens of thousands of Airmen's accomplishments on his behalf. He further states that he will be eternally grateful for that love and support received. You can order this book directly from SOA Member, Brigadier General Harry C. "Heinie" Aderholt, USAF Retired. (See enclosed Order Form).



## **THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PROGRAM:**

a. In an effort to commemorate our missing and fallen comrades it was determined by the scholarship committee that it would be best that we not separate teammates who lived, fought and shared the same fate together. They should never be separated. Therefore, some of the scholarship recipients will receive their grant in the names of two, three and even four of our fallen or missing comrades-in-arms. In addition to the description of the particular action for which a grant is being presented, we are also soliciting the assistance of any SOA members who served in the Air Force as it relates to obtaining bio's of the staggering number of young airmen who became MIA/KIA while assigned to OP-32, (Air Studies Group), MACVSOG. The SOA knew them best as "Prairie-Fire" Nail's, Covey's and Sandy's, among other code names. The SOA believes that these units must also have an alumni association similar to the SOA that would be very interested in the fact that the SOA is awarding scholarship grants in the names of their fallen comrades. Any effort in coordinating or assisting in this search would be greatly appreciated. Information or data should be directed to the attention of Jim Butler at (831) 659-3701 or [rpython@redshift.com](mailto:rpython@redshift.com).

b. The following SOA members constitute the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee:

\*James E. Butler, SOA # 001-GL – Chairman  
Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-GL  
Brendon "Ben" Lyons, SOA # 008-GL  
Thomas J. Marzullo, SOA # 1405-GA  
Travis W. Mills, SOA # 044-GL  
Herb Siugzda, SOA # 030-GL  
Billy Waugh, SOA # 005-GL  
Ed Wolcoff, SOA # 1208-GA

• Chairman Butler wishes to express his thanks on behalf of the entire SOA to Robert L. Noe, SOA # 1620-GA for the tremendous assistance that he has rendered as it relates to providing requisite information from his Website on KIA/MIA personnel to his committee. Thank you Bob.

c. This year, the SOA will present scholarship grants to five (5) deserving young men and/or women in honor of the memories (IMO) of the following MACVSOG personnel who were either declared Killed in Action (KIA) or Missing in Action (MIA) during the Vietnam Conflict:



**1 – Staff Sergeant Ronald Terrance Terry.** Ron's home of record was Niagara Falls, New York. Ron was assigned to Detachment A-324, "C" Company, 1st Special Forces Group, (Airborne) on Okinawa. The entire Detachment was deployed to Vietnam to augment the efforts of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, (Airborne) in Vietnam. Subsequently they were selected to perform reconnaissance operations with "Delta Project" in the "Shining Brass" Program under the direction of OP-35, MACVSOG. On 29 January 1966, the "Delta" team that Ron was assigned to was hit by a superior number of NVA. The ambush split the team, with Ron and two (2) others attempting to break contact by moving into the high elephant grass. They were immediately attacked by seven (7) NVA lying in wait for them approximately three to four feet to their right rear. The team initiated contact and killed three (3) of the NVA. Sergeant Terry called out to his teammates that he had been hit and was observed to be holding his right shoulder. He then reacted as if he had been hit again and did not move. The other wounded teammates used immediate action drills and were able to break contact and escape. Sergeant Terry's body was never recovered. Bob Moon, SOA # 1193, the Commander of Detachment A-324 wrote that he and the other eight survivors of Detachment A-324 get together annually and conduct a mini-reunion. They have also attempted to locate members of Sergeant Terry's family, but to no avail. Additionally, they have established a Web Site with the history of Detachment A-324 with photographs to include those of Sergeant Terry at: <http://www.securequest.com/A324>.

**2 – Captain David Hugh Homer,** Belmont, Massachusetts, USAF; **Lieutenant Colonel Glenn David McElroy,** Sydney, Illinois, USAF and **Captain John Michael Nash,** Tipton, Indiana, USAF. All three officers were on a visual reconnaissance mission on 15 March 1966 for OP-32, (Air Studies Branch), MACVSOG. Their last reported position was in Laos near Khe Sanh. All three are listed as Missing in Action. (The SOA regrets the paucity of information available on these men and continues to seek their expanded bio's along with those of other OP-32 KIA/MIA personnel).

**3 – Captain James W. Gates,** USAF, Mer Rouge, Louisiana; **Captain John W. Lafayette,** USAF, Waterbury, Vermont. Both officers were assigned to OP-32. On 6 April 1966, two OV-10's departed Phu Bai for a visual reconnaissance approximately 30 kilometers inside Laos. Both were shot down. A third FAC flew over the area and spotted the wreckage of both aircraft and immediately initiated a Search and Rescue (SAR). The third FAC located both of the two-man crews of the downed aircraft and reported that they were OK and requested immediate extraction. Contact was lost with Captain Gates and Captain Lafayette as they reported that the enemy was closing in on them via their survival radios. The personnel from the other downed aircraft were rescued. Both Captain Gates and Captain Lafayette are listed as Missing in Action.



4 – **Captain Edward J. McNamara**, “One-Zero”, (KIA), **Master Sergeant Ralph Joseph Reno**, “One-One” (MIA) and **Staff Sergeant Donald J. Fawcett**, “One-Two” (KIA) and nine (9) indigenous personnel (SCU’s) were members of RT Nevada assigned to FOB-2, (Kontum) under the operational control of OP-35, (Ground Studies Group), MACVSOG. On 3 July 1966, following an extraction from an in-country mission in the vicinity of Kham Duc, the CH-34 “Kingbee” helicopter (piloted by the very experienced Dai Uy Nguyen Van Hoagn (Mustachio) was flying at 5,000 feet when it experienced severe air turbulence. This resulted in the aircraft “falling apart”, (Reportedly, the tail rotor designed to pivot for storage on aircraft carriers, somehow, came loose, swung around and chewed the chopper to pieces in mid-air), causing the aircraft to rotate rapidly, falling some one to two thousand feet in a tight spiral, throwing individuals and debris over a large area. The chopper impacted nose first. The remains of Captain McNamara and Sergeant Fawcett along with five (5) of their indigenous team members were recovered. The remains of Sergeant Reno and the four (4) other indigenous team members were never found after an exhaustive five (5) day “Brightlite” mission by air and ground.

5 – **Sergeant First Class Delmar Lee Laws**, Mineral Point, Missouri, “One-One” KIA, and **Specialist Fourth Class Don Rue Spain**, “One-Two”, KIA. On 29 July 1966 while on a reconnaissance mission under the command of “One-Zero” Harry D. “Crash” Whalen the team was caught in a NVA company size ambush while crossing a small stream on the backside of Co Roc Mountain, approximately ten kilometers WSW of Khe Sanh. Sergeant Laws was last seen crouched in a defensive position signaling to “Crash” Whalen that he heard enemy movement to the rear. At that time, the ambush was initiated by the North Vietnamese from both flanks and the rear of the team. Heavy automatic fire swept the entire recon team position. Two (2) SCU and Specialist Sain were killed immediately. As “Crash” was attempting to rally the team he noticed that Sergeant Laws was unaccounted for. Subsequently, “Crash” was able to evade the NVA, cross the Tchepone River and saved the remaining members of the team by leading them back to friendly lines at Khe Sanh. A “Brightlite” Team composed of Sergeant Major Billy Waugh, Major Jerry Kilmer, Major Jim Van Sickle and Sergeant First Class Horton Daniels and a few others quickly reacted and returned to the scene of the ambush. Specialist Sain was staked to the ground and crudely booby-trapped. His and Sergeant Laws remains were recovered by the “Brightlite” team and returned to Khe Sahn. These were the first two U.S. recon team members KIA while assigned to FOB-1 at Phu Bai.

d. The five (5) recipients of a SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant for the year 2000 will be announced officially at SOAR XXIV. However, individual recipients will already have been notified as to who their individual grant award was IMO in time for presentation and attendance at the college of their choice.



**CNN SETTLES DEFAMATION LAWSUIT: (by David Bauder, AP TV Writer).**

- a. CNN had one less legal battle on its hands from the network's ill-fated 1998 report that accused the U.S. military of using nerve gas on Vietnam War-era defectors.
- b. CNN on Friday, 14 April 2000 settled a lawsuit brought by retired U.S. Army Major General John Singlaub, who had been named as a source in the report. Terms were not disclosed.
- c. General Singlaub was a former commander of the Studies and Observations Group, an elite unit of Army Special Forces accused of being involved in the nerve gas operations. He had been named by a former CNN producer as a source for the Operation Tailwind report.
- d. CNN retracted its June 7<sup>th</sup> 1998 report about a month after airing it because it could not verify its accuracy. The network fired two producers and a third resigned over the story. The lead reporter, Peter Arnett, was reprimanded and ultimately left the network.
- e. "We had an extensive, two-day mediation conference, during which General Singlaub was able to air his grievances and defendants were able to respond," said Keith Mitnik, General Singlaub's lawyer. "The sessions were very productive and paved the way for a resolution of the disputes"
- f. A CNN spokeswoman had no comment, other than to confirm a settlement had been reached.
- g. General Singlaub appeared on camera during the Operation Tailwind report, explaining why it could be important to kill defectors. But his lawsuit alleged that CNN's story made it appear he had been involved in an effort to use sarin gas against Americans.
- h. The General was quoted more extensively in a CNN "Impact" broadcast that aired eight months prior to the Tailwind report. His lawsuit said CNN defamed him by suggesting on "Impact" that Singlaub might have been involved in an American bombing of American soldiers in Laos to destroy evidence they were in that country.
- i. Mitnik said that the terms of the settlement were confidential, "other than to say the financial portion of the settlement dealt only with the "Impact" broadcast in which General Singlaub was featured, rather than Tailwind, in which he appeared only briefly".
- j. That's an important distinction for CNN and its lawyers, since they could argue that Singlaub's settlement not be used as a precedent in other Tailwind-related lawsuits.



k. CNN has been sued by other former military officials who served in the Vietnam-era Special Forces, and those cases are still pending.

l. The agreement also settles General Singlaub's cases against Arnett, the producers involved and Time Magazine. Time, a corporate cousin of CNN, wrote a story based on the Tailwind investigation and later retracted it too.

m. General Singlaub had been counter-sued for defamation by April Oliver, one of the fired CNN producers who worked on the report. Oliver said that Singlaub had "confirmed the central ideas of the Tailwind broadcast".

n. As part of the settlement, Oliver's lawsuit against General Singlaub has been dropped, Mitnik said.

**KOREAN WAR VETERANS: (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Public Affairs, 22 June 2000):**

U.S. Veterans of the Korean War are now eligible to wear a medal initially offered to them more than 50 years ago, but never issued.

a. In a 13 May 2000 letter to Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, Republic of Defense Minister Seong Tae Cho formally announced that his government would provide the Republic of Korea War Service Medal (ROKWSM) to eligible U. S. veterans of that conflict, or to their surviving next of kin.

b. The medal will be provided at no cost to veterans. The U. S. Air Force has been designated the lead agency to receive and distribute the medals.

c. "On the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Korean War," Cho wrote, "the ROK government decided to issue the ROKWSM to pay tribute to the Korean War veterans for their historic endeavors to preserve freedom of the ROK and the free world". The two governments will conduct fiftieth anniversary ceremonies throughout 2000-2003 and medals may be applied for at any time during this period. The war began on 25 June 1950 when North Korean forces invaded ROK territory. The armistice on 27 July 1953 ended the fighting, although a formal peace treaty has never been completed.

d. The medal was originally offered by the ROK in 1951 to United Nations forces serving in Korea and adjacent waters. At the time U.S. law prohibited the U.S. military from wearing medals issued by foreign governments. Congress changed that in 1954, but by then most U.S. service members eligible for the medal had returned home.



e. In 1998 the government of the Republic of Korea renewed its original offer of the ROKWSM to U.S. military personnel. On 20 August 1999, the Defense Department approved the acceptance and wear of the medal.

f. Approximately 1.8 million U.S. veterans of the Korean War are eligible to receive it. Next of kin to eligible veterans can also apply for the medal.

g. To wear this medal on U.S. military uniforms, U.S. military personnel must have: served between the outbreak of hostilities, 25 June 1950, and the date the armistice was signed, 27 July 1953; been on permanent assignment or on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days, and performed their duty within the territorial limits of Korea, in the waters immediately adjacent thereto or in aerial flight over Korea participating in actual combat operations or in support of combat operations.

h. The ROK specifies the eligibility period and criteria. Only the ROK-provided medal is approved by the U.S. government to meet the U.S. criteria for wear on the military uniform.

i. To apply, veterans must provide a copy of their discharge paper, commonly known as a "DD-214", or a corrected version of that document, a "DD-215". National Guard members must provide their statement of service equivalent, "NGB Form 22".

j. Additional information on how to apply for or request the medal can be found by contacting the Air Force Personnel Center, Monday – Friday, 0730-1630 hours (CST) at (800) 558-1404, or the Awards and Decorations Section (210) 565-2432/2520/2516. FAX (210) 565-3118, or by writing to HQ AFPC/DPPRA, 550 "C" Street West, Suite 12, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4714 or by visiting its web site at: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/awards>.

#### **ROLANDE "FRENCHY" AMUNDSON ESTATE:**

Recently, Charles L. Berg, SOA Special Staff Officer provided a check in the amount of \$30,000 to the Treasurer, SOA. This check represents the initial payment from the estate of "Frenchy". Charles reported that the Law firm in San Luis Obispo, California after considerable negotiation agreed to release this initial payment along with an equal sum to the SFA. The final tax accounting for the estate should be completed within the next thirty plus days and an estimated remaining amount of approximately \$20,000 more will be made available to both the SOA and SFA as per the wishes of "Frenchy" in her WILL. Larry Kimmel, SOA # 014-GL has been acting as the Executor for the Estate and was limited in representing the Associations, as they were beneficiaries. Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-GL was appointed by the SOA Board and the SFA to represent and coordinate the payment process. The receipt of these funds will assist in insuring the continued financial stability of the SOA. (See copy of Check).



**SOG COLORS PHOTO:**



**"FRENCHY" AMUNDSON'S ESTATE CHECK:**

Signature of the Amundson

LAWRENCE KIMMEL EXECUTOR OF THE  
ESTATE OF ROLANDE G AMUNDSON  
620 TUCKER (805) 238-4829  
PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

5226

11-35/1210  
28

Date 27 Jun 00

Pay to the Order of Special Operations Army \$ 30,000  
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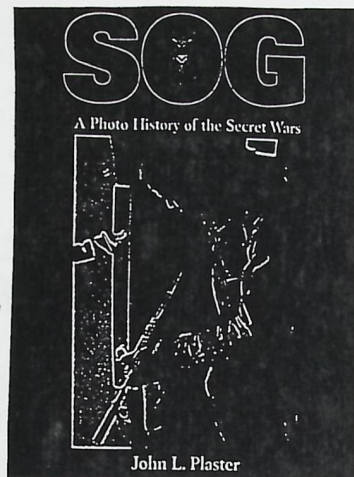
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# ***SOG: A Photo History of the Secret Wars***

By Maj. John L. Plaster, (ret) U.S. Army Special Forces

This is not just a "collection" of pictures, it's a complete history told visually, using more than 700 photographs, maps and charts, drawn from nearly 200 SOG veterans. Accompanying this stunning visual mosaic is Maj. Plaster's detailed, insightful narrative — in the same fascinating style and riveting detail of his award-winning, *SOG: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam*.

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- Enemy counter-recon tactics and techniques, and the way SOG men escaped hundreds, even thousands of enemy searchers and pursuers;
- The enemy's "American Killer Award" and one NVA recipient whose last mistake was to meet Recon Team New Hampshire;
- Entire chapters on the gallant pilots and aircrews who inserted and extracted SOG commandos including chapters on helicopter units, SOG's MC-130 squadron and its FACs and Skyraiders;
- First time ever seen: Actual enemy document forgeries and counterfeit money;
- Real Enemy AKs destroyed by SOG's top secret "Eldest Son" sabotaged ammunition

COST: \$79.95 plus S&H [ISBN Number 1-58160-058-5]

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**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

1<sup>ST</sup> FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 555341  
CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA 92055-5341

19 May 2000

Clyde J. Sincere  
President Pro-Team SOA  
11122 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, Virginia 22124-2323

Dear Clyde,

On behalf of the Marines and Sailors of First Force Reconnaissance Company, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to you and the membership of the Special Operations Association for your prayers, thoughts and extraordinary gestures. I'd particularly like to thank you for arranging the names of our fallen being placed on the Special Operations Foundation Memorial in Tampa, Florida. That special gesture brought much comfort to the families and they were all very touched by the kindness of the SOA.

Of the men that were killed in the accident, they were husbands, fathers, sons, friends and the finest this nation has to offer. They had a passion and selfless dedication to their profession, to our Corps and their families. They so willingly devoted their lives to our Corps and so openly accepted the inherent dangers of the way of life demanded by our Corps so that others may enjoy the liberties of our nation. All were tough, rugged and loved their calling blindly.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the continued presence of SOA members Gary Marte, Patrick Rogers, and J. Stryker Meyer during these difficult times. Your personal involvement and the very thoughtful gesture with the Special Operations Foundation Memorial will make a difference to the children and families of our fallen. We would like to have the honor of presenting a Company Paddle to the membership of the SOA, perhaps at your next reunion. If and when your travels bring you to San Diego, we hope that you consider this an open invitation to walk on the quarterdeck as our honored guest.

Respectfully and Semper Fidelis

Robert J. Coates  
Commanding Officer  
LtCol USMC

# **MACV-SOG & SPECIAL FORCES MEMORABILIA DISPLAY !!!**

**Where:** Hospitality Suite

**Who:** Scott & Bill Kilpatrick

**Questions:** Call Scott (940) 241-3097

or send us a message via email: [scottk@ti.com](mailto:scottk@ti.com)



**OUR GOAL:** We **PRESERVE** military related history & memorabilia. Our display presents Special Operations memorabilia & history from WWII to today in a positive, educational & enjoyable manner.

The display focuses on all **SOG & Special Forces** related units - FOB's, CCN, CCC, CCS, Mike Force, Recon Teams, CIDG Camps, Mobile Guerilla Forces, Training Units, Projects White Star, Delta, Sigma, Omega; OSS, Any Airborne Unit, Rangers, LRRPs, Force Recon, SEALs, Air Commandos and associated support units. You have seen us at numerous SFA & SOA reunions, and Chapter 31 Mini-Reunions over the last 10+ years. The display is a direct result of **YOUR generosity** ! We need **YOUR** support...

It is better to **LOAN** us an item to show, then for it to be at home in a drawer or footlocker... Let everyone share your memories.

**Please Bring:** Insignia, 1-O Jackets, Scrapbooks, Plaques, Berets, Knives, Certificates, Mess Cards, Flags, Fatigues, Lighters, Bush Hats, Patches, Captured NVA & VC Items, Psy Way Items, Field Gear, Shirts, Photos, Commo Equipment, Montagnard

~ Bring **ANYTHING** that someone would find interesting !

**THANK YOU !!!**

To those of you that have shared your items with all of us !  
Everyone really enjoys the display due to **YOUR** effort !





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### SOA SMALL ARMS RANGE FIRING OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **GENERAL:** It is imperative that all personnel be completely knowledgeable and proficient in the safe handling of assigned firearms to preclude accidental firing of weapons.
2. **RESPONSIBILITY:** This directive applies to all personnel participating in SOA sponsored range firing.
  - a. The following rules of safety will apply while on the range:
    - (1) A safety check of the range (purge the area) will be conducted prior to the commencement of any firing.
    - (2) The Range Safety Officer will brief all participants on range safety procedures contained within this Operating Instructions Directive prior to firing.
    - (3) There will be a minimum of one (1) Assistant Range Officer per seven
    - (7) Individuals on the firing line during daylight hours. All firing will cease at dusk.
    - (4) Anyone at anytime observing an unsafe act will call for a cease fire.
    - (5) Prior to the commencement of firing, the Range Safety Officer will be responsible to insure that all Assistant Range Officers check the barrel of all weapons to insure that they are free of any obstruction.
    - (6) The muzzle of any loaded weapon will be pointed down range at all times. There will be no "raised pistols".
    - (7) Personnel on the firing line will take all of their commands from the Range Safety Officer only and act immediately; e.g. commence firing, cease fire, etc.
    - (8) Personnel will not go forward of the firing line without the approval of the Range Safety Officer.
    - (9) After participants have placed their weapons on the firing line, they will not be handled without the approval of the Range Safety Officer. Weapons located behind the firing line will be handled only when necessary.
    - (10) Never, repeat, never turn around on the firing line with a loaded weapon in your hand.
    - (11) In the event of a malfunction (misfire/hang-fire) the individual firer involved with the firing problem is required to keep his/her weapon pointed down range (at the target) for at least 30 seconds prior to attempting to re-fire. Ammunition (primer) that has been hit twice by the firing pin, and does not fire, is considered unsafe and will be turned over to the Range Safety Officer for disposal



(12) Always clear your weapon and ground it following a firing cycle. Make any sight adjustments only on command or with the permission of the Range Safety Officer.

(13) Individuals who appear to be either mentally, intoxicated, or physically unfit for firing will not be armed and will not be permitted on the firing line.

(14) Keep all weapons on 'SAFE' unless otherwise directed.

(15) The Range Safety Officer and/or his Assistants will take immediate action to correct any unsafe act or condition. Immediately remove any individual from the firing line who repeats infractions or flagrantly violates safety practices.

(16) Personnel who are not on the firing line (spectators and personnel waiting to fire) will remain behind the ready line until given the command by the Range Safety Officer to move forward to the firing line.

b. **PRIOR TO RANGE FIRING:** Prior to the commencement of any range firing, the Range Safety Officer will be responsible to ensure that the following range safety equipment is available and ready for use.

(1) Communications, either telephone or two-way radio will be available and operational prior to any firing.

(a) A communications check with the SOAR Hospitality Suite Registration Desk will be conducted prior to any range firing.

(b) A portable bullhorn will be available for use on the range.

(2) A First Aid Kit will be available and present during all firing.

(3) A vehicle will be designated and available for transporting any injured firing participant, should the requirement arise. If an injury is serious, the Range Safety Officer will request a police escort and advise the hospital that an emergency has occurred and the injured is being evacuated to the hospital at this time.

c. **COMPLETION OF RANGE FIRING:** Following the completion of range firing, the Range Safety Officer will be responsible to insure the following good housekeeping procedures are enforced:

(1) All targets will be removed from the range area.

(2) All brass will be policed and removed from the range area.

(3) All trass will be policed and removed from the range area.

(4) Targets, target material, pasters, etc. will be policed and removed from the range area.



**SOAR XXIV  
REUNION WEAPONS FIRING  
IN THE  
NEVADA DESERT**

**FRIDAY, 29 September 2000 - 0730- 1200 HOURS**

**ATTENTION ALL INTERESTED RANGE FIRING ADVOCATES**

**THIS YEAR THE SOA WILL AGAIN SPONSOR A FIRING EVENT OF VARIOUS WEAPONS ON FRIDAY, 29 September 2000 IN THE NEVADA DESERT FOR THE ENJOYMENT OF INTERESTED WEAPON BUFF'S. BUSES WILL DEPART FROM THE PLAZA HOTEL SHARPLY AT 0730 HOURS. INTERESTED ATTENDEES ARE REQUESTED TO BE ON TIME. IN OTHER WORDS, "DON'T BE LATE". RENDEZVOUS DEPARTURE POINT: "TBA" YOUR ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE REUNION BULLETIN BOARD LOCATED IN THE SOAR REGISTRATION AREA REFLECTING THE EXACT DEPARTURE LOCATION.**

**FROM EXPERIENCE GAINED OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS, IT HAS BEEN OBVIOUS THAT MANY OF YOU ARE NOT AWARE OF THE COST TO PROVIDE THIS SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT EVENT. BE ADVISED THAT FOR THOSE MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS INTERESTED IN FIRING THESE VARIOUS WEAPONS, THE COST OF THIS EVENT IS VERY HIGH. THE WEAPONS ALONE EXCEED \$30,000. AMMO, ACCORDINGLY, IS ALSO VERY EXPENSIVE.**

**IN THE PAST, DONATIONS WERE STRICKLY ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS. HOWEVER, THAT PROVED TO BE INADEQUATE TO COVER THE COST OF THE AMMUNITION. THEREFORE, THE SOA BOARD IS REQUESTING THAT THOSE OF YOU THAT ELECT TO FIRE THESE WEAPONS PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING DONATION AMOUNTS TO ASSIST IN DEFRAYING THE COST OF THE AMMUNITION.**



## **THE RECOMMENDED AMOUNT PER INDIVIDUAL:**

**1 - Let us assume you fire only a small amount of ammunition - Your donation would be \$20 - \$30.**

**2 - If you were to fire a moderate amount of ammunition - Your donation would then be \$40.**

**3 - Anymore than that - 'you really enjoy firing' - Your donation would be between \$75 and \$100.**

**FYI, ANY MONIES COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF WHAT IS ACTUALLY REQUIRED TO DEFRAY THE COST OF AMMUNITION WILL BE DONATED TO THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.**

**FINALLY, IF YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY - STOP BY MARK KINSLER'S TABLE AND THANK MARK FOR ALL HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED IN ESTABLISHING THIS EVENT FOR YOUR FIRING ENJOYMENT EACH YEAR.**

**THE SOA BOARD WISHES TO CONVEY IT'S THANKS TO MARK ON BEHALF OF ALL OF THE SOA MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS.**

## **LOCK AND LOAD!**

**"READY ON THE RIGHT - READY ON THE LEFT - COMMENCE FIRING"...**

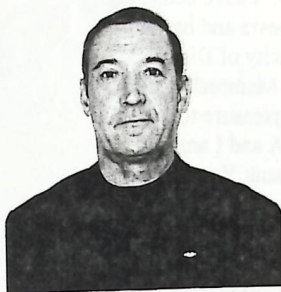
**ALWAYS REMEMBER - SAFETY ON THE RANGE IS PARAMOUNT.....**



**SOA CANDIDATES FOR THE 2001 - 2002  
BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

**FOR PRESIDENT, SOA:**

**JAMES B. COLE, SOA # 794-GL**



On 17 February 1961, the United States Army Special Forces firmly set my feet on the path that I would tread for the next 39 years. It was, is, and will continue to be a path filled with joy, heartache, euphoria, sadness, and success beyond my most outrageous dreams. However, there is a longing to "give back" due to my having had the opportunity to live such a wonderful life. It might be because of the first time I put on my Fleur de Lis "Green Beret" or my arrival at Long Thanh, South Vietnam in 1964 with A-221 designated for duty with Combined Studies Division. Perhaps it was just being around the people I consider to be the best that ever "walked-the-walk". I stand in the shadow of those brave men who have gone ahead and I continue to look up to all in Special Operations. If elected I will make you one promise.... The SOA will grow, prosper, and never move a step backward on my watch.

**FOR VICE-PRESIDENT, SOA:**

**GEORGE "MOE" BLAKEY, SOA # 551-GL**

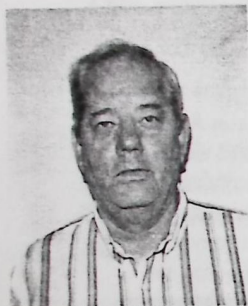


I have been a member since 1985. I served on the SOA Board as Treasurer, 1989-90 and Vice-President, 1991-1992. Since 1985 I have worked as a volunteer or officer at every Reunion with the exception of two. First, I had heart surgery on the same date as the Reunion and on the other there was a death in the family. I served in Vietnam from 1 January 1968 until 24 December 1969. After leaving active duty in 1970, I attended graduate school, taught and coached high school baseball and football. I married in 1973 and entered into private business opening a medical supply equipment and uniform company. I currently still own and operate the company. I also coach the varsity baseball team at St. Augustine



High School and volunteer for numerous civic clubs. At the same time I am also working on a book. Entitled "The History of B-20 Mobile Strike Force at Ben Het". I would appreciate and welcome your Vote. I thank you for your consideration.

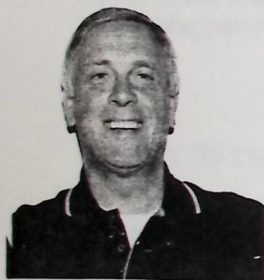
**JAMES F. HETRICK, SOA # 036-GL**



I've been a member of the SOA since 1978 and have attended 18 SOAR's including the last three. I served on three RT's, was an instructor at the "One-Zero" course at Long Thanh and the Team Sergeant of one of the Teams that taught the Cambodians at the FANK Phouc Thuy Camp. I have been a member of the SOA Board for the past two years and have been fortunate to serve the Association in the capacity of Director and Vice-President. I have also chaired the SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee for the past year. It has been my pleasure to assist in the building of a strong member oriented SOA and I am dedicated to insuring that it remains that way. Thank You.

**FOR TREASURER, SOA:**

**S. "RICK" GRABIANOWSKI, SOA # 1313-GL**



This will be my fourth consecutive SOAR since becoming a member of the SOA. Having survived as a "One-Zero" with CCN, I subsequently became the advisor to a reserve Special Forces unit in California, including a number of other assignments that resulted in what I am pleased to state was a rewarding career in the U.S. Army. After retiring I continued to work for Military Intelligence and finally left government service for opportunities in the civilian sector. Since 1991 I have specialized in turning around small companies with production challenges. Realizing that enthusiasm alone does not qualify one for the position of Treasurer, SOA, perhaps my positions in other organizations will reflect my ability to contribute to a successful team. I have served as a Commander of an American Legion Post, Junior Warden in Masonic Lodges, Adjutant for the Legion of Honor (Shrine organization), etc. I am currently serving as Secretary of Printing House Craftsmen and a Diplomat Committee Member with the Reno, Nevada Chamber of Commerce... You get the picture. I'm a good organizer and administrator. I would be very proud to serve as your new and loyal Treasurer, SOA.



**FOR SECRETARY, SOA:**

**DAVID "BULLDOG" C. SMITH, SOA # 1242-GL**



I have been a member of the SOA since 1994 and have attended the last five SOAR's. I have also had the honor of having been able to serve as the Administrator of the SOA commencing on 1 January 1999. In 1968 I was involved with MACVSOG in Vietnam. Additionally, I had the good fortune to command and deploy a modified "B" Detachment to Jordan for seven months. I am now involved with the General Coactive Montagnard Association (GCMA) assisting where possible the Montagnard's residing here in the United States and those currently living in Vietnam. I have traveled to Vietnam with Bob Donoghue for the past four years in order to assist in the overall improvement of the Montagnard's basic standard of life. I believe I can be a positive asset to the Association and have the time and assets available to insure a complete and satisfactory maintenance of records. If elected, I look forward to the challenge of the next two years serving as the Secretary, SOA.

**FOR DIRECTOR, SOA:**

**CHARLES L. BERG, SOA # 031-GL**



In my 23 years as a member of the SOA, I have spent seven plus years as a member of the Board of Directors or as a member of the special staff. I have had the honor of serving the membership twice as your Vice-President, (during the tenures of Jim Monaghan and Clyde Sincere). I chaired the first formal SOA Membership Qualifications Study Group; served on the SOA Scholarship Committee, which included assisting in the rewriting of the Application and Qualifications procedures. I also had the privilege of conducting the very first formal Management Control Review for the SOA at the request of Clyde Sincere and John McClaskey. My service in the SOA in these various capacities has assisted me in acquiring intimate knowledge in the functional requirements of the financial, membership and scholarship areas. I know that I can offer the knowledgeable and dedicated service our Association demands and that the membership deserves. My focus is to serve with integrity, loyalty and dedication as an active entity of the leadership team that will insure that our Association remains strong and continues to grow. Thank you for your consideration of my nomination as a member of the SOA Board of Directors.



**B. RAY CHAMBERS, SOA # 627-GL**



**I am a candidate for the SOA Board of Directors.**

Yes, I have asked that my name be placed into the hat as a candidate for the position of a Director on the SOA Board of Directors. As many of you are aware, I am now performing the duties as Chairman, SOA Membership Committee. With this experience behind me, I believe that I can continue with the task of Membership and Director, SOA and assist the Association grow as it moves into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. I have been a supporting member of the SOA since December 1985 when I joined *at the insistence of Larry Trimble, SOA # 163-GL*. While I was a member of SOG, my duties were initially as a One-One for RT Hawaii, One-Zero of RT Nevada, then subsequently, Communications Supervisor at FOB-2. If elected, I look forward to serving you, the members of the SOA.

**ROBERT JACK, SOA # 414-GL**



Army Brat, dependent for three (3) years in Germany, '57-'60, and three (3) years in Naples, Italy, '62-'65. High School graduate, entered service from Pittsburgh, 9-'67. Infantry/Airborne/Special Forces. Camp Crockett Airborne-Infantry AIT Fort Gordon, Georgia. SFTG Class of '68, Weapons. 9-'68 to 8-'69. "D" Company, 7<sup>th</sup> SFGp, 9-'69 to 5-'70, Recon Company CCN. WIA, 4-19 '70, Hickory Hill, resulting in the loss of my left leg at the ankle. Walter Reed AMC, 5-'70 to 1-'72. USMA Staff 1-'72 to 8-'73. Retained in SF-MOS including Airborne status. Medically retired, SSG, 8-'73, BYU, '73-'75, DAV- NSO, '75-'79. Law Enforcement, '81-'84. DOD Police, '84-'86, Local Police Departments, '86-'94. Police Academy Staff Instructor, Firearms/General Subjects. Virginia and S&W Academy Certified Firearms Instructor, S&W Certified Armorer, revolver and pistol. Retired in 1994. Life Member, SOA, SFA, DAV, NRA, PMA. I attended SOAR's '96-'99 and hopefully looking forwarded to SOAR XXIV in 2000. I am 51 years of age and am the owner of: <http://teanhouse.tni.net>, SF-List. My email address is: [ender@widomaker.com](mailto:ender@widomaker.com).



**JUSTIN E. "GENE" McCARTHY, SOA # 256-GL**

I joined the SOA in 1981 as soon as I became knowledgeable of its existence. I have participated in every Reunion since then except when my Civil Service TDY would not permit me to do so. I had a twenty year enlisted and commissioned career, which included command of the II Corps MIKE FORCE and staff positions at CCC and MACVSOG, OP-35. I recently retired from Civil Service. Until recently, my contributions to the Association have been limited to assisting at whatever duties I could at the Reunions. My less hectic schedule allows me now to work for the Association on a dedicated basis. I remain committed to serving my fellow members, and the continued success of the SOA. I ask for your support in this election and your guidance in the ensuing term as one of your representatives on the SOA Board of Directors.

**EARL TRABUE, SOA # 1056-GL**



I joined the SOA in 1993. I am a Life Member. I have attended the last six SOAR's. In WWII I served as a First Scout in the Infantry in the South Pacific. In Vietnam I was the first Commander of CCS. I have been the Chairman of a Military Community Budget Committee and I have a Master's Degree in Business. I have over eleven years in fraternal club book-keeping experience and four years experience as the club Financial Secretary. I have a deep interest in the continuing growth of the SOA as a fraternal military association and in its financial stability. If elected as a member of the SOA Board of Directors, I believe my background will be a great asset in accomplishing these goals.

**WILLIAM WERTHER, SOA # 497-GL**



I have been a Life Member in the SOA for 18 years. I have attended many of the past SOAR's. I am a retired E-8 with a Reserve Officers Commission who put in 21 years of service, mostly with Special Forces. I served in SOG at Khe Sanh, Phu Bai, DaNang and Kontum. I have worked at the SOA Memorabilia Sales Table and Special Operations Memorial Foundation Table for several SOAR's. I retired in 1986, worked for Teledyne Corporation for ten years, (retired) and then started my own business. If elected to the SOA Board of Directors, I pledge to do my very best for the SOA and it's members.





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

April 2000

**TO:** The Special Operations Association Membership

**SUBJECT:** SOA Spring 2000 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 XXIII was conducted at the Plaza Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada during the period 29 September - 03 October 1999, as we look forward to SOAR XXIV.

**IN MEMORY OF:** Following the publication of the SOAR XXIII AAR, it was ascertained that two (2) more SOA members have passed away. **Michael Joseph Freeman, SOA # 1359-GA**, 75 years of age passed away on the morning of 14 February 2000. Mike joined the Navy in WWII at the age of 16 and was drafted by the Office of Naval Intelligence as the first photographer in the newly organized Technical Air Intelligence unit dispatched to the Pacific in 1943. His book, "*Behind Enemy Lines*" details the extensive reconnaissance mission he and four (4) others participated in following their infiltration of the Japanese held island of Choiseul in 1944 prior to its invasion by American forces. In addition, the book provides an overview of the entire air war in the Pacific. Mike is survived by his wife Clydene, five (5) sons, four (4) daughters, eight (8) grandchildren and four (4) great-grandchildren. **Nguyen, Rinh Huong, SOA # 1363-GA**, 71 years of age passed away as a result of a bout with cancer on 24 March 2000. Rinh, a former Lieutenant Colonel in the South Vietnamese Army Special Forces attended both US Army Ranger and Airborne Training at Fort Benning, Georgia in the mid-50's. He was one of the first Vietnamese SF officers in charge of training "Chieu Hoi", (former VC and NVA) personnel at Kham Duc where he had the mission of preparing them to be members of the "Thunderbird" teams. Later he served extensively with MACVSOG. Rinh is survived by his wife who will continue to reside in San Jose, California and six (6) sons, their wives and his grandchildren. One (1) son resides in France, two (2) in Vietnam and three (3) in San Jose, California. A memorial service was conducted on Saturday, 1 April 2000 attended by many former South Vietnamese Special Forces veterans from across CONUS. The SOA was represented by Ben Baker and Robert Shippen and an appropriate floral arrangement was presented on behalf of the SOA membership. Interment was conducted at the Vietnamese Gardens in San Jose on Sunday, 2 April 2000. The SOA wishes to extend its condolences to all of the family members of our two (2) most recently deceased comrades.

**SICK CALL:** The following SOA members are reported to be ill or have recently undergone surgery:

E., Ray Whittington, SOA # 049-GL  
Robert C. Kingston, SOA # 099-GL  
Fred Jackson, SOA # 230-GL  
David "Dirty Shirt" Johnson, SOA # 290-GL  
Rudy Cooper, SOA # 506-GA  
Hans Manz, SOA # 609-GL  
Arnold Astrada, SOA # 735-AL  
George W. Petrie, SOA # 818-GA  
Louis Austria, SOA # 1424-GA

It would not hurt anyone to drop any of the aforementioned SOA members a card - serious or funny, letting them know that you are thinking of them. If we were in their "shoes" we would appreciate hearing from someone. Right?

-1-



**NOTE:** All SOA members are requested to contact any member of the SOA Board when they have determined that a member is seriously ill; undergoing a major medical operation, or have passed away in order that the entire membership may be apprised as to their status as soon as practicable.

**SOA 2000 DUES:** Each SOA non-life member is requested to look closely at the mailing label that brought you this Newsletter. **If you haven't paid your 2000 dues which were due to the SOA Treasurer NLT 31 December 1999, and if you fall into that "lapsed" category, be advised that you still owe your annual dues of \$25 and they should be mailed immediately to: SOA, c/o John R. McClaskey, SOA Treasurer, 7259 Riverside Drive, Algonac, Michigan 48001-4249.** Also, for your edification, to preclude future "lapsed dues" occurring, Life Membership remains \$250, payable to the SOA by cash, check or credit card, (VISA or MASTERCARD only). **If you already have met your annual dues obligation for CY 2000 - then this notice is not for you.** A special thanks to everyone for reviewing their individual membership status.

**SOAR XXIV: (27 September - 01 October 2000):** Make your plans to attend now. Mark your calendars now. The SOAR XXIV Pre-Reunion Packet, (SOAR XXIV PRP) will be mailed to each member NLT mid-July '00. This PRP will enable each member to facilitate direct hotel accommodations with the hotel reservation staff. CALL - (800) 634-6575 and inform the reservation staff member that you will be attending SOAR XXIV. If you are calling from overseas and cannot utilize the 800 number, call: (702) 386-2110 and request Hotel RESERVATIONS. Your accommodation request must be received by the Hotel, NLT 26 August 2000. Harry Claflin, Chairman, SOAR XXIV Reunion Committee has reported that the majority of SOAR XXIV requirements have already been coordinated with the staff of the Plaza Hotel & Casino. Final coordination will take place in late May 2000. Plaza Hotel accommodations will be \$40. plus tax per nite. **Early SOAR XXIV registration (Advance/Discount), will be as in previous years - \$80. Deadline for early registration is: 12 September 2000. All registrations received or postmarked after that date, will cost you \$120. per person.** The PRP will include a SOAR XXIV Early Advance/Discount Registration Form for your use.

**P.S.** Due to a large number of requests for something other than beef at the SOAR XXIII Banquet, your Reunion Committee has arranged for a selection of three (3) different entrees, (beef, chicken and fish) be available for your dining pleasure during the SOAR XXIV Banquet. How's that?

**SOAR I, II, III, IV and V, (1977 - 1981):** Did you attend or join the SOA between December 1977 and 31 December 1981? If so, and you have not previously been presented with your 20-Year SOA pin for one reason or another, you will have another opportunity to receive your 20-year SOA pin when they are presented to those SOA members in attendance at SOAR XXIV who became members sometime in 1981. If your SOA number is 375 or lower - you are eligible to receive your 20-year SOA pin at the SOAR XXIV General Membership Meeting on 30 September 2000. Looking forward to seeing all of you at the reunion.

**SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 2001 - 2002:** The SOA is looking for a few good men. Yes, it's that time again when the membership must "step up to the bar" and select/elect a new SOA Board of Officers and Directors that will govern the SOA during its new term of leadership. Are you willing to be one of these few good men? If so, you must have attended two (2) of the last three (3) SOAR'S, either SOAR XXI, XXII or XXIII to be eligible to "run" under the SOA Constitution and By-Laws. If you are at all interested in serving for this two (2) year commitment, contact either: **Jack Isler, Cliff Newman or Clyde Sincere** and inform them of your desire to participate in the new SOA Board of Officers and Directors for the term commencing 1 January 2001 til 31 December 2002 by running for either **President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer or one of the Director positions.** Be advised, these are all "working" positions, not just titles. It takes desire and dedication to insure a strong and viable SOA. If you are interested in a particular position, please take the time to contact any of the current Board members and discuss how you might serve the entire SOA membership. An official SOA



Ballot will be included in the SOAR XXIV PRP reflecting a slate of SOA members for the aforementioned SOA Board of Officers and Director positions.

**SOAR XXIV DOOR AND RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS:** Reminder... If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXIV 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 raffle items for the edification of attending members and their guests. If for some reason you are unable to attend SOAR XXIV and you wish to donate either door or raffle prize items, you are requested to mail the item (s) directly to the **PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO, (Attn: Linda Hartman/SOA/Clyde Sincere), Number One Main Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89125** to arrive NET 26 September, but, NLT 27 September 2000. Linda will see to it that I receive the items. Books, (hard and/or soft cover) are especially great "door" and "raffle" items. If timing becomes a problem, mail your donation directly to Clyde Sincere and he will insure that the item gets to SOAR XXIV. Thank you.

**KHE SANH/LANG VEI REVISITED:** Bob Donoghue, David "Bulldog" Smith, Charles L. Berg, Jim Hetrick and special guest-traveler, Dennis Thompson all departed for Southeast Asia during the week of 12 March 2000. The purpose of the trip was to spend at least a month in the Northwest corner of the old Republic of South Vietnam I Corps area assisting the Bru. Many of you are aware Bob Donoghue was finally able to secure the Vietnamese People's Aid Coordinating Committee (PACOM) authorization for his Cedar Point Foundation as a non-governmental organization (NGO). Cedar Point Foundation is a U.S. Tax Exempt organization. Please contact Bob at (413) 782-8265, (E-Mail: <bobdon911@aol.com>) or David Smith at: (336) 248-2233, (E-Mail: <bulldogsog@aol.com>) if you wish to donate any monies to assist this worthwhile project. They will be returning to CONUS this month and will be prepared to brief all interested members and their guests in attendance at SOAR XXIV on their latest venture. FYI, Dennis Thompson is a retired Special Forces CSM who was captured at Lang Vei in February 1968 and spent the next 61 months as a guest of the North Vietnamese. He believed this trip was essential to his continued well-being and he did not desire to travel to the area of his capture with just anyone - He wanted former Special Forces personnel intimately familiar with the area to assist him in making this pilgrimage. Jim Hetrick and Charles Berg accepted the challenge to serve as his special guide during this visit with the Bru. I'm not at all sure - but, possibly Dennis may also be willing to attend SOAR XXIV as a guest and describe his visit to interested attendees. See the attached Cedar Point Foundation Brochure. There will be another trip this fall. You too can help.....

**SOA MEMBER E-MAIL NET:** Bob Golden, (E-Mail: <bobgolden@GreenBeret.Net>) SOA Web Site Web Master has established for the benefit of the membership an email net that will allow members to interface with each other on a number of issues. If you have an E-Mail capability and wish to partake of this net - contact Bob at the above E-Mail address and inform him that you are an active member of the SOA, provide him with your SOA number and he will provide you with sufficient instructions for you to participate in the SOA Member E-mail Net. You would be surprised at the amount of information and traffic that crosses over this SOA Members E-Mail Net. By the way - all members are encouraged and invited to visit the SOA Web Site: You may do so by initiating contact at: <<http://www.SpecialOperations.Org>> Thank you Bob Golden for taking the time to establish this net for the edification of the SOA membership.

**MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT ALEXIS MCCLURE, U.S. ARMY RETIRED:**

Al Paddock, SOA # 1462-GA has written the attached article on the late Major General McClure who was instrumental in coercing the Department of Defense to establish a requirement for Unconventional Warfare within the U.S. Army following WWII and culminating with the outbreak of the Korean Conflict. In discussing General McClure's unique and special history with Al, he suggested I write a letter to Lieutenant General William Tangney, SOA # 1460-GA and currently the Commander, U. S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg urging him to consider some type of memorialization of General McClure as the "Father of U.S. Army Special Warfare". Major General Bowra responded



positively on behalf of the Special Operations community at Fort Bragg and I have attached his letter also. For clarification purposes - Colonel Aaron Bank, SOA # 827-GL is still recognized as the "Father of U.S. Army Special Forces".

**U.S. ARMY SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND "ONE-ZERO COURSE":**

Major General Ken Bowra, SOA # 1058-GA and former MACVSOG "One-Zero", was scheduled to host a "One-Zero" Conference at Fort Bragg sometime in late April 2000 as a prelude to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School's evaluation and consideration of the establishment of a formal "One-Zero" Course. As always, "Murphys Law" was and is, in effect. General Bowra has been reassigned to Kosovo as the Deputy of KFOR. However, he has assured me that the "One-Zero" course evaluation process will not be denigrated in any manner. He has been replaced as the Commander of USAJFKSWCS by Major General William G. Boykin, former Commander of the U.S. Army Special Forces Command. Additionally, General Bowra's former Chief of Staff, Colonel Dave Maki will still be available and will personally provide guidance and oversight for the course evaluation process. I have written a letter to General Boykin stating that in the event a "One-Zero" Course of Instruction is approved for USAJFKSWCS, that the SOA desired to express a serious interest in working in concert with his command by participating in the course graduation ceremonies by presenting an appropriate SOA award to the Honor Graduate of each "One-Zero" course similar to that which the Special Forces Association provides to each Honor graduate of the "Q" Course and selected other USAJFKSWCS courses. Inasmuch as I have just recently provided the letter to General Boykin, he has not as yet had an opportunity to respond to my letter. All SOA members will be apprised of his response soonest upon receipt.

**SPECIAL FORCES CONVENTIONS/REUNIONS IN 2000:** The following Special Forces Conventions/Reunions are provided for your edification:

1. Special Forces Association National Convention Y2K ( SFA Convention 2000):  
Hosted by Chapter LIV, SFA - The William F. Buckley Memorial Chapter,  
1 - 5 July 2000 - "Where it all Began"....

- a. Location: Newton, (Boston area), Massachusetts.
- b. Convention Fees:

- (1) Prior to 1 May 2000 - \$90. per person.
- (2) After 1 May 2000 - \$100. per person.

- c. Hotel Accommodations:

Newton Marriott Hotel  
2345 Commonwealth  
Newton, Massachusetts  
(619) 969-1000/(800) 228-9290  
Cost of Rooms: \$97. + Tax per nite

- d. Information: Contact: Chapter LIV, SFA, (781) 729-331- Attn: Dick Nazzaro.
- e. Mail Check or Money Order Payable to:

SFA Convention, Chapter LIV, SFA  
Attn: Tom Crowley  
P.O. Box 1388  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03802-1388



2. Chapter XXXVIII, SFA: Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

Chapter XXXVIII, SFA is hosting a 5th Special Forces Group (Abn), 1st Special Forces Reunion, 14-17 September 2000 at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. As time gets closer, additional information will be provided. Contact Richard Ulrich at: <VSCRULRI@vba.va.gov> if you have any questions.

3. 1st Special Forces Group (Abn), 1st Special Forces Reunion, 22-27 October 2000:

- a. Location: North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- b. Hotel Accommodations: Host Hotel - Ocean Drive Beach & Golf Resort  
Rate: \$60. per nite + tax.  
98 North Ocean Boulevard  
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina  
Reservations: (800) 438-9590/(843) 249-1436  
Hotel Contact Person: Barbara Timmons - (Inform her you are attending the 1st SFGp Reunion). - Rate \$60. per nite + tax.
- c. Registration: Reunion Fees:
  - (1) Prior to 4 September 2000 - \$90. per person.
  - (2) After 4 September 2000 - \$110. per person.
- d. Golf Tournament: Contact: Gene Bell at (910) 822-8663 -  
E-Mail: <GENEBELL@webtv.net>.
- e. Mail Check or Money Order payable to: 1st SFGp Reunion  
P.O. Box 9385  
Tokay Station  
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311
- f. Other POC's, contact:
  - (1) Jesse Simmons - (910) 488-2742 - E-Mail: <S5242@aol.com>
  - (2) Jack Bonner - (910) 424-6914 - E-Mail: <SFAHQ@aol.com> \*  
\*Jack is also in charge of securing VENDOR facilities to operate.
  - (3) Howard Colvin - (910) 868-5256 - E-Mail: <NCTWOPUTT@aol.com>

**"THE GREEN BERETS", by Author Robin Moore:**

Jim Hetrick, Vice-President, SOA and Chairman, SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee has a limited number of copies of the updated version of *"The Green Berets"* available to purchase through SOAMS:

1 - Cost: \$9.00 + \$3.00 Shipping and Handling.

2 - Write to: SOAMS, Attn: Jim Hetrick  
965 North Grandview  
Paulden, Arizona 86334  
(520) 636-4121  
<jhetrick@northlink.com>



**SOA MEMBERS CORRECT ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/EMAIL ADDRESS:**

Does the SOA have your correct home address, phone number, email address (if applicable). Remember it is important that you provide a NINE DIGIT ZIPCODE ADDRESS. Thanks.

**SOG RECON HALO JUMPS:**

John Plaster has provided an Airborne Historian by the name of Roy Maloney with the details of the five recon HALO jumps conducted by MACVSOG during the Vietnamese Conflict. You are invited to view the details of these drops along with every other U.S. combat jump ever conducted by visiting: <http://www.dropzonepress.com>.

**1st SPECIAL FORCES GROUP MEMORIAL STONE DEDICATION CEREMONY:**

The United States Army Special Forces Command hosted the 1st Special Forces Group Memorial Stone Dedication Ceremony at ARSOF Plaza, Fort Bragg, North Carolina on the afternoon of Friday, 31 March 2000. The Ceremony was GREAT. The USASF Command supported the dedication ceremony in an outstanding manner and are commended for that accomplishment. Approximately 150 former members of the 1st SFGp were in attendance. The 82d Airborne Division Band provided the musical support. SOA member Roy Johnson sculpted the memorial stone and transported it to Fort Bragg where SOA member Hank Luthy was instrumental in overseeing its emplacement. The "Dog Tags" of the late Ron Bowser and Walt Shumate were permanently enshrined under the memorial stone. Former 1st SFGp Commander and SOA member, Colonel (Ret) Robert Rheault was the keynote speaker for this memorable event. Some may query - What has this event to do with the SOA? Many, many personnel from the 1st SFGp were initially placed on TDY from Okinawa to Laos ("White Star") and then subsequently to Vietnam (MACVSOG) where they participated as members of a SOG Recon Team. Today many of the survivors are currently members of the SOA as evidenced by the SOA participants in this particular memorial dedication ceremony.

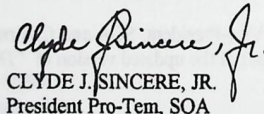
**QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

"The Society that draws a line between its fighting men and its thinking men will find its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards".

Sir William Francis Butler.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

  
CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President Pro-Tem, SOA

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT ALEXIS McCLURE  
by Alfred H. Paddock, Jr.

After having spent most of his career in a variety of infantry and service-school assignments, Lieutenant Colonel McClure reported to London in mid-1941, to serve as the assistant military attaché. In swift succession, he earned promotions to colonel and brigadier general, and became the military attaché to the American Embassy.

Beginning in late 1942, however, McClure entered a new and different field as General Eisenhower's chief of psychological warfare for the Allied military campaigns in North Africa, Italy, and Europe. During this period, McClure also worked closely with William J. Donovan's Office of Strategic Services, or OSS--indeed, one of McClure's four deputies was from the OSS.

After V-E Day, McClure's Psychological Warfare Division, or PWD\SHAEF, changed names, became the Information Control Division, or ICD, and took on a new role as a key player in the reorientation and de-Nazification of Germany. ICD thus became an integral part of the US military government (or Civil Affairs) in the US portion of occupied Germany. In the summer of 1948, the Army moved McClure to a similar assignment in the US. As chief of the New York field office of the Army's Civil Affairs Division, McClure supported US reorientation and re-education efforts in the occupied countries of Germany, Austria, Japan, and Korea.

During this and other assignments in the early Cold War era, McClure urged high-ranking military and civilian leaders to rebuild the military psychological warfare capability that essentially had been dissipated during the general demobilization following World War II. It was not until the North Korean invasion of South Korea in June 1950, however, that his efforts bore fruit. Called to the Pentagon quickly, McClure first established a psychological warfare division in the G3, and then, in January 1951, made it a special staff office that reported directly to the Army chief of staff.

As the first head of the Office of the Chief of Psychological Warfare, or OCPW, McClure started with a staff of only five men, but his organization eventually grew to more than 100. Because of his association with Donovan's OSS during World War II, McClure appreciated the potential of unconventional warfare, so he lobbied for, and received, staff proponentcy for UW as well. To carry out his broad responsibilities, McClure directed the establishment of psychological warfare units for deployment to Korea and to Europe, and recruited personnel with behind-the-lines experience in World War II to develop plans for the creation of the Army's first formal UW capability: Special Forces. Two officers who played key roles in developing the plans for the creation of Special Forces were Colonel Aaron Bank and Lieutenant Colonel Russell Volckmann.

McClure assumed a leading role in "selling" the need for an unconventional warfare capability to the senior military and civilian leadership. In the face of fierce resistance, not only from within the Army but also from the CIA, Special Forces became a reality in May 1952 largely through the persistence of McClure, and through the vigorous efforts of Bank and Volckmann.

One other part of McClure's vision remained--centralizing the functions of what he called, "the whole field of OCPW." McClure encountered considerable resistance to this idea, but he was able to convince the Army chief of staff, General J. Lawton Collins, that a central organization was necessary for consolidating the training activities of psychological warfare and Special Forces. Accordingly, in May 1952 the Army also announced the activation of the Psychological Warfare Center at Fort Bragg, NC. As originally established, the Psychological Warfare Center consisted of the Psychological Warfare School, the 6th Radio Broadcasting and Leaflet Group, a psychological warfare board, and the 10th Special Forces Group. The School had two instructional divisions--one for psychological warfare, the other for Special Forces.

McClure selected Bank from his OCPW staff to command the 10th Special Forces Group. Bank's "command" in June 1952 consisted of seven enlisted men and one warrant officer--a rather inauspicious beginning. But by April 1953, with the assistance of vigorous OCPW recruiting efforts, the 10th had increased to 1,700 personnel.

Essentially, the 10th Special Forces Group represented a pool of trained manpower from which units or combinations of units could be drawn to execute specific unconventional warfare missions. The heart of the group was its operational detachment, or "team," which was established along the same lines as the OSS Operational Group. Commanded by a captain, the team, with a first lieutenant executive officer, and 13 NCOs, trained to infiltrate behind enemy lines to organize and direct resistance forces in guerrilla warfare. Early training focused on the individual skills of the team members: operations and intelligence, light and heavy weapons, demolitions, radio communications, and medical. Each man trained thoroughly in his specialty, then learned the rudiments of the other team skills.

In 1953, the Army assigned McClure to Iran as chief of the US Military Mission. After promotion to major general, he retired in 1956 after almost 40 years of active service. He died of a heart attack on January 1, 1957, two months prior to his 60th birthday.

Robert A. McClure's position as the founder of Army special warfare seems indisputable. He made vital contributions to Civil Affairs, to psychological warfare, and to the creation of Special Forces. But his most important legacy may have been establishment of the Psychological Warfare Center. From its humble beginning, that institution grew, becoming the Special Warfare Center in 1956, and later evolved into the US Army Special Operations Command and the US Army Special Warfare Center and School. Yet, 43 years after his death, his role still has gone largely unrecognized. Robert A. McClure remains the forgotten father of US Army Special Warfare.

Note: This is a revised and condensed version of the author's article in the fall 1999 issue of Special Warfare, "Robert Alexis McClure: Forgotten Father of Army Special Warfare."



HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. ARMY JOHN F. KENNEDY SPECIAL WARFARE CENTER AND SCHOOL  
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28310-5000  
FEBRUARY 2, 2000

Dear Mr. <sup>Clyde</sup> Sincere:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Special Operations Association. The United States Army Special Operations Command has taken the lead in the determination and execution of an appropriate memorialization for the late Major General Robert McClure. As you have stated, General McClure's contributions to the Special Operations community were significant, and will be properly and respectfully represented.

The United States Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School will continue to assist in any manner possible. The soldiers and civilians of this command thank you for your service to our community and wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Bowra  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Commanding Officer

Mr. Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.  
11722 Lariat Lane  
Oakton, Virginia 22124-2323

*"The Green Beret.....a symbol of excellence.....a badge of courage.....a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom." President John F. Kennedy (April 1961)*

12 February 2000

Dear Friends:

On 13 March 2000, David "Bulldog" Smith, Bob Donoghue, Charles Berg, Dennis Thompson, (POW 61 Months from Lang Vie) and Jim Hetrick will be returning as representatives of Cedar Point Foundation to the Khe Sanh area of Vietnam.

Cedar Point Foundation (CPF) was established for the funding and provision of medical, educational and other humanitarian assistance to the Bru montagnard tribesmen of Vietnam.

Our objectives are to provide: medical assistance, agricultural aid and improvements on educational facilities and opportunities to improve their quality of life.

The Cedar Point Foundation had its beginnings in 1992 when Bob Donoghue first visited with friends in the Huong Hoa District, Quang Tri Province. During his visit he saw opportunities where we could improve the Bru quality of life by helping with water wells, improving farming efficiency, and providing additional educational opportunities. On subsequent visits opportunities to improve pre-natal care and general health were identified.

Cedar Point Foundation averages approximately \$5000 - \$10,000 USD's per year in donations. All monies received are for exclusive expenditure in Vietnam. These monies have been expended on past trips for medicine, doctors, construction of wells, purchase of livestock and hybrid seeds for farming.

Cedar Point Foundation continues to provide the Bru with assistance as we have in the past; improving water production, increasing farming efficiency, expanding educational programs and continuing to work with the Huong Hoa Health Center.

### **NO DONATED MONEY IS SUPPORTING THE MEMBERS TRAVEL OR EXPENSE DURING THE TRIPS**

All money collected directly funds projects to assist the Bru Montagnard Tribe of Quang Tri Province.

Our goal this trip is as follows:

- + Purchase another 4 hectares of coffee tree seedlings = \$1,000 USD
- + Purchase student desks, chairs, and school supplies for the school in Thon Cheng (Bru) = \$350 USD
- + Repair individual roofs / houses in Thon Cheng @ = \$1,000 USD (each)
- + Purchase additional individual cows @ = \$200 USD (each)
- + Purchase stethoscopes and blood pressure cuffs for the mobile medical teams @ = \$50 USD.
- + A microscopes (including all the slides and associated equipment) for \$500 USD.
- We plan to fund ten kits and one microscope this year for a total of \$1,000 USD.

Even though the US Government literally abandoned these brave little people they never forgot us and we cannot forget them. We have no desire to relocate any of these people to the US, we just want to help ease some of their suffering that they shared with us.

Everyone who makes a donation will receive a trip report along with complete accounting for funds.

Tax deductible donations can be made out to Cedar Point Foundation and mailed to:

**Bob Donoghue, 100 Westbanks Court, Springfield, MA 01118-1867**



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**SOAR XXIV**

**27 September – 01 October 2000**

**FRANKLIN DOUGLAS MILLER, SOA # 968-GL**

**MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT**



**27 January 1945 – 30 June 2000**

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.



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

### **NOTICE TO SOA 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 with the exception of the actual SOAR XXIV AAR. Advertisements for products or services do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Special Operations Association.”**

### **A TRUISM FOR TODAY**

**“In this sad world of ours, sorrow comes to all, and often comes with bitter agony, Perfect relief is not possible, except with time. You cannot now believe that you will ever feel better. But, this is not true. You are sure to be happy again. Knowing this, truly believing it, will make you less miserable now. I have had enough experience to make this statement” .....**

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN**



## OBITUARY

### FRANKLIN DOUGLAS MILLER, SOA # 968-GL – MEDAL OF HONOR

It is with deep regret that the SOA announces to its membership that the following SOA member, a great American hero, a comrade-in-arms and Medal of Honor recipient has passed away as a result of pancreatic cancer. **FRANKLIN "DOUG" MILLER**, 55 years of age passed away at the Bay Pines VA Hospital in Florida on Friday morning at 0900 hours, 30 June 2000. "Doug" was born on 27 January 1945 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. He was raised in the mountains of New Mexico. He is survived by a brother Walter, currently living in Alaska; one (1) son, Joshua, age 18; two (2) daughters, Danielle, age 16 and Melia, age 12 and his former wife Nancy, who resides with Melia in Hawaii. Prior to his death, "Doug" stated that following his funeral service he wanted to be cremated and his ashes "scattered" by his son and daughter in New Mexico where he was raised. "Doug" deployed to Vietnam in March 1966 and returned to CONUS in November 1972. On 1 May 1970, "Doug" led a seven (7) man recon patrol into Laos. RT Vermont participated in what "Doug" referred to as the "Vietnamese Alamo" It was during that particular patrol that "Doug" earned his Medal of Honor. In addition to the MOH, he was awarded a Silver Star, two (2) Bronze Stars, six (6) Purple Hearts and an Air Medal. Following his retirement as a Command Sergeant Major in 1992 he moved to St. Pete Beach, Florida where he was employed as a Benefits Counselor by the VA until July 1999 when combat injuries flared up and forced him to retire. "Doug" had recently republished his memoirs, "Reflections of a Warrior" in order to raise funds for his three (3) children's future. "Doug" continually thought not of himself, but of his children and their future. The lesson "Doug" most liked to pass on to inexperienced troops was one he lived – "Share your fears with yourself and share your courage with others". He said, "You will inspire people to do things that are incredible, inspire them to do things beyond your wildest dreams". A memorial service was conducted at the Special Operations Memorial located in front of the United States Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida on Friday, 7 July 2000 at 0900 hours.

For the edification of the SOA Membership, Rod Nishimura reported that the turn-out at the Memorial was great. He further reiterated that Dick Ulrich, Chapter XL, SFA and SGM Bob Berry, USSOCOM and others orchestrated the Memorial outstandingly. As mentioned previously, "Doug" was concerned about the future of his children. In view of that concern, Chapter XL, SFA has established a "Franklin D. Miller Trust", P.O. Box 4088, Bay Pines, Florida 33744-4088 to assist the children in any way required. Donations can be dispatched in care of that trust. Anyone desiring additional info regarding the "Trust", please contact Colonel (Ret) Rod Nishimura at (813) 653-4554.

"May God watch over our Comrade-In-Arms, Franklin "Doug" (Coleslaw) Miller"



# **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

## **SOAR XXIV SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 27 SEPTEMBER - 01 OCTOBER 2000**

### **WEDNESDAY, 27 September 2000**

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

### **THURSDAY, 28 September 2000**

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1430 - 1700 - BOD Meeting

### **FRIDAY, 29 September 2000**

0730 - 1230 - Weapons Firing  
1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1230 - 1400 - Lunch - (Hosted by SOA)  
1330 - 1430 - POW/MIA Issues-Norm Doney  
1430 - 1630 - SOA MCR & Scholarship Briefing -  
C. Berg/J. Butler  
1630 - 1730 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited -  
B. Donoghue/D. Smith/C. Berg /  
J. Hetrick

### **SATURDAY, 30 September 2000**

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite  
0900 - 1000 - Late Registration  
0900 - 1200 - General Membership Meeting  
1230 - 1330 - Lunch - (Hosted by SOA)  
1330 - 1530 - PTSD Work Shop - Rob't Shippen  
1530 - 1615 - SOA Web Site - Bob Golden  
1800 - 1900 - Cocktails - (Hosted by SOA)  
1900 - 1915 - Posting of Colors  
1915 - 1920 - Toasts  
1920 - 1925 - Introduction of VIP's/Guests  
1925 - 1930 - Introduction of the New SOA  
Board of Officers and Directors for  
2001-2002  
1930 - 2100 - Banquet Dinner  
2100 - 2110 - Outgoing President Pro Tem,  
SOA Remarks  
2110 - 2125 - Retirement of Colors  
2125 - 2145 - Break  
2145 - 2245 - SOA Raffle  
2245 - 0200 - Hospitality Suite

### **SUNDAY, 01 October 2000**

0800 - 1200 - Hospitality Suite  
NLT 1200 - HOSPITALITY SUITE  
IS CLOSED  
NLT 1200 - Hotel Check Out

Revised: 7 June '00.



5130 Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

## In-Coming President's Message

Dear Fellow S.O.A. Member:

Happy New Year and I wish each and every one of you health, happiness, prosperity, and kinship.

I also want to thank those members who sent the cards, letters, emails, and made the phone calls voicing your support for my being elected President. It helped.

As your new President I want to share my ideas on how I would like to see the S.O.A. Officers and Board of Directors proceed with the direction of our wonderful Association.

- To continue to perpetuate the ideals of the Special Operations Association.
- To remain true to the original two fold charter:
  - Camaraderie
  - Scholarships for our children
- To review and suggest revisions to our bylaws.
- To address a committee change with reference to our POW-MIA's.
- To appoint a new member to handle memorabilia sales.
- To arrange for an audit of our financial position.
- To consolidate our financial holdings into one endowment fund with a bank as trustee and use all earnings for scholarships. An operational fund will be set up separately for expenses.
- To expand our scholarship program to include not only 4 year degrees, but also 2 year Associate degrees, Vocational educational programs, Graduate school and any educational institution which will help our Children, Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, etc...Remember...perpetuate.
- To provide a scholarship form to those children, along with the scholarship check which can be filled out quite easily by putting a checkmark in the appropriate box and mailing it back either by quarter, semester, or course. That will provide a complete database on achievement.
- To increase our membership by opening it to those who supported or participated in Special Operations Missions, whether then, now, or tomorrow, however, always applying our prerequisites for membership.
- To have a qualified member appointed to monitor Roberts Rules at our SOA Convention.
- To bring exposure to the S.O.A. through the news media, Veteran's organizations, our Military of today, and the "Bamboo Telegraph".



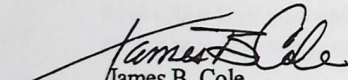
- To improve on the image of the S.O.A. with new 4-color stationery.
- To ensure we all have a great time at SOAR XXV and make it a Special occasion.
- To realize that as we grow the Association, there will be issues to resolve, new issues to discuss and problems to address, however, always remembering we are the best at getting that done.

I appreciate your confidence in my ability, your support, the overwhelming offers to assist me in anyway possible and believe me, I will be calling on some of you.

It's time to go to work. Have faith in your B.O.D. and Officers and know that while we are working for you, we are on the same level. We set up the Committees; you volunteer to staff them. We make the recommendations to enhance the S.O.A.; you vote on them. We will give you options of direction...you choose. It's your association.

And last but not least, thanks to Jim Butler for 1977. He started an association that will live on and I am proud to be a part of it and even prouder that I have been entrusted with the Presidency. I will stay in touch and stay on course...period. Remember...keep it simple.

All the Best,

  
James B. Cole  
President, #794 GL



## Out-Going President Pro-Tem's Message

I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the folks that I had the pleasure of working with this past year as your President Pro-Tem, SOA.

The entire SOA should be appreciative of the fact that a small group of your fellow contemporaries had the courage, integrity, values and yes, superb energies to work for the common good of the Association. So very much was accomplished under extremely trying times.

I am pleased to announce to you that a complete and rather unique system of "checks and balances" are in place and fully operational as they relate to the overall administrative, financial, scholarship and memorabilia sales aspects of your Association.

First of all, it is important to recognize that the Association has grown considerably over the years since that first Reunion in December 1977. With this continued growth came the inherent responsibility of the various Board of Officers, Directors and Special Staff to recognize that in governing, leadership had the moral obligation to do so in an honest and forthright manner. I'm not at all convinced that at all times over the years this sense of morale obligation was obtaining.

For the edification of the entire membership, I'd like to especially thank the following members for their efforts on your behalf in taking their obligations and responsibilities very seriously:

Jim Hetrick: Vice-President, SOA and Chairman, SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee. Jim volunteered at my request to assume the responsibility for the Special Operations Association Memorabilia Sales Committee (SOAMS) and its myriad of sales functions. He totally revamped and reorganized all aspects of its daily operations. He believed strongly that in order for SOAMS to be more responsive to the membership – he would be required to concentrate the bulk of his energies on philosophy, procurement, accounting, inventory and pricing. This he has accomplished in a very exemplary and professional manner. I personally could not be more pleased as to the total results his efforts have produced over the past year, nor should you. As an another example, I cannot count the number of "thank you" and appreciative comments that were proffered to me by the members at SOAR XXIV upon receipt of their SOA "Members Only" jacket. I can honestly say this – all the laudatory comments in the world belonged to Jim Hetrick - Jim expended tons of hours in the process looking at many vendors and types of various jackets in order to arrive at a recommendation to the SOA Board for a satisfactory reunion registration gift. I am also pleased to announce that he has made an outstanding recommendation that was subsequently approved by the SOA Board for presentation to SOA members attending SOAR XXV.



**John McClaskey:** Treasurer, SOA and SOA Senior Representative to the Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board of Officers, MacDill AFB, Florida. John was most successful in establishing a truly responsible financial accounting system for the SOA. It must be mentioned that John is an owner of a Tax Accounting Firm in Michigan and his background certainly was instrumental in providing an expertise most urgently required by the SOA to ensure its future financial practices were developed in a fiscally sound manner. His total automation of the financial network of the SOA has established a premier system that permits an immediate and responsive summary for the Board to evaluate the current fiscal viability of the SOA. He worked extremely close in concert with Charles Berg, Jim Hetrick and Jim Butler as it related to the development of the various financial systems that would assist in the management and expenditure of funds necessary and required to support all of the various activities of the SOA, in particular, SOAMS and George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program. I am quite confident that the fiscal system established by John will prove invaluable to "Rick" Grabianowski as he assumes the Treasurer responsibilities as a member of the newly elected SOA Board for the term commencing 1 January 2001 through 31 December 2002.

**David "Bulldog" Smith:** Administrator, SOA. "Bulldog" was just that. He provided a "bulldoggish" attitude in ensuring that the duties of the Administrator, SOA were accomplished in a timely manner. I personally looked to "Bulldog" to assist me in "getting the word out" to the membership – one way or another. If I have one character flaw or attribute, (dependent on your particular point of view) is that I have a tendency to "over inform". I also believe that "bad news does not get better with age". By acting in that manner, some may have thought I was "bugging them". "Bulldog" was there to insure that I always tempered those particular traits with good judgement ..., and I thank him for that.

Roy Bahr, Don Benjamin and "Rip" Van Winkle were the "conscience" of the SOA Board. These super volunteers were initially reluctant to serve as Directors when approached to do so. However, when apprised that their service was more than just required, but imperative to ensure the future viability of the SOA, they agreed to serve with the caveat that they be permitted to "call it as they saw fit". This they accomplished in an exemplary manner. The entire SOA membership owes them a heartfelt "thank you" for the diligence they exerted in searching for the truth. As I initially stated – they were the "conscience" of the SOA Board and they came aboard serving in the role of a Director somewhat as "skeptics" if for no other reason than to assure themselves that the direction the SOA Board had taken was based on a recognized deficiency in the system that required "fixing". They can rest assured that their successors on the new SOA Board will benefit from their "modus operandi".



Charles Berg also served the SOA. He did so in various capacities and in a most exemplary manner. Charles has one fault – possibly two. He was honest, but, had a tendency to be caustic. He attributed this latter trait to the fact that he was an old NCO that just “said it as it was”. I spent hours, no days, months, attempting to educate him to the fact that in the society that we live in today that more can be accomplished with “honey than with vinegar”. Needless to say, I failed to convert him to my way of thinking. However, what Charles has accomplished for the SOA over a three (3) year period, commencing when he was the Vice-President, SOA during the period 1997-'98 to a number of assigned staff assignments during the period '99-'00 cannot be overstated, regardless of how you may feel personally about him. To enumerate just a few of the important accomplishments he under-took either as an individual staff officer, member of a Committee or as the “Chair-person” of a Committee that served the SOA in good stead for the future were:

- 1 – Prepared the SOA Management Control Review, (MCR).
- 2 – Conducted an analysis of the SOA's obligations and responsibilities as it related to the SOA's Internal Revenue Code Exemption under 501 © (19).
- 3 – Conducted an analysis of SOA Membership Qualifications, past, present and future.
- 4 – Assisted in coordinating the administration of the “Frenchy” Amundson Estate with Larry Kimmel, the Executor of the Estate as it related to that which dealt with the SOA and SFA .
- 5 – Assisted in the administration of funds collected in concert with Chapter LXXV, SFA, John “Tilt” Meyer, Bill Sylvester and others as they related to Jeff Junkins, SOA # 461-GA and his mother's interment in the San Diego area.
- 6 – Assisted in the administration of funds collected in concert with John “Tilt” Meyer, SOA # 492-GA, Bob Coates, SOA # 1156-GL and the USMC First Force Recon at Camp Pendleton, as it related to humanitarian efforts in support of the families of the recon marines lost in a tragic air-sea accident off the coast of California in December 1999.
- 7 – Provided the SOA Board with a basic set of procedures necessary to conduct business as an organization utilizing “Roberts Rules of Order, the SOA By-Laws and certain aspects of the Texas Administrative Code that the SOA is required to operate under its Articles of Incorporation with the State of Texas.
- 8 – Finally, when I was approached by member attendees requesting consideration of a “No Smoking Area” at SOAR for those individuals that definitely suffered from the effects of “smoking”, I dispatched a message to the SOA BOD requesting input to address this problem. When it was determined that the Plaza Hotel itself could not guarantee “No Smoking Areas”, Charles took it upon himself to purchase four (4) “Smoke-Eater” machines and donate them to the SOA in order that the quality of air would be improved for those non-smokers attending a reunion. They worked outstandingly and a number of folks stated that they will return to future reunions because they believe they can attend SOAR and still enjoy a smoke-free area to relax.



I can assure the entire membership of the SOA – all of the endeavors undertaken by Charles Berg were accomplished by request, with the exception of his purchase of the “Smoke-Eater” machines all required an enormous amount of time. I would hope that many of you are or were willing to “step up to the plate” and accomplish as much for your fellow members. I know many of you do. Remember also that Charles is like a lot of you - not “retired” as Roy Bahr, Don Benjamin or others like myself. He has a job requiring him to support his family.

**Jim Butler:** Jim reassumed the “Chair” of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Program in late 1998 and following an evaluation of past practices, immediately proceeded in concert with his Committee to insure that the program criteria be administered as humanly and honestly “objective” as possible. Additionally, all program recipients be stringently required to meet the basic criteria standards as initially established upon the programs inception in 1983. This has all been accomplished. All Committee members have full access to all applicant information and all Committee members have an equal say in the final selection and recommendations based upon a majority vote that reflects their consensus as to whom the Committee recommends (to the SOA Board) be a recipient of a SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant awarded IMO a Special Operations individual KIA/MIA. For your added information, the Committee receives from the SOA Board, based upon guidance and input from the Treasurer, SOA to the SOA Board, the maximum number of “grants” the SOA will fund for the next award period. Be advised, not every applicant will receive a SOA “grant”. A SOA “grant” will remain a coveted award that those selected to be a recipient will deserve and always treasure.

**Ray Chambers:** In my opinion each succeeding Chairman, SOA Membership Committee has over the years immeasurably enhanced the overall process in some fashion by which potential applicants were and are evaluated for membership in the SOA. I have worked in concert with Ben Lyons, Steve Wilson, Clay Scott, Bill Shelton and now Ray over these past 21 years. Each “Chair” provided a methodology of selection in concert with his committee members (albeit in the beginning there may or may not have existed any committee members) based upon the assets, information and technology available to them and their committee members at that particular juncture of their tenure. Needless to say, the initial years of the organization also did not require the high-tech of today – basically, just – “do you remember this guy”, or, do you recall who he was with when he crossed the fence”? Today when one considers the various war periods the Membership Committee takes into consideration, basically, (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, (1964 to 1972), plus subsequent intervening wars/conflicts involving Special Operations) it is quite apparent that without the advent of computers and the ability to correspond immediately with committee members to ascertain the validity of an applicant, the



process would be "doomed to fail" – especially in this age of "Wannabees". Ray has established a large and wide-network of assets that is working smoothly and efficiently.

Harry Claflin, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee. I can't say enough for the energies that are and were quite apparent in Harry's quest to insure a successful reunion. I recall approaching him on Wednesday, 29 September 1999 at SOAR XXIII and requesting he coordinate the remainder of SOAR XXIII activities. He "took the bull by the horn" and has not let go of the bull yet. Look at the results of his coordination relating to SOAR XXIV activities. In concert with Ms. Linda Hartman, Manager, Plaza Hotel Catering services he has improved all facets of services and activities relating to the reunion. Harry has advised me that he has some additional outstanding ideas he plans on implementing at SOAR XXV. He is blessed with an outstanding group of volunteers that make-up his Reunion Committee. This team, and I mean it when I refer to it as a "team" are superb. They were proactive as it regards establishing "No Smoking Areas"; improving quality and quantity of snacks; establishing a new and better memorabilia sales area and probably, based on a number of comments, the advent of four (4) entrees available to the attendees during the conduct of the SOAR Banquet itself could not have been better received by the membership. Now if we can just get the coordination between the M/C (me) and the Waitresses better orchestrated, maybe, just maybe, everyone will get to secure their meal in a more timely manner.

Bill Lueders. Bill as Chairman, SOA Tally Committee has been "rock steady" over the years in his vital and important role. He continues to provide quiet leadership with a full and factual accounting of all results provided him by the membership through the voting process.

Norm Doney. Year after year, Norm has on his own provided an important service to the SOA membership by keeping the membership apprised of the status of all of our countries POW/MIA's, especially those that were involved in Special Operations. Recently Norm has requested that he be permitted to step aside in order to pursue some personal goals. If you are interested in filling Norm's role in this important function, you are requested to immediately notify Jim Cole, your new President, SOA. I know the tremendous energies Norm has expended over his many years searching for the truth that has continually eluded all of us. I for one do not envy his frustrations.

Robert Noe. Robert is a newest member addition to the SOA Special Staff. He has taken on the extremely tough task as the SOA POC to the Roy Benavidez Memorial Foundation. A statue honoring Roy Benavidez for his bravery and courage in combat that led to his being the recipient of the Medal of Honor while a member of SOG will be erected in his hometown in Texas. Robert is the SOA's "eyes and ears" on that local committee to ensure that the statue reflecting our deceased SOA comrade-in-arms is properly and honorably established.



Bob Golden: Bob is the cyber-space expert of the SOA. Bob established, coordinates and oversees the operation of the SOA Web Site for the benefit of all of us. He provides a service that is essential in today's society. All he requests, no, demands, is that we follow the simple rules and regulations provided for the efficiency of the site in order that it will continue to function as a professional information medium. I believe we can do that. Right?

Folks, I was fortunate to be surrounded by good people and all of the named individuals fall into that unique category. Really, that is the secret of success. I also wish I could call to your attention the many, many members of their individual committees, that without all or any of them, forget the idea of a successful SOAR or SOA. I will mention, at least a few of the names of others, mostly behind the scenes that I observed that also contributed enormously to the success of the SOA during these past two (2) year. I'm speaking of Billy Waugh, Al Keller, Cliff Newman, Bill Garcia, John Fryer, Jerry Ginder, Pat Hephner, Laf Keaton, Dick Simpkins, Scot Lyon, Jack Isler, Steve Goth and Ray Whittington. There are more, but, CRS sets in and I just plain forget. I don't mean to and if I have forgotten someone who knows they worked as hard as anyone else, please excuse my forgetfulness. I can speak from personal knowledge that over these past 21+ years that I have worked in one capacity or another on the SOA Board that it requires dedicated people with the desire to succeed that insures the viability of any organization. It was my distinct pleasure to be a part of and acquainted with an outstanding group of dedicated members. I thank them and you for giving me the opportunity to serve you and the SOA. FYI, I will not be a candidate for any future office on the SOA Board. However, I will do what is necessary or requested, to support the new SOA Board and it's President, Jim Cole. I request each of you do so also.

Finally, I am extremely pleased and not disappointed in the least to see the years 1999 and 2000 go "by the boards". I look with pleasure to the new Millennium. What had been a "Labor of Love" over many, many years turned out to be truly an "Obligation" for me in 1999 and 2000. What was accomplished in order to ensure the continued viability of the SOA as an organization could not have occurred without the assistance of the entire 2000 SOA Board. For myself I hope a situation such as that which occurred and nearly caused a serious rift in the Association, never occurs in the future. For if that were to happen it would only place in jeopardy this unique and outstanding organization. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving and God Bless the entire SOA.

CJS/cjs

Respectfully,

CLYDE J. SINCERE, JR.  
President Pro-Tem, SOA



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES OF THE**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**SATURDAY, 0900 HOURS, 30 SEPTEMBER 2000**

**I. Call to Order:**

President Pro-Tem, SOA

The Special Operations Association General Membership Meeting was called to order by Clyde J. Sincere, Jr., at 0900 hours, Saturday, 30 September 2000 at the Plaza Hotel/Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Mr. Jerry Ginder, SOA Sergeant-At-Arms, led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Moment of Silence for Fallen and Absent Comrades:**

A. Mr. Sincere requested that the membership remain standing for a moment of silence for our fallen and absent comrades.

B. Mr. Sincere reported to the membership that one additional member had passed away since the publication and distribution of the SOAR XXIV Pre-Reunion Packet (SOAR XXIV PRP):

Robert McKnight, SOA # 623-GA – 24 September 2000

C. Also, Mr. Sincere reported to the membership that 13 SOA members had passed away since SOAR XXIII:

Thomas Gipson, SOA # 628-GA	30 September 1999
William G. Wolf, SOA # 959-GA	08 October 1999
Michael O'Connor, SOA # 624-GA	29 December 1999
Michael J. Freeman, SOA # 1359-GA	14 February 2000
Nie Kpa Wick, SOA # 835-HL	03 March 2000
Nguyen, Rinh Huong, SOA # 1363-GA	24 March 2000
Louis Ulunahale Austria, SOA # 1424-GA	28 March 2000
Lawrence R. Trapp, SOA # 017-GL	22 April 2000
Ivan Bomark, SOA # 1284-GL	25 April 2000
M.P. Hubbard, SOA # 1102-GL	16 June 2000
Franklin "Doug" Miller, SOA # 968-GL	30 June 2000
Khomer Beaty, SOA # 1576-GA	27 July 2000
Richard A. Tappen, SOA # 1388-HL	01 August 2000



#### IV. Roll Call:

President Pro-Tem, SOA

A. Mr. Sincere informed the membership that in accordance with the SOA By-Laws and Constitution, that for the purposes of this meeting, under "Roberts Rules of Order", the membership present, constituted a quorum for any business purposes.

B. The following named SOA Officers and Directors were present:

Clyde J. Sincere, Jr.	President Pro-Tem
James F. Hetrick	Vice-President
John R. McClaskey	Treasurer
David C. Smith	Administrator
Roy W. Bahr	Director
Donald C. Benjamin	Director
Harlan "Rip" Van Winkle	Director

C. The following named Special Staff Members were present:

Charles L. Berg – Chairman, SOA Qualifications Study Group.  
James E. Butler – Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial  
Scholarship Grant Program Committee.  
Ray Chambers – Chairman, SOA Membership Committee.  
Harry L. Claflin – Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee.  
Norman Doney – SOA POW/MIA Affairs.  
Robert Golden – SOA Web Master.  
William Lueders – Chairman, SOA Tally Committee.  
Robert Noe – Chairman, SOA Roy Benavidez Memorial Committee.

#### V. Business Meeting:

President Pro-Tem

##### A. Unfinished Business:

1. Minutes of the SOAR XXIII General Membership Meeting  
held on Saturday, 2 October 1999 at 1000 hours. Administrator

a. Mr. Smith informed the members present that the minutes of the 2 October 1999 General Membership Meeting were included in the SOAR XXIII AAR. All members having been provided a copy via mail prior to this meeting. A motion was requested that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and that they be approved as provided.

b. Mr. George "Moe" Blakey requested that he be recognized prior to any motion on subject meeting minutes. He stated that a review of his notes taken at that meeting reflected that the following agenda items, discussed and



approved by the SOA membership during the conduct of the SOAR XXIII General Membership Meeting were not included in the AAR. He further requested that the SOAR XXIII General Membership Meeting Minutes be amended to include the agenda items that had somehow been overlooked. They were:

**(1) Rolande "Frenchy" Amundson's Estate: Jim Butler**

Mr. Butler reported to the membership that it was anticipated that "Frenchy's estate would provide at least \$50,000 each, to the SOA and SFA.

**NOTE:** Refer back to the SOAR XXIV Pre-Reunion Packet. (Page 24). Subject: Rolande "Frenchy" Amundson Estate: Subject article reflected that the SOA was in receipt of a check in the amount of \$30,000 and that this check represented the initial payment from the estate of "Frenchy" and that the SOA could anticipate in the near future approximately another \$20,000 following the Executor of her Estate, (Larry Kimmel, SOA # 014-GL) finalizing all actions required by the State of California regarding her Estate.

**(2) SOA Management Control Review:**

Mr. Blakey stated that a SOA member had made the motion that copies of the SOA MCR be made available to the SOA Membership at reproduction cost. He further reiterated the fact that the motion was seconded and approved by the membership in attendance.

**NOTE:** IAW the provisions of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) the SOA was obligated to provide the MCR at reproduction cost to any SOA member when requested in writing. Initially only two SOA members elected to take advantage of this provision – they were Lee Hector, SOA # 620-GL and Robert Masterjoseph, SOA # 051-GL. Subsequently, Tommy Daniels, SOA # 584-GL also requested a copy.

**(3) SOA Deceased Members Memorial Plaque: "Moe" Blakey**

(a) Mr. Blakey stated that he had offered a motion that a \$100 "engraving" be donated to the Special Operations Memorial at MacDill AFB, Florida IMO each SOA member that had passed away since the SOA was formed until the present. Additionally, he requested that the unit to which they were assigned to in a special operations capacity be included on the memorial "engraving".



(b) Mr. Blakey further stated in his motion that in the event an "engraving" was already in place for a past deceased SOA member, that those monies designated for that individual be designated for a future deceased SOA member.

(c) Mr. Blakey stated that this motion had been previously discussed, seconded and approved by the membership.

**NOTE:** In reviewing the tapes of the SOAR XXIII General Membership meeting and researching all of the notes that are on hand, no mention of this subject agenda item was found. That does not necessarily mean it did not come up – there just isn't any evidence to support his motion. In order to correct any misunderstanding relating to this agenda item, it will be placed on the SOA Board of Directors Mid-Year Planning and Coordination Agenda for the new SOA Board to consider and will be brought to the attention of the General Membership at the SOAR XXV General Membership Meeting.

c. Subsequently, Mr. Blakey made the motion that the SOAR XXIII General Membership Meeting Minutes be amended and that the meeting minutes be approved as changed. Motion made, seconded and approved.

## 2. Treasurer's Report:

### Treasurer

a. Mr. McClaskey reported to the membership that the financial health of the SOA was in the best shape it had ever been in. As reported to the membership in past years, the SOA is fully financially capable of meeting all of its operational expenses and Scholarship commitments. Currently, (through 15 September 2000), the SOA had assets in excess of \$237,876.73 and liabilities of approximately \$116,500.00. (This includes \$86,500 in Scholarship Grants payable through the year 2003 and an estimated \$30,000.00 in SOAR XXIV expenses that will be paid at the end of SOAR XXIV). Uncommitted SOA assets amount to approximately \$121,376.00. (These figures do not include any monies collected at SOAR XXIV).

b. Mr. McClaskey advised the membership that Mr. Bobby Evans, SOA # 659-GL, a retired U.S. Army Audit Agency Auditor had recently completed an audit of the general purpose financial records of the SOA for 1999 and included a review of the SOA Internal Financial Controls. A copy of his audit report will be included in the SOAR XXIV AAR.

c. Mr. McClaskey further advised the membership that a copy of the SOA Year-end Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of 30 November 2000 depicting current and more specific financial information will also be included in the SOAR XXIV AAR.



d. A motion was made and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as provided, subject to audit. Motion approved.

3. The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee

Report:

Thomas Marzullo

a. Mr. Marzullo, a member of the George C. Morton Memorial Committee reported to the membership that Mr. Butler, Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee was ill and that he would present the Scholarship Committee report in his stead. He stated that the Committee had received prior approval from the SOA Board to select the five or six best candidates from all of the scholarship applications received to be a recipient of a SOA scholarship grant. He further advised the membership that for the Fall 2000 college commencement, the SOA had awarded six young men and women a coveted SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant, specifically IMO a number of Special Operations personnel either Killed-In-Action (KIA) or Missing-In-Action (MIA) during the Vietnam Conflict. He also provided the membership with a brief scholastic background on each recipient. The SOA is pleased to extend its congratulations to each of these young men and women on their scholarship award.

b. The six recipients were:

(1) Matthew Ashley: Matt's scholarship grant is for four years and named IMO Sergeant First Class Delmar Lee Laws, SF, "One-One" and Specialist Fourth Class Don R. Sain, SF, "One-Two", both KIA on 29 July 1966.

(2) Christopher DeBolt: Chris' scholarship grant is for four years and named IMO Staff Sergeant Ronald T. Terry, MACVSOG, OP-35, KIA on 29 January 1966.

(3) Megan Ann Harris: Megan's scholarship grant is for four years and named IMO Lieutenant Colonel Gene McElroy, USAF, Captain David Homer, USAF and Captain John Tipton, USAF, all declared MIA on 15 March 1966 while in support of Special Operations activities.

(4) Camilla Johnson: Camilla's scholarship grant is for four years and named IMO Captain James Gates, USAF and Captain John LaFayette, USAF, both declared MIA on 6 April 1966 while in support of Special Operations activities.

(5) Faith Meyer: Faith's scholarship grant is for four years and named IMO Captain Edwin J. MacNamara, SF "One-Zero", Master Sergeant Ralph J. Reno, SF "One-One" and Staff Sergeant Donald J. Fawcett, SF "One-Two", all KIA on 3 July 1966.

(6) Steven Yevich: Steve's scholarship grant is for three



years and named IMO Staff Sergeant Danny G. Taylor, SF "One-Two" KIA on 28 September 1966.

c. Mr. Marzullo further advised the membership that the committee had utilized a newly revised objective criterion in determining the final order of merit of applicants to be awarded a scholarship grant. A copy of the revised criterion is attached for the edification of the SOA membership.

d. The following SOA members constitute the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee:

James E. Butler, SOA # 001-GL - Chairman  
Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-GL  
Brendon "Ben" Lyons, SOA # 008-GL  
Thomas J. Marzullo, SOA # 1405-GA  
Travis W. Mills, SOA # 044-GL  
Herb Siugzda, SOA # 030-GL  
Billy Waugh, SOA # 005-GL  
Ed Wolcuff, SOA # 1208-GA

e. Mr. Marzullo further advised that Chairman Butler wished to express his thanks to Robert L. Noe, SOA # 1620-GA on behalf of his committee the outstanding assistance he has rendered as it relates to research on Special Operations personnel that have been declared either KIA or MIA.

f. A motion was made and seconded that the report of the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Committee be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.

### 3. The SOA Membership Committee Status Report: R. Chambers

a. Mr. Chambers reported to the membership that as of 30 September 2000, the Association had a cumulative total of 1768 members. A Comprehensive breakdown of the membership is as follows:

General Annual (GA) Members:	652	47.25%
General Life (GL) Members:	471	23.09%
Associate Annual (AA) Members:	73	4.78%
Associate Life (AL) Members:	60	3.26%
Honorary Life (HL) Members:	33	1.77%
Deceased Members:	121	4.63%
Expelled:	22	0.82%
Resigned:	12	0.64%
Lapsed Annual Members:	317	12.69%
Unassigned Numbers:	7	0.46%
Organizations:	8	-----



b. Mr. Chambers further advised the membership that over 100 new applications had been received and approved for membership status since SOAR XXIII.

c. Additionally, 27 applicants have been denied membership; two members are pending verification of their submitted applications and one Honorary Membership application (Dr. Peters) is pending. Dr. Peters' application for Honorary Membership will be submitted to the SOA Board during the next SOA Mid-Year Planning and Coordination Meeting for consideration.

d. Also, many members are aware that the widows of all deceased SOA members are invited to remain on the SOA rolls. They do not pay any dues, cannot vote on any issue or election, but, do receive all SOA correspondence and are encouraged to attend SOAR. As such they are carried on the rolls with a "WW" designation - reflecting "Warrior's Widow". The deceased total is inclusive of all "DD" and "WW" members.

e. The SOA Membership Committee consists of the following  
SOA members:

B. Ray Chambers, SOA # 627-GL	Chairman
Harry Claflin, SOA # 845-GL	USMC
Ray Dawson, SOA # 657-GL	USAF
Robert Gilstrap, SOA # 737-GA	USASF
John Korsbeck, SOA # 325-GA	Aviation
Curtis Williams, SOA # 909-GL	USN
Chieu Ngoc Lam, SOA # 947-GL	VN ST
Robert Golden, SOA # 1282-GL	Web Master

f. A motion was made and seconded that the SOA membership Report be accepted and approved as provided. Motion approved.

5. SOAR XXIV General Report: Harry Claflin

a. Mr. Claflin advised the membership that all SOAR XXIV Activities were progressing as programmed and that SOAR XXIV had already surpassed SOAR XXIII in attendance, closing in on 625.

b. Mr. Claflin stated that additional coordination with the appropriate SOA Board/Special Staff members and the hotel staff would continue as required to insure a successful reunion.



c. The 2000 SOA Reunion Committee members are as follows:

Harry Claflin, SOA # 845-GL                      Chairman  
Donald C. Benjamin, SOA # 899-GL  
Bill Garcia, SOA # 1052-GL  
Robert Golden, SOA # 1282-GL  
Pat Hephner, SOA # 1249-AL  
Al Newman, SOA # 952-AA

No Motion Required.

4. SOA Memorabilia Sales Committee Report: Jim Hetrick

a. Mr. Hetrick advised the membership that the SOAMS arena had undergone some major changes. The changes have been in philosophy, procurement, accounting, inventory and pricing.

(1) Philosophy: "The members come first". The entire operation is oriented toward this goal.

(2) Procurement: A policy implementation that will provide first quality merchandise at the best prices possible to the members.

(3) Accounting: Established an accounting system that enables the SOA Board to monitor all fiscal aspects of SOAMS, enabling the SOA Board to know exactly the specific true costs.

(4) Inventory: The SOA Board has approved an expanded inventory of first quality products to be made available to the membership.

(5) Pricing: The SOA Board has approved a formula for insuring that the membership receives desired items at the best price possible and at the same time permits a reasonable profit margin. The new pricing mechanism will be implemented with the SOAMS order form that will be dispatched to the membership in the SOAR XXIV AAR report.

b. New Items: At the direction of the SOA Board Mr. Hetrick contacted "Ties of Honor", a heraldry tie firm that has manufactured ties for almost every unit in the U.S. Armed Forces. They provided a number of samples of which have been shown to all members attending SOAR XXIV as they were picking up their SOA "Members Only" Jacket. Members were requested to select (vote) based on the samples provided as to which tie if made available through SOAMS as the one that they would most likely purchase. Based on the majority decision of the members in attendance, SOAMS will pursue the selected tie with "Ties of Honor". The tie will take approximately 60 to 90 days to procure and members will be advised when it is available.



c. SOA "Members Only" Jacket: The SOAR XXIV Registration Award for this reunion, the SOA "Members Only" jacket has been enthusiastically received. If any member did not receive his jacket it was due to the fact we ran out of a particular size. Be advised, the SOA will reorder and dispatch ASAP by mail a jacket to those SOAR XXIV members that did not receive one. Also, the SOA will maintain these same jackets in the SOAMS inventory for members to purchase if they so desire.

d. For your information, your SOA Board has, in effect acted as the SOAMS committee this past year. In doing so, the SOA Board has provided requisite "oversight" for the entire SOAMS operation. The system currently in place reflects a SOAMS Committee Chairman, acting in the capacity of Custodian, to oversee the physical conduct of the entire SOAMS operation. The Chairman, SOAMS is assisted by other (volunteers) committee members during the conduct of an actual SOAR. The Chairman, SOAMS makes recommendations to the SOA Board on all future items to be considered and approved for purchase. In turn the SOA Board approves or disapproves the particular item.

e. Mr. Hetrick stated that he appreciated the support, direction and oversight that the SOA Board rendered during the past year as he worked to establish this new SOAMS system.

f. Mr. Hetrick wished to recognize the superb efforts of the following individuals that assisted outstandingly during the SOAR XXIV Registration In-Processing as it related to the SOAMS arena, particularly as it regarded providing attendees with their SOA "Members Only" Jacket:

Steve Goth, SOA # 1489-GL  
Jim Howard, SOA # 1032-GL  
Bob Johnston, Sr., SOA # 422-AL  
Alan Keller, SOA # 1488-GL  
Laf Keaton, SOA # 1168-GL  
Robert Strange, SOA # 1304-GA  
"Rip" Van Winkle, SOA # 697-GL\*  
Mrs. Sharon Van Winkle\* - Thank You.

Note: "Rip" and Sharon Van Winkle dedicated almost their entire time at SOAR XXIV insuring that every member received a jacket that fit and in doing so also compiled the necessary data for later issue of a jacket for those that did not receive a jacket for one reason or another. Through their efforts, every single member who attended SOAR XXIV has or will receive a jacket. Additionally, they also facilitated the SOA Tie selection process and assisted SOAMS when they had a spare moment. Chairman Hetrick stated that he could not say or thank them enough for their dedication to the success of the SOAMS effort at SOAR XXIV. He wished to ensure that every member of the SOA was aware of and recognized their efforts on behalf



of the Association. It was that type of dedication that makes the SOA happen. Without the unselfish efforts of folks like "Rip" and Sharon, there wouldn't be a "Special Operations Association". On behalf of the entire SOA - Thank you "Rip" and Sharon.

g. Mr. Sincere requested a motion and second to Mr. Hetrick's SOAMS briefing. A motion was made, seconded and approved as provided.

**7. Any Other Unfinished Business:                      President Pro-Tem**

a. Mr. Tommy Daniels, SOA # 584-GL addressed the SOA membership in attendance and stated that he wished to make a number of motions. His first motion:

(1) Whereas: The actions of the SOA Board of Directors during the conduct of SOAR XXIII removed the duly elected President, SOA and Vice-President, SOA lacked fundamental fairness and due process;

(2) Whereas: said proceedings were not in compliance with Texas State statutes governing non-profit organizations, SOA By-Laws or Robert's Rules of Order;

(3) Therefore be it resolved that the SOA Board of Director's actions taken at SOAR XXIII removing Messrs Miller and Abraham are hereby rescinded and those gentlemen are hereby restored to their respective, duly elected offices.

b. Prior to any voting action taking place as it regarded Mr. Daniels motion a very heated and contentious discussion ensued between a number of members including members of the current SOA Board on both sides of the issue.

c. During the conduct of discussion, a request was made from the floor asking that in view of the prevailing contentious attitude obtaining, that a secret ballot be taken on the motion in order to preserve future amicable relations among differing members. ( A check with a member lawyer in attendance stated that this was an acceptable request under Robert's Rules of Order). Mr. William Lueders, SOA # 664-GL, Chairman, SOA Tally Committee was directed to select two other SOA General Members to assist him, (John Fryer and Jerry Ginder, SOAR XXIV Sergeants-at-Arms) in the vote count inasmuch as no other member of his assigned SOA Tally Committee were in attendance at SOAR XXIV. Only General Members were permitted to provide a written YES or NO Ballot on the motion.

**NOTE:** In order to allow time for the Tally Committee to count the votes a "Break" in the meeting was taken.



d. Following the "Break", Mr. Lueders advised the membership in attendance that by an approximate margin of 2 – 1, the membership had approved the motion of Mr. Daniels to restore Mr. Miller and Mr. Abraham to their previously elected positions.

e. Prior to Mr. Daniels readdressing the membership and offering his second motion, Mr. Jim Cole, President-Elect requested that he be permitted to address the General Membership.

(1) Mr. Cole stated that during the "Break" he had met with Mr. Miller and Mr. Abraham and elicited a "promise" from both, that if in fact the membership voted to restore them to their former SOA Board positions they would, for the "good of the organization and SOAR XXIV" step aside and not resume their previous positions in order that the current SOA Board be permitted to complete the actions of SOAR XXIV, and;

(2) Mr. Cole requested that he be permitted to read a letter that he had written to the SOA Membership in mid August, but had not mailed reflecting his personal thoughts on this entire matter and where he believed the SOA was facing a crisis if the matter was not reconciled as soon as possible for the good of the organization. In addition to his discussions with Ralf and Jack he was also recommending:

(3) That the MCR Findings be thrown out, and;

(4) Further, he also requested that the membership in attendance, stand up, turn around and apologize to Mr. Abraham and Mr. Miller for any inconvenience that they may have had over this entire matter. A majority of the members acceded to the request of Mr. Cole. Following this gesture on the part of the majority of the members, Mr. Cole thanked all of the members and stated he was pleased that this unfortunate matter was closed and that the business of the SOA could go forward.

f. As a result of Mr. Cole's actions, Mr. Daniels withdrew any further motions.

#### NOTES:

1 – Mr. Cole stated in his address to the membership that he was taking the aforementioned action in order to ensure the future viability of the SOA. He further stated to do anything different or less, would, or could possibly jeopardize the many accomplishments of the SOA during the past 23 years.



2 – While it is fully recognized that Mr. Cole meant well and “acted in good faith” by his actions, it should be noted that in the “heat of the moment” he made three different motions at the same time, whereas each of his motions should have been separated and proffered as an individual motion UP Roberts Rules of Order. Finally, at no time was a formal vote, “up or down” taken on any of the three motions. Everyone just accepted what had been stated as “a matter of fact” and appeared relieved that this issue had been finally “put to bed”. Further, as it relates to that specific portion of his motion that dealt with “throwing out” the findings of the MCR, it is important for the membership to recognize that the “final” MCR had been previously accepted and approved by the SOA Board. Additionally, I must apprise the membership that I believe that inasmuch as the MCR was made available to a number of individual members and further disseminated/discussed in the meeting that Mr. Daniels “chaired”, the MCR must now be considered a document in the public domain and cannot be “just thrown out”. However, from a more practical point of view, brought about as a result of the fact that a majority of members at the General Membership Meeting were not willing to recognize or accept the MCR results, the new SOA Board will be legally required to address the MCR and/or at least the SOA records that resulted in the MCR in order to arrive at a separate and/or different conclusion as to the actions and record keeping thereof as they regarded the SOA Board during the period 1995-1999. More importantly, for the edification of the SOA membership, it must be recognized that as a direct result of the findings of the MCR, a number of “checks and balances” were directed to be enacted by the current SOA Board that would not have been established had it not been for the MCR.

3 – It must also be noted that as a matter of record that the SOA Board-/Special Staff believed then, as they believe now, that they always “acted in good faith” (regardless of what some may view as not being “technically/legally correct”) for the good of the SOA in taking the actions that they believed were necessary in order to restore integrity to the SOA.

**B. New Business:**

**President Pro-Tem**

**1. SOAR XXV Status Report:**

**Harry Claflin**

a. Mr. Claflin advised the membership that coordinating actions facilitating SOAR XXV had already commenced with the Plaza Hotel/Casino Management Staff and provided the following information:

- (1) Dates: 26 – 30 September 2001.
  - (2) Location: Plaza Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.
  - (3) Cost: Hotel Accommodations: \$40. + Tax per nite.
- Deadline for Hotel Accommodations: 26 August 2001. POC: (800) 634-6575. Members are requested to call the Plaza Hotel & Casino direct for desired accommodations.



(4) Cost: SOAR XXV: No change for Advance (Discount) Registration. It remains \$80. per member and for each guest. Deadline for Advance (Discount) Registration: 15 September 2001. SOAR XXV Registration Forms will be provided to members in the SOAR XXV PRP.

(5) Cost: SOAR XXV: Effective 16 September 2001, \$120.

per member and each guest.

(6) SOAR XXV Registration POC: "Rick" Grabianowski, Treasurer, SOA, P.O. Box 20279, Reno, Nevada 89515-0279, Telephone: (775) 323-7150, Email: [rick@grabianowski.com](mailto:rick@grabianowski.com)

b. Additionally, for your long range planning purposes SOAR XXVI will be conducted during the period 25 – 29 September 2002. Cost of accommodations at the Plaza Hotel & Casino remain the same: \$40. + tax per nite. No motion required.

## 2. Proposed Change to the SOA By-Laws and Constitution: Bill Lueders

a. Mr. Lueders advised the membership that the proposed change to the SOA By-Laws as it related to increasing the number of members on the SOA Board of Directors from a total of eight members to nine members had passed by a vote of 222 to 27 in support of the change.

b. Mr. Lueders further advised the membership that his SOA Tally Committee consisted of:

William Lueders, SOA # 664-GL Chairman  
Dan "Rock" Myers, SOA # 003-GL  
Harlow H. Stevens, SOA # 1176-GL

c. Mr. Sincere requested a motion be made and seconded to approve the report provided by Mr. Lueders as it related to the proposed change to the SOA By-Laws and Constitution. Motion made, seconded and approved.

## 3. Recognition, SOAR XXIV, Sergeants-at-Arms: President Pro-Tem

a. Mr. Sincere introduced to the membership the two (2) individuals chosen to represent the membership at SOAR XXIV as Sergeants-at-Arms. They are:

Jerry Ginder, SOA # 618-GL  
John Fryer, SOA # 007-GL

Mr. Sincere requested both individuals rise and be recognized. He also thanked them for their outstanding support and service on behalf of the SOA over the years.



b. Mr. Sincere explained to the membership that each year just prior to the conduct of a SOAR, the President, SOA has the honor and privilege to designate two SOA members to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms who have, over the years, fully and consistently supported the requirements and goals of the SOA. Mr. Fryer and Mr. Ginder have more than met those prerequisites. Thank you both on behalf of the entire membership. No motion required.

**4. Recognition, 20-year SOA Members Report: President Pro-Tem**

a. Mr. Sincere requested the following personnel having achieved as a minimum, 20-year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 20-year SOA pins. All personnel who attended or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I, II, III, IV and V were eligible. Mr. Sincere requested that Mr. Jim Cole, President-Elect SOA assist him in presenting 20-year pins to the following individuals:

GORDON, David K., SOA # 020-GL  
GRITZ, James "Bo". SOA # 042-GL  
CAVANAUGH, Robert L., SOA # 175-GL  
WOELFEL, Lou, SOA # 233-GL  
STOCKDALE, Bryan, SOA # 234-GL  
MULLINS, John, SOA # 240-GL  
NELSON, Mike, SOA # 253-GA  
McCARTHY, Justin, "Gene", SOA # 256-GL  
BERENT, Mark, SOA # 274-GL  
FRY, James, SOA # 288-GL  
MUNSON, Ralph, SOA # 303-GL  
BAHR, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL  
KORSBECK, John, SOA # 326-GA  
MULVANEY, F. Russ, SOA # 334-GA  
PERCHARD, John SOA # 341-GL  
RATCLIFFE, Thomas, SOA # 351-AL  
BYRNE, Dean, SOA # 361-GL  
WASKOVICH, Thomas, SOA # 366-GL  
McNATT, Richard, SOA # 369-GL

**Congratulations to each of you.**

b. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XXV, all personnel who attended SOAR I, II, III, IV, V and/or VI are eligible to receive their 20-year SOA pin. If your SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 474, you are eligible to receive this award.

c. Also, for the very first time during the conduct of SOAR XXV, the President, SOA will be honored and privileged to present 25-year SOA pins to those



members who joined and participated in SOAR I at Caesars Palace in December 1977. 45 current living SOA members in good standing are eligible. If your SOA number is: 001 to 003, 005 to 016, 018, 020, 022 to 025, 027, 028, 037, 039, 050, 054, 056 to 058, 064, 066, 077 to 079, 084, 088 to 090, 092, 093, 095, Mike Taylor, SOA # 698 and Bill Shelton, SOA # 890, you are all authorized your coveted award of the 25-year SOA pin. Folks, Mike and Bill were both at SOAR I.

d. During SOAR XXV, the SOA will also take a moment to remember the following deceased SOA members who were also Charter members of the SOA at SOAR I. They are:

ISLER, Jack, SOA # 004-GL  
TRAPP, Larry, SOA # 017-GL  
PINN, Lionel, SOA # 019-GL  
MEEHAN, Bernard, "Mick", SOA # 026-GL  
PATTERSON, Rod, SOA # 033-GL  
McKENNY, Richard, SOA # 055-GA  
DUFFIELD, E. W., SOA # 062-GA

**No Motion Required.**

**5. Rolande "Frenchy" Amundson's Estate: Charles Berg**

a. Mr. Berg presented Clyde Sincere, President Pro-Tem with a large "facsimile" of a check dated 27 June '00 in the amount of \$30,000 received from the Executor of the Estate of Rolande G. "Frenchy" Amundson, Lawrence Kimmel, SOA # 014-GL. Mr. Kimmel was unable to attend SOAR XXIV and requested Mr. Berg present the check to the SOA. The SOA has been in receipt of the actual check since early July 2000 and it has been deposited in the appropriate SOA account. (See photo of check in SOAR XXIV PRP).

b. Mr. Berg again reiterated that the SOA and the SFA (who also received a check in the amount of \$30,000) will each receive a second check in the approximate amount of \$20,000 as soon as the Executor, (Mr. Kimmel) reconciles all financial matters regarding the Amundson Estate.

**Note:** In late November 2000 both the SOA and SFA each received another check from Larry Kimmel, Executor of the Rolande G. "Frenchy" Amundson Estate in the amount of \$23,500. FYI, in the very near future, each organization will be requested to provide a small one time amount of approximately \$300 to establish a fund that will insure that "Frenchy" has flowers placed on her gravesite each anniversary of her interment. This action will be reconciled at the SOA Board Mid-Year Planning and Coordination Meeting.



**6. SOA Tally Committee Report on the results of the  
SOA Board of Officers and Directors Election – 2001 – 2002 Term: Bill Lueders**

**a. Mr. Lueders advised the membership that he and his Tally Committee met in Fairfax, Virginia on 19 September at 1000 hours for the purpose of tabulating the number of votes submitted for the SOA Board of Officers and Directors for the term of office commencing 1 January 2001 through 31 December 2002.**

**b. SOA members receiving votes for:**

**(1) President, SOA:**

**\*James B. COLE, SOA # 794-GL 252**

**(2) Vice-President, SOA:**

**George "Moe" Blakey, SOA # 551-GL 119**

**\*James F. Hetrick, SOA # 036-GL 142**

**(3) Secretary, SOA:**

**\*David "Bulldog" Smith, SOA # 1242-GL 251**

**(4) Treasurer, SOA:**

**\*S. "Rick" Grabianowski, SOA # 1313-GL 243**

**(5) Directors, SOA:**

**\*Charles L. Berg, SOA # 031-GL 180**

**\*B. Ray Chambers, SOA # 627-GL 207**

**\*Robert Jack, SOA # 414-GL 132**

**\*Justin E. "Gene" McCarthy, SOA # 256-GL 210**

**\*Earl Trabue, SOA # 1056-GL 146**

**William Wether, SOA # 497-GL 126**

**\* Reflects those SOA Members receiving the majority of votes, thereby constituting the new SOA Board of Directors for the term of office commencing 1 January 2001.**

**c. Mr. Sincere requested that a motion be made and seconded approving the results of the SOA Board of Directors ballot for the term of office commencing 1 January 2001. Motion made, seconded and approved.**



**7. SOA BOD, 2001 – 2002 “Electees”, Post: President Pro-Tem**

Mr. Sincere requested that the following named SOA members having received the majority of votes required to serve on the new SOA Board of Directors effective 1 January 2001, come forward, face the members and read their individual “Oaths of Office”:

James B. Cole,	President-Elect
James F. Hetrick,	Vice-President-Elect
“Rick” Grabianowski,	Treasurer-Elect
David “Bulldog” Smith,	Secretary-Elect
Charles L. Berg,	Director-Elect
B. Ray Chambers,	Director-Elect
Robert Jack,	Director-Elect
Justin “Gene” McCarthy,	Director-Elect
Earl Trabue,	Director-Elect

Mr. Sincere requested the members in attendance congratulate the new SOA Board. No motion required.

**8. SOA Qualifications Study Group: SOA “Sense of the Membership”:** President Pro-Tem

Mr. Sincere stated that the membership will discuss, debate and vote separately on each individual “Referendum Query” reflected in the “Sense of the Membership” Referendum:

a. Should the SOA consider changing from the current Internal Revenue Code 501 © (19) “Veterans Organization” to another IRC Non-Profit”?

Responses received from the membership reflected:

YES (37)      NO (169)

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance during the conduct of the General Membership Meeting that the SOA support the “Sense of the Membership” and remain a 501 © (19) “Veterans Organization”. Motion approved.

b. As currently constituted, the SOA is limited in the number (percentage) of individual members who are not “Past or Present members of the U.S. Armed Forces”, i.e. those individuals who did not serve in the U.S. Armed Forces (as defined by Title 38, United States Code). Which of the following alternative phraseology/terminology would you prefer to see used in order to allow Allied Nationals, (those who did not serve in the U.S. Armed Forces) to participate in the SOA? (The majority of responses received reflected the following):



- (1) Special Representative from "xxx": YES (86) NO (99)
- (2) Special Consultant from "xxx": YES (16) NO (155)
- (3) Emissary from "xxx": YES (30) NO (143)
- (4) Delegate from "xxx": YES (48) NO (131)
- (5) Other – (Indicated separately): YES (49) NO (126)

**Note:** During the discussion phase relating to the aforementioned "referendum query" no consensus was arrived at by the membership. A motion was made to TABLE this query and return it to the SOA Board for further study. Motion to TABLE seconded and approved.

c. Should the following specific units assigned to the Republic of Vietnam, (not having supported SOG or SOA Approved Units) be considered for inclusion in the approved units for membership in the SOA?

- (1) \*SF A-Detachment: YES (66) NO (144)
- (2) \*SF B-Detachment: YES (42) NO (167)
- (3) \*SF C-Detachment: YES (31) NO (177)
- (4) \*SFOB (Nha Trang): YES (28) NO (177)

**\*Note:** This does not include units or elements assigned to the various MIKE FORCES, MOBILE GUERRILLA FORCES, DELTA, etc.

- (5) USMC Recon Battalion/Company: YES (49) NO (153)
- (6) USMC Force Reconnaissance: YES (96) NO (103)

During the discussion phase relating to the aforementioned "referendum query" The membership in attendance voted to support the consensus of the membership on items number (1) through (5) above. Two motions were proffered:

(a) Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance support the consensus of the General Membership as it related to "referendum query items (1) through (5) above. Motion approved.

(b) Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance NOT to support the general consensus of the "referendum query" as it related to item (6) above (USMC Force Reconnaissance). Motion approved.

d. Should the SOA Membership Annual Directory reflect the "units" assigned? YES (126) NO (93)

Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance NOT support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

e. Should the nametags worn at SOAR reflect the "units assigned? YES (100) NO (111)



Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

f. Should any minimum length of time assigned to a SOA approved unit be considered when approving membership status, e.g., PCS, TDY, Attached, etc.? YES (78) NO (133)

Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

g. Should a one-time interaction (Emergency extraction-/Emergency Air Support) qualify a flight crew for SOA membership – (General or Associate)? YES (86) NO (124)

Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

h. Should those individuals assigned to units with "terminology" such as "Special Landing Units", "Reconnaissance", "Tiger Force" or "Raiders" be considered for SOA membership? YES (63) NO (148)

Motion made and seconded that the membership in attendance support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

i. Should the unit that was subsequently charged with the mission of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Abn) B-52 (Delta Project) both as to the "Area of Responsibility" (AOR) and operational control be considered for SOA membership? YES (127) NO (79)

Note: During the discussion phase relating to the aforementioned "referendum query" no consensus was arrived at by the membership in attendance. A motion was made to TABLE this query and return it to the SOA Board for further study. Motion to TABLE seconded and approved.

j. Should the SOA consider allowing Associate Members to vote:

- |   |          |          |
|---|----------|----------|
| (1) Elective Office:                                      | YES (43) | NO (184) |
| (2) Policy and Procedures at General Membership Meetings: | YES (37) | NO (180) |

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance to support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

k. Should the SOA consider allowing Associate Members to hold SOA Board of Director offices?



(1) President:	YES (17)	NO (198)
(2) Vice-President:	YES (20)	NO (194)
(3) Treasurer:	YES (32)	NO (184)
(4) Secretary:	YES (38)	NO (186)
(5) Director:	YES (31)	NO (182)
(6) Committee Chairman:	YES (57)	NO (160)

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance to support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

l. Should the SOA "explore" and/or develop the requirements for future membership from within the currently constituted United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) as designated by DOD? YES (186) NO (26)

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance to support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

m. Should the SOA actively pursue "Corporate Sponsorship"?  
YES (89) NO (115)

Note: During the discussion phase relating to the aforementioned "referendum query" no consensus was arrived at by the membership. A motion was made to TABLE this query and return it to the SOA Board for further study. Motion made to TABLE seconded and approved.

n. Should the SOA consider longer or staggered terms for the SOA Board of Directors? YES (147) NO (61)

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance to support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

o. Should the SOA consider the elimination of the consecutive two term SOA By-Law limitation on the President, SOA? YES (83) NO (124)

Motion made and seconded by the membership in attendance to support the general consensus of the "referendum query". Motion approved.

9. Cedar Point Foundation Report/Request: Bob Donoghue

a. Mr. Donoghue briefed the membership on the activities and progress of the Cedar Point Foundation. Additionally, in support of his briefing he presented a computer generated video reflecting the current situation, facilities, etc. in the Lang Vei/Khe Sanh area.



b. The purpose of Mr. Donoghue's briefing was to request a \$10,000 grant from the SOA in furtherance of the activities of the Cedar Point Foundation in Vietnam.

c. Following the briefing, a motion was made to TABLE Mr. Donoghue's request for a grant at this time. Additionally, while the membership recognized the humanitarian validity of Mr. Donoghue's request, the membership reflected a desire that the SOA Board conduct a further study of his proposal and present the facts to the members for consideration at the next General Membership Meeting. Motion made and seconded to TABLE. Motion approved.

**9. Roy Benavidez Memorial Project Status Report: Robert Noe**

a. Mr. Noe briefed the membership on the status of the Roy Benavidez Memorial Project as it related to the community of and around El Campo, Texas erecting a statue in memory of Roy. Mr. Noe had volunteered to act as the representative of the SOA on the local committee.

b. Mr. Noe provided the following information:

(1) Recommended that the SOA continue to support this project, but, he was recommending that no donations or funding be made available to the Roy Benavidez Memorial Project Committee at this time. He further stated that this is the same position the SFA had taken.

**(2) Current Status:**

(a) He has had coordination meetings with the Roy Benavidez Memorial Committee, Roy's family and the sculptor, Mark Austin Byrd, who by the way was present at SOAR XXIV soliciting pictures and/or actual equipment worn by SOG and NVA personnel to assist him in sculpting the most authentic statue depicting Roy as possible.

(b) The committee consists of 17 members currently "chaired" by Roy's cousin who is believed to be a "black sheep" of the family. This committee to date has no structure or direction, however, they are attempting to reconcile this problem. The committee is currently addressing the following:

- 1 Incorporation By-Laws have been written, but not as yet submitted to the State of Texas, and;
- 2 Will initiate action for 501 (c) (3) status, also;
- 3 Developing proper management/financial controls.



(c) The location for the memorial site has been selected and the site property has been donated by the State of Texas.

(d) The Memorial "Ground Breaking" ceremony was conducted on 28 September (very short notice). No "VIP's" other than a few city officials in attendance.

(e) Mr. Noe stated he was recommending courses of action to the Committee as it related to converting the current Memorial Committee to a Board of Directors in order to better facilitate their request for 501 (c) (3) Exempt status.

(f) He further stated that the current Committee President is just not capable of bringing this project to fruition. He is rude, crude, very defensive, and lacks the basic skills for this project. As an example: Throughout a 90 minute meeting Mr. Noe participated in with the committee, he kept insisting that the Committee was in fact already a Tax Exempt organization. He kept waving this document around, but, was reluctant to provide it to anyone for review. Following the meeting, Mr. Noe stated he was able to obtain a copy of the document and it turned out to be just an IRS Federal Employees Number. When this was brought to this gentlemen's attention, he still insisted it was the Committee Tax Exempt Status authorization.

(g) As of this briefing, communications with the immediate Benevidez family continues. They are attempting to limit or remove the cousin as the President of this memorial project.

(h) Mr. Noe stated that he is continuing to coordinate with the immediate family, especially, Roy's son and the other committee members to bring this project to a point that donations can be accepted and be assured that they will be put to proper use.

(i) Finally, Mr. Noe requested that members take the time to speak with Mark Byrd, who was with USMC HML 167, (Eagle Claw) and supported SOG operations in Vietnam and has been hired as the sculptor for the project. He has several models in the Vendor room for your viewing.

#### **10. Prairie Fire! The Extraction of RT Mississippi,**

**2 Dec.'69:**

**Robert Noe**

a. Mr. Noe informed the membership that an old reel to reel tape recording was discovered containing the radio transmissions reflecting an extraction by Eagle Claw (USMC HML 167) on 2 December 1969. Mr. Noe stated that he had



met with Mark Byrd and Larry Greene of CCN back in December 1999 to review and commence working on this tape. Mark was able to digitally enhance the tape and has given copyright ownership to the SOA including all worldwide rights. The SOA is free to profit from the production and distribution of all copies.

b. Mr. Noe had brought the master tape to SOAR, but, due to all of the background noise in the hospitality room it has proven difficult to hear the tape. He stated he will attempt to raise the volume level of the tape for those interested in listening to it.

c. Mr. Sincere requested Mr. Noe thank Mr. Byrd for his generous offer and stated the tape would be turned over to the SOA Board for appropriate action.

#### 11. MACVSOG Print:

Robert Noe

a. Mr. Noe advised the membership that the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) had conducted a 1999 Formal Christmas Dinner at Fort Campbell. The "theme" – MACVSOG. SSG Frank Allen, an illustrator for the 5<sup>th</sup> SFGp was tasked to develop a "place-mat" for the dinner. He had no ideal who or what SOG was. He was advised to get in touch with Mr. Noe, who with able assistance from Major General John K. Singlaub, Billy Waugh, Charles Petry, John Plaster and many other SOG personnel were able to assist Sergeant Allen in producing a Master Print that was used to make suitable dinner "place-mats".

b. Copies of the original MACVSOG Print are sold through Chapter XXXVIII, SFA and all proceeds go to the Special Forces Museum at Fort Bragg. Order forms are available in the SOAR Hospitality Room. All copies on hand have been sold.

Mr. Sincere requested a motion and second approving all three reports provided by Mr. Noe. Motion made, seconded and approved.

#### 12. Special Operations Memorial Foundation, MacDill

AFB, Florida Status Report:

Lee Dunlap

a. Mr. Dunlap advised the membership that he had been requested to serve as a replacement representative of the SOA to the SOMF Board of Directors by the SOA Board of Directors. He added that currently John McClaskey and he were the only two SOA members serving on the SOMF BOD. Mr. Dunlap informed the membership that since he lived in the MacDill area, it was relatively easy to attend all SOMF meetings. He further informed the members that since the ceremony formerly opening the Special Operations Memorial Plaza took place, it has been a prime tourist area, visited by civilians and military alike. It is also



utilized for official functions. As an example, a very large audience attended the memorial service honoring SOA member "Doug" Miller. General Pete Schoomaker, CINC USSOCOM personally participated in the service for "Doug" and intended to conduct his own retirement ceremony in the Plaza on 30 November 2000.

b. Mr. Dunlap reiterated to the members that the Special Operations Memorial was this date truly a "fact of life", a living memorial to past, present and future Special Operations. He recalled that motion taken by the SOA members a few years ago that combined the efforts of the SOA and the SOMF that insured the successful construction of a Special Operations Memorial. He further stated that now that it was a reality, consideration of insuring the future maintenance of the Special Operations Memorial Plaza must be addressed. He was requesting that a formal commitment be made by the SOA to continue to support the SOMF project.

c. Prior to any decision being taken on this request, Mr. Dunlap was requested to ascertain for the benefit of the SOA what the SOMF BOD visualized it would take to maintain the Memorial and what percentage of funds they were seeking from the SOA. Another query – Would this be an annual contribution? This type of information was necessary in order for the SOA Board to make a recommendation to the membership as to whether or not it was feasible for the SOA to support the request. Mr. Dunlap agreed to provide this information. No motion required.

### 13. First Force Reconnaissance Presentation: John "Tilt" Meyer

a. Mr. Meyer informed the SOA Membership that initially Lieutenant Colonel Robert Coates, SOA # 1156-GL and also the Commanding Officer, First Force Reconnaissance had intended to address the SOA members and present a First Force Reconnaissance commemorative "paddle" to the SOA as a fitting memento in recognition and appreciation for the prayers and financial support that many SOA members personally and privately rendered to the families of those First Force Reconnaissance personnel that perished in a tragic helicopter-ship incident on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 1999 off the coast of California while participating in a hostage rescue training exercise. Bob unfortunately was unable to attend SOAR XXIV due to an unexpected and urgent requirement for him to attend a USMC planning meeting in the Far East. He requested "Tilt" conduct the presentation on behalf of the men of First Force Reconnaissance.

b. "Tilt" further advised the members that the history of the "paddle" dated back to WWII when the forerunners of Force Recon paddled ashore in rubber rafts from submarines during clandestine infiltrations. Over the many ensuing years, "paddles" were presented to "friends of Force Recon", wrapped in cord utilized by the Marines to reflect their various amphibious missions. The "paddle" is steeped in Marine history.



c. "Tilt" presented the "paddle" to Clyde Sincere, on behalf of Colonel Bob Coates and the First Force Reconnaissance. Mr. Sincere requested "Tilt" to thank Bob and his men on behalf of the entire SOA membership for the very interesting and appreciative commemorative presentation. Their "recon paddle" will be prominently displayed at future SOA Reunions. No Motion Required.

**Note:** This First Force Reconnaissance presentation had originally been programmed as a SOAR XXIV General Membership Meeting Agenda item but due to time constraints was moved to the SOAR XXIV Banquet program.

**14. POW/MIA Briefing Synopsis:**

**Norm Doney**

a. Mr. Doney, SOA # 665-GL chaired the annual SOA POW/MIA briefing programmed for SOAR XXIV. Over 100 SOA members and their guests attended this year's presentation scheduled as a separate briefing during the SOAR XXIV "Guest Speaker" sessions.

b. The first speaker to address the members and their guests was Lucien Edmonds, SOA # 1310-AL. Mr. Edmonds is currently employed by the Department of Defense POW/MIA Office in Washington, D.C. He specifically addressed the on-going efforts of the U.S. Administration as it related to recovering remains in SEA, plus relative information relating to POW/MIA cases from both the Korean Conflict and WWII. Mr. Edmonds was accompanied by SSG William R. Dwyer.

c. The second speaker was Author Larry J. O'Daniel. His most recent book "Trails of Deceit" and its contents were the main topic of his presentation.

d. Mr. Doney stated that he wished to express the following annual comment/complaint that he has had following these presentations. One (1) hour has been insufficient for the annual POW/MIA briefing. Queries by members and their guests relative to both the overall POW/MIA issue and more specifically those issues addressed by the various speakers usually go unanswered due to time constraints.

**Note:** Mr. Doney is hereby advised that an additional hour will be set-aside for all future SOAR Agendas in order to insure that sufficient time has been made available to properly address this important subject.

e. Mr. Doney further advised as a matter of record that in no case had SOA funds ever been programmed for SOA POW/MIA Guest Speaker travel, housing or subsistence expenses. In this instance, during the conduct of SOAR XXIV, Mr. Edmonds and SSG Dwyer paid all of their own expenses. Additionally, Mr. O'Daniel's appearance was due to the generosity of Mr. Adam Husar, SOA # 022-GL who graciously underwrote his accommodation and subsistence expenses. Thank you Adam on behalf of the entire SOA.



f. Mr. Doney stated that he had read Mr. O'Daniel's book "Trails of Deceit" and highly recommends it to everyone. Mr. Doney stated that he thought enough of the book to order eleven additional books. He has presented three (3) to local High Schools, two (2) to local Public Libraries, one (1) each to his Senators in the U.S. Senate, one (1) to a local talk show host, one (1) to the Mayor of his town and the final two (2) to personal special friends. The book costs \$31.45 and includes shipping and handling. If anyone is interested in securing a copy of this book, contact the publisher: Golden Coast Publishing, P.O. Box 357, Wenden, Arizona 85357-0357.

g. The SOA Board of Officers, Directors and Special Staff wish to go on record thanking Norm Doney for the super energies he has exerted in keeping the POW/MIA issue in the forefront of the American public for all of these many years. No motion required.

**15. Award of SOAR XXIV Door and Raffle Prizes:**

**Clyde Sincere**

a. Note: Due to time constraints, the awarding of all SOAR XXIV Door and Raffle Prizes were conducted following the SOAR XXIV Banquet activities.

b. Mr. Sincere stated that this year, as in past years, many door and raffle prizes were donated by members and/or their guests in support of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

c. Mr. Sincere, on behalf of the entire SOA wished to publicly thank all individuals, present and those that were unable to be present for their contributions. As always, super and unusual door prizes and raffle items were contributed. Hopefully, all contributors are recognized. The following reflects those individuals who donated either door or raffle prizes to SOAR XXIV. Thank you one and all.

Don Benjamin	John Plaster	Ray Chambers	Mark Kinsler
The Plaza Hotel	Ben Baker	"Doc" Padgett	Pat Hephner
Paul Duffy	John Perchard	Clarence Page	Fred Platt
Bobby Evans	Jim McLuckie	Paul Brubaker	Robin Moore
Newell Bernard	Tony Herrell	Robert Strange	Norm Doney
Clyde Sincere	William Lueders	Kent White	Rudy Cooper
Chapter IV-XXIV	Chapter XXXVIII	John Mullins	Bob Donoghue
"Bulldog" Smith	SOA	David Morrell	Dale Bennett
China Post # 1	Tom Ratcliffe	Mike Walsh	Bill Sylvester
Bob Mayer ( <a href="mailto:AuthorSiFi@cs.com">AuthorSiFi@cs.com</a> )		Schiffer Publishing Ltd.	

d. The Las Vegas Quick Draw also was a total success with all 100 tickets purchased. The big \$1,000 winner in cash was won by E. Ray Whittington.



e. The three (3) SOA U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds were won by:

(1) \$2,000. (\$1,000 Cash): Jerry Ginder. (Jerry donated the \$1,000 back to the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund).  
Thank you Jerry.

(2) \$1,000. (\$500 Cash): Billy Robinson.

(3) \$500. (\$250 Cash): N.E. Gammons.

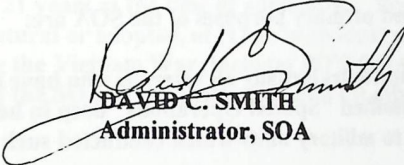
#### IV. Adjournment:

There being no further items of business, Mr. Sincere adjourned the SOAR XXIV General Membership Meeting at 1230 hours, 30 September 2000 with the announcement that the next SOAR XXV General Membership Meeting would take place at 0900 hours on 29 September 2001 here at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada.

DCS/dcs

Respectfully submitted,

Incls: a/s

  
DAVID C. SMITH  
Administrator, SOA



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003**

### **FACT SHEET**

The SOA is a 1800+ 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 personally participated in missions deep inside hostile territory in a combat capacity.

For the most part, the SOA is composed of U.S. Army Special Forces personnel but, also includes USAF Air Commandos/FAC's, Navy Seals, Marine Raider and Force Recon personnel and veterans of other elite military 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 Colonel George C. Morton, the first Commander of U.S. Army Special Forces in Vietnam through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$327,500 has been awarded or committed thus far to 101 deserving young scholars.

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 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$250 U.S. The organization has no meetings other than its annual reunion. The primary organizational correspondence is the Spring Newsletter, the Pre-Reunion Packet and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report.

The SOA will hold its twenty-fifth annual reunion (SOAR XXV) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 26-30 September 2001. We anticipate in excess of 800 members and guests.



## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003

### **THE SOA GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

**FACTS:** The SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grants awarded by the SOA must be used at an accredited, four-year college or university which will produce a Bachelor's Degree. Each Grant is for not less than \$500, nor more than \$1,000 per year. (Maximum of four (4) years and paid at a rate of \$500 semi-annually per year.)

**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 as 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 status), or (2) who is currently a member of the SOA in good standing, and (3) others that meet the grant criteria.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The "announcement" of the availability for this George C. Morton Memorial 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 1 June of the year the grant is intended to be awarded.

**AWARDS:** Approximately 1 July of that year, selectees/recipients of a George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant will be appropriately notified by mail.

**INFORMATIONAL:** As of August 2000, 101 young men and women have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the program in 1983.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**JAMES E. BUTLER**  
Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee  
P.O. Box 22613  
Carmel, California 93922-0613  
(831) 659-3701  
<rtpython@redshift.com>



## SOA HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL		\$1,500.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Abraham, Jack B., SOA # 365-GL	(IMO Richard Sommers)	\$ 250.00
Adcock, Gene, SOA # 925-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Aderholt, "Heine", SOA # 900-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
*Amundson, Rolande, SOA # 098-GL		\$54,500.00
Anonymous	(IMO Jack Long)	\$ 150.00
Anonymous	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Anonymous		\$ 500.00
Anonymous	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Augustin, "Gus", SOA # 1016-GA	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL		\$1,000.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL	(SOM)	\$ 900.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL		\$1306.00
Barker, Geoffrey T., SOA # 919-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Beard, Jim, SOA # 156-GL	(IMO Dale Dehnke)	\$ 500.00
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Bennett, Dale R., SOA # 910-GL		\$1,035.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(IMO FOB-3, "The Siege")	\$ 602.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(SOM, IMO Robert Scully)	\$ 250.00
Bernard, Woodie, SOA # 1281-GA		\$1,030.00
Bilitzke, Joseph M., SOA # 1139-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Birdsall, Hank, SOA # 1241-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Blakey, George, "Moe", SOA # 551-GL		\$2,000.00
Boggs, Bill D., SOA # 667-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Bost, Robert, SOA # 1409-GA	(SOM)	\$ 400.00
Browder, William, SOA # 645-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Brubaker, Paul, SOA # 596-GL		\$4,600.00
Butler, James E., SOA # 001-GL		\$10,500.00
Butterworth, W. E., SOA # 879-HL		\$2,500.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Camacho, "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Camacho, "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL	(IMO Dick Meadows)	\$ 500.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL		\$ 900.00
Chambers, Ray, SOA # 627-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Charette, Will, SOA # 1410-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
China Post # 1, (SOA Members)		\$ 750.00
Clayton, Chuck, SOA # 1267-GA		\$ 120.00



Clough, Ed, SOA # 043-GL		\$16,400.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL		\$1,000.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(IMO Christian Girard)	\$2,500.00
Cole, James B., SOA # 794-GL	(SOM, IMO Christian Girard)	\$2,500.00
*Cole, Richard F., SOA # 207-AL	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Crane, Fred, SOA # 1199-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Dawson, Ray, SOA # 657-GL		\$1,800.00
de Fontaine, Sully, SOA # 177-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Deacy, John, SOA # 1321-GL	(SOM)	\$2,700.00
Dean, James, SOA # 123-GL		\$ 100.00
Downey, Fred, SOA # 085-GL	(IMO Marv Compton)	\$1,000.00
Duffy, Paul, SOA # 918-GL		\$ 550.00
Edens, Ralph, SOA # 438-GA		\$ 150.00
Edmunds, John E., SOA # 1197-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Elrod, Harold, SOA # 1239-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Estes, Richard, SOA # 597-GA		\$ 100.00
Evans, Bobby, SOA # 659-GL		\$ 200.00
Fields, Arthur T., SOA # 310-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Fisher, George, SOA # 636-GA		\$ 100.00
Fleming, Allan, SOA # 753-GL	(SOM)	\$ 300.00
*Friend, AL, SOA # 158-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fronabarger, Carl, SOA # 632-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Fry, James, SOA # 288-GL	(IMO Ben Fry)	\$2,500.00
Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-GL		\$2,450.00
Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-GL	(SOM, IMO Walt Shumate)	\$ 100.00
Fryer, John R., SOA # 007-GL	(SOM, IMO Madison Strohlein)	\$ 100.00
Gaudet, Ken, SOA # 964-AL		\$1,125.00
Gavigan, Gene, SOA # 1567-GA		\$1,000.00
Gilstrap, Bob, SOA # 737-GA		\$ 750.00
Ginder, Jerrald, SOA # 618-GL		\$8,160.00
Ginder, Jerrald, SOA # 618-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Golden, Bob, SOA # 1282-GL		\$1,050.00
Golden, Bob, SOA # 1282-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL		\$ 100.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 100.00
Graham, Robert J., SOA # 184-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hall, Gene, SOA # 722-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamilton, Joseph, SOA # 1187-AA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hamner, Gene D., SOA # 833-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00



Hanson, T. R., SOA # 1214-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Hawke, James, SOA # 221-GL		\$ 250.00
Hephner, Patrick, SOA # 1249-AL		\$1,025.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL		\$ 300.00
Hinsch, Rod, SOA # 073-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Husar, Adam, SOA # 022-GL	(IMO Arnold Astrada)**	\$ 100.00
*Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL		\$ 500.00
*Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Kearns, Michael S., SOA # 949-AL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Keaton, LaFayette, SOA # 1168-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA		\$ 100.00
Kinsler, Mark, SOA # 700-GL		\$19,225.00
Kreuziger, Peter W., SOA # 1389-GL	(SOM)	\$ 700.00
Kull, Jack, SOA # 538-AA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
LaDue, Mike, SOA # 464-GA		\$ 500.00
LaMotte, Jim, SOA # 552-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Landau, H. H. , SOA # 493-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Laurence, Pete, SOA # 456-AA		\$ 350.00
Lear, John, SOA # 495-GL		\$ 500.00
Lesesne, Edward R., SOA # 614-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Long, Jack, SOA # 441-GL		\$1,500.00
Lueders, William, SOA # 664-GL		\$ 250.00
*Lutz, Joseph C., SOA # 960-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Manes, Larry, SOA # 064-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Mar, Al/Ann, SOA # 439-GL		\$12,150.00
Marich, Thomas, SOA # 1037-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Martin, James, SOA # 023-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Martin, John P., SOA # 345-GL	(IMO Mary Watson)	\$ 100.00
Martin, John P., SOA # 345-GL	(SOM)	\$1,000.00
McBroom, C.O. "Bud", SOA #768-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL		\$2,850.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL	(SOM IMO MG Joe Lutz)	\$ 100.00
McClintock, Matthew, SOA # 1186-AL	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
McGiffert, Peter H., SOA # 854-GL	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Messinger, Keith, SOA # 090-GL		\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf, SOA # 060-GL		\$1,000.00



Miller, Ralf, SOA # 060-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Miller, William, SOA # 1276-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Millett, Lewis L., Sr., SOA # 505-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Morrell, David, SOA # 905-HL		\$1,350.00
*Morton, George/Lillian, SOA # ,059-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Muldowney, Richard, SOA # 1319-GA		\$ 285.00
Newman, Al., SOA # 952-AA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Newman, Cliff, SOA # 006-GL	(SOM)	\$ 500.00
Nissley, Bob, SOA # 359-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*O'Rourke, Bill/Jan, SOA # 379-GL		\$3,120.00
Owens, John, SOA # 1143-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Parks, Robert, "Spider", SOA # 465-GL		\$1,050.00
Perchard, John, R. Jr., SOA # 341-GL		\$ 300.00
Perchard, John, R. Jr., SOA # 341-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Pershing, John, SOA # 1307-AL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
*Pierson, Roger, SOA # 644-GL		\$ 100.00
*Pinn, Lionel, SOA # 019-GL		\$1,050.00
Place, Elon, A., SOA # 887-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Plaster, John, SOA # 726-GL		\$ 540.00
Platt, Fred, SOA # 825-GL		\$2,845.00
Pollack, James, SOA # 426-AL	(IMO Terry Leverton)	\$1,000.00
Ramirez, Antonio, SOA # 561-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Raye, Martha, "Maggie", SOA # 097-HL		\$2,780.00
Redman, Darrell, SOA # 1160-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Rheault, Robert, SOA # 215-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Richter, Ken, SOA # 1406-GA	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Roberts, John, SOA #1227-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Scholes, Edison E., SOA # 1350-GL	(SOM)	\$ 250.00
Sherman, Steve, SOA # 759-AL		\$ 500.00
Shippen, Robert, SOA # 540-GL	(SOM)	\$ 200.00
Sholtis, Donald M., SOA # 1174-GL	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
Siugzda, Herb, SOA # 030-GL		\$ 500.00
Snyder, Kenneth O., SOA # 816-GA	(SOM)	\$ 100.00
*Squires, Ben, SOA # 356-GL		\$1,010.00
SOA Memorabilia Sales		\$26,400.00
Stern, Mike, SOA # 324-GL		\$ 850.00
Stockdale, Bryan, SOA # 234-GL		\$ 300.00
Strange, Robert, SOA # 1304-GL		\$ 135.00
Sutherland, Ian, SOA # 216-GL		\$1,000.00



Sylvester, Bill, SOA # 973-GL	\$3,000.00
Trimble/Lamotte, Larry/Jim, SOA # 163-GL/552-GL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Van Lerberghe, Ross, SOA # 1394-HL (SOM)	\$ 250.00
Van Winkle, H.E. "Rip", SOA # 697-GL (SOM)	\$ 500.00
Walker, Jimmy, SOA # 846-AL (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Wang, Jon, B., SOA # 1092-GL	\$ 100.00
Warkocki, Ken, SOA # 1231-AA (IMO "Frenchy Amundson")	\$ 100.00
Waskovich, Tom, SOA # 366-GA (SOM)	\$ 100.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL	\$29,177.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO P.Tracy/A.Fontez)	\$1,000.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO Walt Shumate)	\$1,000.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO "Choo-Choo " Pinn)	\$ 500.00
Waugh, William D. "Billy", SOA # 005-GL(IMO "Budda" Grant)	\$ 500.00
Whittington, E. Ray, SOA # 049-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00

- Deceased Member

(SOM): Special Operations Memorial Foundation, MacDill AFB, Florida.

FYI: The SOA is a Tax Exempt Organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19).

The SOA EIN Number is: EIN 74-2619854.

\*\* Adam Husar acting on behalf of the Astrada family donated Astrada family monies  
IMO Arnold M. Astrada, SOA # 735-GA.



## SOA ODDS AND ENDS

**In Memory of: "Taps":** Again, it is with deep regret that the SOA Board announces to the membership that six (6) more comrades-in-arms have passed away since the last reported losses were reflected in the SOAR XXIV PRP. **Robert McKnight, SOA # 623-GA**, Lieutenant Colonel, USASF Retired, passed away on 24 September 2000 in Florida. Bob was a very quiet individual and stipulated through his family that he wished no particular services be conducted on his behalf. However, a number of friends and family members did gather at Patrick Air Force Base, Manatee Cove Marina to celebrate his life following his death. Bob joined Special Forces in 1958, served in Vietnam in 1962 and again, specifically with MACVSOG during the period 1968-1969. **Arnold M. Astrada, SOA # 735-AL**, Master Sergeant, USASF Retired, passed away on 5 October 2000 at the Palo Alto VA Hospital in Palo Alto, California. Arnold served with the 1st, 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Groups. He is survived by his beloved wife Lupe. He was interred at Cedar Lawn Memorial Park in Fremont, California on 11 October 2000. **Jack J. Isler, SOA # 004-GL**, Colonel, USASF, Retired, 77 years of age, was born on 9 August 1923 in Curry County, New Mexico. He entered the U.S. Army in 1942 and retired in 1971 with 29 years of service. Jack service with MACVSOG was initially as Commander, CCN and subsequently as Chief, Ground Studies Branch, OP-35 in 1969-1970. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lorraine H. Isler; son, Major General Roderick Isler, of Fort Meade, Maryland; stepson, Jerry Covey of Maui, Hawaii; stepdaughter, Connie Cutler of Montesano, Washington; brother, Cecil Isler of Albuquerque, New Mexico; ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Interment was conducted at Arlington National Cemetery on 2 November 2000 with full military honors. **John Paul Doney, Sr., SOA # 631-GL**, 53 years of age, passed away on 14 November 2000 in Beaverton, Oregon as a result of PTSD. John was the brother of Norman Doney, SOA # 665-GL. John elected not to be a career soldier as did his brother Norm. He joined the U.S. Army in 1966 and was honorably discharged in 1969. He served in Vietnam with the 281<sup>st</sup> Army Helicopter Company attached to the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group and PROJECT DELTA as a Helicopter Crew Chief, Door Gunner and Tech Inspector. His overseas service included Germany, Turkey, Spain and of course Vietnam. He was interred on 20 November 2000. **J. A. "Dutch" Wyngaert, SOA # 1465-GA**, 81 years of age, passed away in the Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Fayetteville, North Carolina on 13 November 2000. "Dutch" served in WWII and Vietnam. He was an original member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. He is survived by his beloved wife Winifred H. Wyngaert; two (2) daughters, Charlotte Small of Wagram and Debora Hester of Murdock, Minnesota; three (3) grandchildren and three (3) great-grandchildren. Interment was conducted with full military honors at Cumberland Memorial Gardens following the funeral service at the JFK Chapel on Friday, 17 November 2000 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. **Richard F. Cole, SOA # 207-AL** 70 years of age, passed away from cancer on 30 December 2000 in Hinesville, Georgia. Dick retired as a USASF Chief Warrant Officer-Two having served in Special Forces previously as an Enlisted Man. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts on 1 November 1930. He is survived by his beloved spouse, Marie; daughter, Helen and son John. Two (2) brothers, Robert L. and John B. and a sister Elaine Houle. A memorial



Chief SOG "Skip" Sadler listening to Mrs. Betty Skeen, mother of SOG Recon member Dale Dehnke, KIA. It was a pleasure for the SOA to host members of Dale's family at SOAR XXIV. It presented an unique opportunity for all of them to meet Dale's "running buddies".



Super picture of Karen Zinder and Mrs. Betty Skeen, Sister and Mother of Dale Dehnke.



Mrs. Skeen accepting roses from General Singlaub. From L to R: Karen Zinder, Betty Skeen, General Singlaub and Clyde Sincere.

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.



service was conducted on Saturday 6 January '01 at Victory Chapel, Fort Stewart, Georgia, followed by his interment at the Fort Stewart National Cemetery. Dick elected to be cremated. Finally, I respectfully request the SOA membership allow me to add to this list of fallen hero's who have recently passed on, the name of my second eldest son, **Thomas Alan Sincere**, 44 years of age who passed away in the early morning hours of 18 November 2000 from a massive heart attack at his home in Woodbridge, Virginia. Tom, as many of you may recall, accompanied me almost every year to SOAR during the past ten years. He assisted Sue Miller and Dee Chambers over the years at the SOA Registration Desk whenever the SOA Board Registration crew was conducting or attending various meetings that did not allow for a SOA member to "chair" the Registration Desk area. Tom was a very competitive individual who enjoyed life immensely. His military service in the U.S. Army, both on active and reserve duty included a tours in Germany and in South West Asia, (Saudi Arabia). At the time of his death Tom was a Lieutenant Colonel, Military Intelligence Branch, in command of a USAR MI unit in the Washington, D.C. area. He also was a graduate of the U.S. Army's Airborne, Basic and Advanced Air Defense Artillery Courses and the Command and General Staff College. His last assignment on Active Duty was with the Center for Army Lessons Learned, (CALL) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas which required him to conduct a number of visits to Thailand, Korea and Panama. Tom was commissioned through the ROTC Program following his graduation from Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona. He received his Masters Degree in Management from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri while on the Staff at Fort Leavenworth. Tom is survived by his beloved wife Vera; two (2) daughters, Terianne and Christina; three (3) brothers, Jim, John and Andrew; his parents, Clyde and Mary Sincere; six (6) nephews and nieces and one (1) grand-niece. Tom was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 30 November 2000 with full military honors. Also, on Christmas Day, 25 December 2000, **Raymon O. Chambers, II**, 43 years of age, eldest son of **Ray Chambers**, SOA # 627-GL was killed in an automobile accident near Spring Lake, North Carolina on Route 87. He was born in Pink Hill, North Carolina on 18 September 1957. Raymon is survived by his four (4) younger brothers, Stephen, Douglas, James and Joseph and his sister Mary. They all reside in or near Fayetteville, North Carolina with the exception of Stephen who lives with his wife and two (2) children in Orlando, Florida. In addition to his father Ray, he is survived by his step-mother Dee of Apache Junction, Arizona and his natural mother and step-father of Yadkin Road, Fayetteville, North Carolina. Raymon did not serve in the military, but, was closely associated with many construction projects involving the military, He was especially pleased to be selected to worked on a major renovation project at the Camp McCall Special Forces area. He claimed to be "the best" at using a crane and hanging steel. He will be sorely missed by all who he came in contact with.

*"May the living serve faithfully and the dead rest peacefully".*



Clyde Sincere, SOAR XXIV Banquet M/C. He appears tired. SOAR XXIV drained his energy.



Julie Sylvester and Ed Clough. Julie – that is a “Big” man you are supporting. Don’t trip!



Folks – Your SOAR XXIV Registration Crew at their best. From L to R: Clyde Sincere, “Rick” Grabianowski, John McClaskey and last but certainly not least, Ray Chambers.

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**SICK CALL:** The following SOA members have been reported to be ill or recovering from an medical operation:

James E. Butler, SOA # 001-GL  
Dan "Rock" Myers, SOA # 003-GL  
E. Ray Whittington, SOA # 049-GL  
Roger Pezzelle, SOA # 068-GL  
Robert C. Kingston, SOA # 099-GL  
Fred Jackson, SOA # 230-GL  
David "Dirty Shirt" Johnson, SOA # 290-GL  
James Peterson, SOA # 333-AL  
Ray Dawson, SOA # 657-GL  
George W. Petrie, SOA # 818-GA  
Lee B. Wilson, SOA # 1682-GA

Request you dispatch to our fellow members a "get well" card, an email message or a phone call. Do something. We wish them a speedy recovery, God Willing. Additionally, it is important if any member is aware of another SOA member that is ill or involved in a serious accident, or recovering from an operation that you advise a member of the SOA Board, preferably "Jake" Jacobson, Executive Director, SOA, inasmuch as he will apprise the SOA Board and also the entire membership in as expeditious manner as possible. Thank you.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SOA:** Harold "Jake" Jacobson, SOA # 069-GL

a. During the conduct of SOAR XXIV, the SOA Board reviewed the resume and applications of two (2) members of the SOA that responded to the "Request for Proposal" for an "Executive Director, SOA" that had been provided as an integral part of the SOAR XXIV PRP.

1. The Executive Director, SOA functions as a Non-Voting administrative member of the SOA Board of Directors.

2. The Executive Director, SOA function is a contractual position with an initial one-year probation and subject to an annual written evaluation by the Secretary, SOA and endorsed by the President, SOA.

b. The SOA Board is pleased to announce that after careful review and consideration, the SOA Board has hired SOA member Harold "Jake" Jacobson as an independent contractor, to function as the Executive Director, SOA facilitating the increasing administration of an ever growing SOA. He will work in concert, specifically, David "Bulldog" Smith, Secretary, SOA to ensure that the everyday business of the SOA



Folks, I wish to introduce you to the men of the 281st AHC Helipad. These gentlemen are the "Advance Party" for next years SOAR XXV. Here to guide you are: John Korsbeck, Brian Payne, "Buck" Sorem, Bob Mitchell, Joe Bilitzke and Fred Mentzer. Any Questions?



Now – there is a happy group. From L to R: Roy Bahr, Jimmy Dean, Wayne Lawley and "Jake" Jacobson.



The "Katzenjammer Twins".  
Lou Faistenhammer and Hans Manz.  
Bill Lueders ! How did they talk you  
into sharing this picture? "White Star"?

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is accomplished in a professional and timely manner. I urge all members of the SOA to communicate directly with "Jake" as it relates to providing timely notification of a passing or illness of a member; change of address; phone; email; etc. Do not hesitate to contact "Jake" for any reason relating to SOA business. He is there to assist you, the member. "Jake" can be contacted as follows:

**Special Operations Association (SOA)**  
**Attn: "Jake" Jacobson, Executive Director, SOA**  
**P.O. Box 34500**  
**Pensacola, Florida 32507-0500**  
**(850) 492-7639 (Dedicated to the SOA)**  
**(850) 492-4533 (FAX)**  
**JAKESOA@aol.com**

c. FYI, "Jake" joined the SOA in 1978 following 29 ½ years military service, of which 19 years were with U.S. Army Special Forces .

d. The SOA Board also wishes to recognize and thank **Thomas Waskovich, SOA # 366-GL** for participating in the search process for an Executive Director, SOA.

**NAVY NAMES NEW ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF SHIP FOR U.S. ARMY**  
**HERO: USNS Benavidez, T-AKR-306.**

a. The Secretary of the Navy Richard Danzig has announced that the Navy will honor a U.S. Army soldier awarded the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, by naming the seventh in the "Bob Hope" class of large, medium speed, roll-on/roll-off sealift (LMSR) ships after Roy Benavidez.

b. "Our Bob Hope class of ships are resolute assets that are always quietly there in the background. They are capable of coming forward in a vital way when America calls for reinforcement of its combat needs around the world," said Danzig. "Roy Benavidez personified that same spirit throughout his life, and most powerfully during a single action that saved lives in combat. I am delighted to have the opportunity to preserve his legacy by naming T-AKR 306, the USNS Benavidez".

c. Roy Benavidez, a member of MACVSOG was first awarded the Distinguished Service Cross from General William Westmoreland for his heroism. When the full story of his daring and extremely valorous actions became known, the medal was upgraded to the Medal of Honor. Former President Ronald Reagan awarded him with the Army's highest medal in 1981. Retired Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez passed away on 28 November 1998 in San Antonio, Texas.

d. The USNS Benavidez is a non-combatant vessel built by Litton-Avondale Industries in New Orleans, Louisiana. The launching/christening ceremony is scheduled for next summer (2001). The ship will be crewed by civilian mariners and operated by



I'll let you form your own opinion as to the topic of discussion.  
 From L to R: "Big" John Fryer, "Jake" Jacobson, Jyri Laats  
 and Larry Sellers. Only one (1) bottle of Lite Beer between them?



Without the presence of Joan Singlaub - this table featuring  
 Billy Waugh and Jack Singlaub would leave something to  
 be desired. Just joking. Billy you're too serious - smile!



Something or someone has obviously made a point with  
 Billy Waugh. General Singlaub and Sully de Fontaine  
 appear to be accepting whatever occurred in stride.

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the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, Washington, D.C. The LMSR ships are ideal for loading U.S. military combat equipment and combat support equipment required overseas and for re-supplying military services with necessary equipment and supplies during national crisis. The ship's six-deck interior has a cargo carrying capacity of approximately 390,000 square feet and its roll-on/roll-off design makes it ideal for transporting helicopters, tanks and other wheeled and tracked military vehicles. Two 110 ton single pedestal twin cranes make it possible to load and unload cargo where shore-side infrastructure is limited or nonexistent. A commercial helicopter deck enables emergency, daytime landings. The USNS Benavidez is 950 feet in length, has a beam of 106 feet, and displaces approximately 62,000 long tons. The diesel-powered ship will be able to sustain speeds up to 24 knots.

e. Thus Roy Benavidez becomes the second member of MACVSOG and the SOA to have a naval vessel named after him. On 28 February 1998 the U.S. Navy commissioned the USNS Sisler, T-AKR-311, a similar roll-on/roll-off container ship named IMO MOH recipient George "Ken" Sisler, KIA on 7 February 1967, the first MACVSOG MOH recipient.

f. As additional information becomes available as it relates to the actual date of the commissioning of the USNS Benavidez, SOA members will be apprised in as expeditious manner as possible. Robert Noe, SOA # 1620-GA, currently the SOA representative on the Roy Benavidez Memorial Committee will keep the SOA Board apprised on any information relating to this historic event. In all probability the soonest any information will be available the SOA will be able to provide the info for the edification of the membership in the SOA 2001 Spring Newsletter programmed for publication and distribution on/or about 15 April 2001.

### **SOG PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION:**

a. John Plaster, SOA # 726-GL has received a copy of the recently approved SOG Presidential Unit Citation.

b. John on his own initiative undertook the task of having a limited number of the two-piece Award Certificate and Citation reproduced utilizing a high quality laser process. They turned out excellent and are suitable for framing. He is offering them to SOA members on a first come, first served basis. Cost is \$10 for both documents, which includes shipping. He has requested that I emphasized the fact that this is a "cost-only basis reimbursement" as he elected to have them reproduced as a service to the SOA. If any SOA member desires a set of these documents send your check or money order made payable to: John Plaster, P.O. Box 100, Iron River, Wisconsin 54847-0100. John will ship the certificates by "Priority Mail".



**Bob Weller! - I'm afraid a critique of your firing position stance is called for.**

**GET GOING - I'm right behind you - no funny business, understand? Robert and Kathy Noe.**



**SOAR XXIV's Pistol and Rifle Brigade. What a beautiful day at the "John Thomas Desert Rifle Range". Thank you Mrs. Toby Thomas.**

*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.*



c. LTG B. "Doug" Brown, Commander, USASOC has appointed a special Project Officer to plan for the formal SOG Presidential Unit Citation Ceremony that will be held at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, tentatively programmed for the period 3-5 April 2001. Be advised, USASOC is planning on mailing invitations to all SOA members inviting them to attend this ceremony. If in fact you were specifically assigned to a MACVSOG element, (not DELTA, MIKE FORCE, etc, but, FOB-1 through FOB-6 or CCN, CCC, CCS, HQ MACVSOG, etc.), then, when you RSVP, inform the Secretary you were a MACVSOG member. This is important inasmuch as they wish to account for all actual MACVSOG personnel at this ceremony. Again, all SOA members will be invited – but, attention is being directed toward actual MACVSOG personnel.

### **MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT A. McCLURE IS HONORED:**

a. Prior to assuming his new role as the Deputy CINC USSOCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida, LTG William P. Tangney, SOA # 1460-GA announced that the United States Army Special Operations Command's Memorialization Board met and voted that the current USA Special Operations Command Headquarters Building will be dedicated to Major General Robert A. McClure.

b. USASOC scheduled a ceremony for the dedication of the facility on 19 January 2001. General McClure's contributions were the hallmark of excellence in the Special Operations community and contributed to his being recognized as the "Father of Army Special Warfare".

c. General Tangney also recognized the efforts of Al Paddock, SOA # 1462-GA for his outstanding assistance in the research and gathering of a number of important facts in history that reflected General McClure's numerous actions and contributions on behalf of U. S. Army Special Operations.

### **SFA CONVENTION TIME 2001:**

a. The Special Forces Association will conduct its annual SFA National Convention 2001 (SFA Convention 2001) during the period 19 – 24 June 2001. Chapter XXXIX, SFA (The Robert D. Stepanov Memorial Chapter) will host the Convention at the Radisson Hotel (Astrodome), Houston, Texas.

#### **1 – Convention Registration Fees:**

- (a) Prior to 1 May 2001: \$110. per person.
- (b) After 1 May 2001: \$120. per person.

\* Make Checks payable to SFA Convention 2001, Chapter XXXIX, SFA

\*\* Early Registration (by 30 April '01) enters you in a free Hotel Room Raffle.



**A happy satisfied couple. Julie and Bill Sylvester. Nice blazer Bill.**



**Did someone mention "Green Blazers". From L to R: Wayne Lawley, Jimmy Dean, Gene Hall and Norm Doney. Jimmy didn't wear his SF Regimental tie this time.**



**NOW LISTEN UP! – I'm the "BOSS" Here. Mark Kinsler briefing the Range Firers at the "John Thomas Desert Rifle Range"**

*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.*



\*\*\* Mail Convention Registration to:

SFA Convention 2001  
c/o Chapter XXXIX, SFA  
P.O. Box 668  
West Columbia, Texas 77486-0668

2 – Hotel: Radisson Hotel Astrodome  
8686 Kirby Drive  
Houston, Texas 77054  
(800) 627-6461 or (713) 748-3221 or (713) 796-9371 (FAX)

\*\*\*\* You are requested to initiate your own Hotel Accommodation Reservations directly with the Radisson Hotel Astrodome.

3 – Cost: \$92. + Tax per nite for single through quad occupancy rate will be available from 16 June 01 through 26 June 01.

4 - Information: Contact Chapter XXXIX, SFA at the above address or:  
E-Mail: [ggreer@computron.net](mailto:ggreer@computron.net)

**2001 SOA DUES:** If you area “GA” or “AA” SOA member reflecting “General Annual” and/or “Associate Annual” and you have not as yet provided the Treasurer, SOA with your \$25 annual dues for CY 2001, you are requested to immediately dispatch your check or money order, made payable to the SOA to “Rick” Grabianowski, Treasurer, SOA, P.O. Box 20279, Reno, Nevada 89515-0279, Telephone: (775) 323-7150. Email: [rick@grabianowski.com](mailto:rick@grabianowski.com) If you wish to change your “Annual” status to “Life” status, dispatch your check or money order for \$250 for SOA Life Membership and you will never again have to be concerned about “Dues Reminder Cards” in the future.

**SOAR XXIV PHOTOS:** Thank you. Ben Baker, Robert and Kathy Noe, Bill and Julie Sylvester, Don Jutz and Bill Lueders for the many super photos that are included in this SOAR XXIV AAR. The photos only reflect the perceived tenor of the Reunion, you had to be present to really understand the camaraderie that was evident. That is what SOAR is all about.

**DOD ANNOUNCES TRICARE SENIOR PHARMACY BENEFITS:**

a. The Department of Defense announced on 8 December 20000 that effective 1 April 2001, uniformed services beneficiaries 65 years of age and older will commence receiving pharmacy benefits provided by the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). An estimated 1.4 million beneficiaries are eligible for the benefit.



**Remember the book "Green Berets". Well – Some of you may remember its Author, Robin Moore too. From L to R: Mary Olga & Robin Moore and SOA's own Mr. & Mrs. Sully de Fontaine.**



**From L to R: Gene McCarthy, "Skip" Langston and "Robbie" Robinson, (the "Robbie" from Down Under – Australia that is). I can guarantee these three (3) are sharing "lies".....**

*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.*



b. The new program will limit their out-of-pocket costs and increase their access to the National Mail Order Program (NMOP), and retail pharmacies that are part of the Department of Defense (DOD) network, which includes many major chain drug stores. In addition, they may use non-network retail pharmacies.

c. "Drug therapy, for many of our older retired service members, is one of their greatest and most costly medical needs. This is a comprehensive drug benefit that makes pharmacy care accessible and affordable. This expanded benefit should contribute significantly to their quality of life," stated J. Jarrett Clinton, M.D., Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs.

d. Beneficiaries who are 65 years of age or older will not pay enrollment fees or annual premiums for their TRICARE pharmacy benefits, but they will pay modest co-pays when they use NMOP and retail network pharmacies. In addition, beneficiaries will also be able to use non-network pharmacies, but this option will entail a slightly higher co-pay and deductible. In the past, only those beneficiaries who were eligible for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) benefits and the Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program (PRPP) were able to enjoy modest out-of-pocket costs through NMOP and retail pharmacy network. The BRAC pharmacy benefit and the Pharmacy Redesign Pilot Program are replaced by the new program.

e. By law, to use the TRICARE retail and mail order benefit, beneficiaries age 65 and over must be eligible for Medicare Part A and enrolled in Part B. There is an exception: Those who turn 65 before 1 April 2001 are eligible for the benefit, even if they are not enrolled in Medicare Part B.

**f. NOTE: Effective 1 October 2001, Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries will become eligible for all other TRICARE benefits. The law requires that all Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, regardless of age, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to receive the other TRICARE benefits; and they are advised to enroll in Part B as soon as they are eligible. The annual open season for enrollment in Medicare Part B is 1 January through 31 March. Information about Medicare enrollment is available at local Social Security Administration offices, or on the Medicare Web-Site at:**

**<http://www.medicare.gov/Basics/Overview.asp>**

**g. Retired beneficiaries living overseas can use their TRICARE benefit at overseas pharmacies, but they will need to submit their pharmacy claims for reimbursement. They also will be able to utilize the NMOP, if certain requirements are met. Federal and State legal restrictions apply to the prescribing, dispensing and mailing of prescription drugs, so the NMOP can only mail to APO's and FPO's, which are part of the U.S. Postal Service. Also, the NMOP can only fill prescriptions written by providers licensed to practice in the United States.**



**If we didn't know any better, I'd say that Steve Sherman was unhappy about something or someone. From: L to R: Steve and Nguyet Sherman, Ebon McDermott.**



**From L to R: Ralph Munson, Roger Cherry, Jim Gaston, Fred Walz and Lance Trimmer. Good to see you Roger, its been awhile – you too Ralph. Enjoy the Hospitality.**



**This can only be described as "Closeness or possibly Happiness". Take your choice. From L to R: Ebon McDermott, Mike Dwyer, Hang and "Skip" Ettinger and George Pointon. Great to see you again.**

**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.**



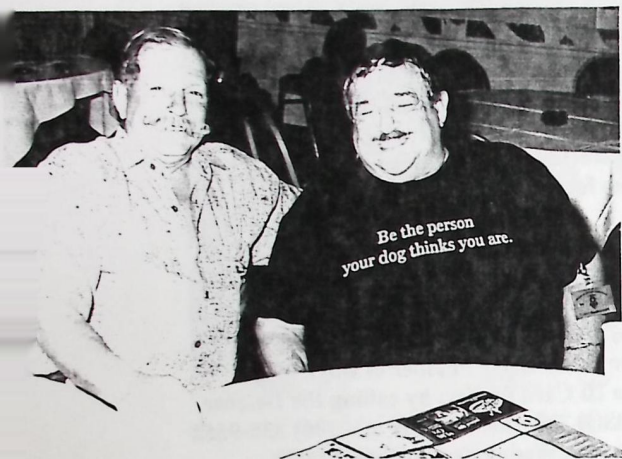
h. The NMOP offers the largest discount to DOD Beneficiaries. It is convenient for filling prescriptions for chronic conditions like high blood pressure or diabetes. The retail network pharmacy program can be used for short-term, immediate use medications. Lists of TRICARE network pharmacies will be available from regional TRICARE contractors. Beneficiaries who use non-network pharmacies will have to meet an annual deductible, incur a higher co-pay and pay the entire bill up front and then file a claim for appropriate reimbursement.

i. One of the most important steps eligible beneficiaries can take to be sure they can use the expanded pharmacy benefit is to update their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) record with their correct address and any changes in family status, such as marriage, divorce, birth or adoption. Eligible beneficiaries may update their addresses in DEERS in a number of ways: By visiting local personnel offices that have an ID Card facility; by calling the Defense Manpower Data Center Support Office (DSO) Telephone Center at: (800) 538-9552 (The best time to call the "Telephone Center" is Wednesday through Friday, between 0900 and 1500 hours (Pacific Time) to avoid delays); by FAX, changes to: (831) 655-8317; by mailing the change information to the DSO, Attn: COA, 400 Gigling Road, Seaside, California 93955-6771; by visiting a Military Treatment Facility; by E-mailing information to: [addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil](mailto:addrinfo@osd.pentagon.mil) and including the sponsor's name and social security number, names (s) of other family members affected by the address change, effective date of address information and telephone number (to include area code). Internet users should use all lower-case letters because some e-mail systems are case sensitive.

j. To change information in DEERS, other than address data, beneficiaries may visit an ID Card facility, or mail or FAX changes with appropriate documentation to the address or FAX numbers provided above. For beneficiaries to learn what documentation is required, they should contact the nearest Military ID Card Facility.

k. **ADDED: Lifetime Medical Care Update:** On 1 October 2001, Medicare -eligible military retirees and their families will become eligible for either TRICARE FOR LIFE or TRICARE PRIME. To take advantage, eligible retirees must be enrolled in Medicare Part B and must have their Medicare status recorded in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS). Virtually any Medicare - eligible retiree with Medicare Part B will qualify for TRICARE FOR LIFE. For treatment under TRICARE PRIME, however, it has been reported that local commanders still will determine space availability within their Military Treatment Facilities. Meanwhile, Health Affairs and Tricare officials are working to figure out how many new patients might be involved in TRICARE PRIME.

l. **ADDED: Tricare Catch-22 for Overseas Retirees:** Medicare coverage



Robert Clewell and Bob Masterjoseph. Bob – I like your T-Shirt. Who does your dog think you are?



Robert Noe admiring General Jack's tie?



Sharon and "Rip" Van Winkle. A gracious couple that worked their "butts off" distributing the SOAR XXIV Registration Gift - "Members Only" jackets. Thank you both for your superb efforts.



Bob Golden entertaining his Mother at SOAR XXIV. "Ma, tell the truth – you came to Las Vegas to check him out". Right?



does not extend outside the United States, so some 25,000 Medicare-eligible military retirees living abroad must secure their own health insurance or pay directly for their care. Commencing 1 October 2001, they may use TRICARE as their primary health insurance payer. To do so, however, they will have to take out Medicare Part B, even though they still will not rate Medicare benefits. In addition, if they do not sign up for Medicare Part B upon reaching age 65, they will have to pay more if they enroll later. In most cases, using TRICARE as a primary health insurer also will not guarantee greater access to the limited number of military treatment facilities overseas.

**m. ADDED:** Eligible Retirees should take no action until you receive official notice through your official military medical service channels. Do not CANCEL any Supplemental Medical Provider Service Insurance you presently have, until YOU ARE SURE AS TO what services will be provided to you under this new law.

**A SINCERE THANK YOU:** The entire Clyde Sincere family wishes to thank the many SOA members and their families that were so thoughtful in providing cards and emails of condolence and sympathy as it related to the unexpected passing of our son Thomas Alan Sincere at the age of 44 on the early morning of 18 November 2000. It was, to say the least, a shock, but, at the same time very heartwarming and comforting to know that Tom will be remembered by so many in their prayers. This holiday season will be tempered with the knowledge that he is gone physically, but certainly Tom will always remain close in our hearts. Thank you all. **Clyde and Mary Sincere.**

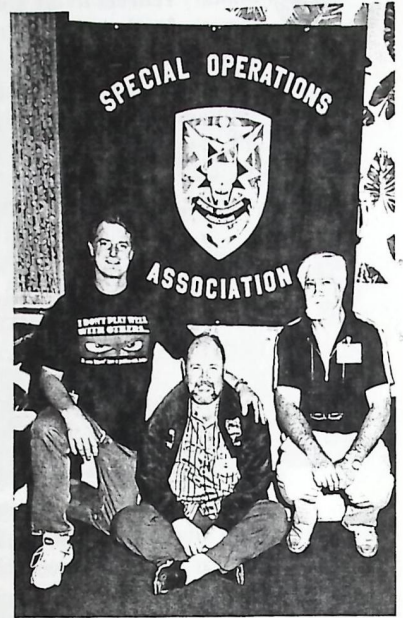
**THE RAY CHAMBERS FAMILY:** We wish to thank each of you for your words of comfort and your thoughts of healing and joy. They helped to sustain us during a traumatic time. Ray's son Raymon, 43 years of age was interred Friday afternoon, 29 December 2000 in Fayetteville, North Carolina following his death in an automobile accident on Christmas Day, 25 December 2000. While the family is still somewhat numb, be assured that we will recover and be just as vibrant as ever. Once again, thank you all for your kind and wonderful thoughts. **Ray and Dee Chambers.**

**COLONEL AARON BANK, USA RETIRED:** Another milestone reached. Colonel Bank achieved the ripe young age of 98 on 23 November 1999. On behalf of the entire membership of the SOA – we all wish Colonel Bank, “The Father of U.S. Army Special Forces” continued good health. God Speed.

**SOAR XXIV's SPECIAL GUESTS:** SOAR XXIV had as its guests, the Dale Dehnke family consisting of Dale's mother, Mrs. Betty Skeen, two sisters, Pam Dehnke and Karen Zinder, and Mr. & Mrs. Doug McMillan, close child-hood friends. Also, Jim Hollingsworth, son of Gary Hollingsworth. Gary and Dale were on the same mission when “Charlie” interfered with the rest of their lives. Additionally, Mrs. Barbara Birchim, widow of Jim Birchim. These folks all came to SOAR XXIV to meet with the men who ran recon with either their son, brother, father, husband or friend. It was an honor for all of us. I'm sure they had as much fun meeting us as we did hosting them.



Cliff Newman, SOA # 006-GL. Cliff is the only, repeat, only SOA member that has attended all 24 SOA Reunions. Fantastic. Congrats are in order. Thank you for all of your super support over the years. By the way – on the left, that is Ed Clough providing morale support to Cliff – like he needs it. Nice vest, Ed.



The SOA Banner – That is what this picture is all about. Forget about the three (3) SEA travelers. From L to R: “Robbie” Robinson – (the CONUS “Robbie”), “Bru” Taylo and the Reverend “Sandy” Sandell.



You should have seen John a couple hours later following this picture. From L to R: John McClaskey, Jerry Ginder, John Gebbie and Ray Whittington. Looking Good Ray.....

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.



## JASON M. HARDY

580 Parker Street  
Gardner, MA 01440  
978.630.3533



jason.hardy@worldnet.att.net



Greetings,

My name is Jason Hardy. Perhaps you recall my ad from last year, which appeared in the SOA "After Action Report". I have also been privileged to attend the last two SOA conventions and I look forward to attending this years festivities in September. I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of you who stopped by my display last year and to those of you that responded to my advertisement. I was very pleased with the response and this has encouraged me to repeat and expand my coverage for the year.

My goal for the upcoming year is to seriously engage in writing a comprehensive book on SOG awards, uniforms, and equipment. In order to accomplish this objective I am reaching out for your help. I need as much information, pictures, and materials as I can possibly get. I am more then willing to purchase these items from you or make a donation in your name to the organization of your choice. When it comes to parting with your souvenirs consider some of the options. If you donate them to a museum it may never be displayed. You have no control over what they can do with it. If you sell it at an auction you have no control over who buys it or what they will pay. You should be able "to call the shots" and that is the way it should be.

Here are a couple references from members of the association with whom I have dealt with:

"If you are thinking of letting go of your SOG memorabilia I can think of no better person to deal with than Jason Hardy. He is a man if his word, he is more then generous in what pays for the material and he had great respect for the men and legacy of SOG. He has formed a great reference collection and anything added to that will greatly enhance the history of SOG and our knowledge of the men who have served there."

**Frank Greco, CCC, R/T Colorado**

"After careful consideration I feel very comfortable that our heritage and momentos will be best preserved by a qualified private collector. After extensively dealing with Jason Hardy I felt very satisfied selling him my collection. This has enabled me to contribute to the charities of my choosing rather then to see my momentos go to a nameless museum."

**Steve Hatch, CCC, R/T Kentucky**

Please do not hesitate to speak with the above persons to verify my intentions.

I will be mailing each of you a questionnaire in the up coming months. I would sincerely appreciate if you would kindly invest a few moments to fill out the questionnaire and return this to me. I am very interested in preserving your history for future generations of Americans as they have the right to know.

# WANTED:

**Seriously** seeking original  
Special Operations artifacts  
for my personal collection and  
up coming reference book.



## Plaques



CCS            CCC            CCN  
Omega        Sigma        Phoenix

\$500.00 to \$700.00

AK-47 Presentation Plaques \$1,000.00



## Uniforms



Modified Set \$500.00 to \$1,000.00  
Tiger Stripe Set \$250.00 to \$ 400.00  
1-0 Jackets \$600.00 to \$1,500.00  
Std. Fatigues \$250.00 to \$ 500.00



## Headgear



Berets (Embroidered) \$250.00 to \$500.00  
Berets \$100.00 to \$250.00  
Black Boonie Cap \$100.00 to \$200.00  
Tiger Strip Cap \$100.00 to \$200.00



## Lighters



Zippo w/ Presentation \$250.00  
Others \$100.00 to \$200.00

Jason M. Hardy  
580 Parker Street Gardner, MA 01440  
978.630.3533



## SOG Identification Cards



SOG Id's	\$250.00
Team Calling Cards	\$150.00
Others	\$ 75.00



## Fighting Knives



SOG Knives	\$800.00 to \$1,400.00
Presentation SOG's	\$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00
Gerber	\$350.00 to \$500.00
Buffalo Bill Presentation	\$500.00



## Equipment

Stabo Rigs	\$350.00 to \$500.00
Hanson Rig	\$250.00
Jungle Boots	\$75.00 to \$150.00
Jungle Boots w/foot print sole	\$1,000.00



## Captured Items



Ordnance	\$100.00 to \$350.00
Uniforms	\$350.00 to \$500.00
Headgear	\$100.00 to \$250.00

## Insignia

Team Patches	\$350.00 to \$500.00
Beer Can DI	\$150.00 to \$250.00
BombBurst Patches	\$250.00 to \$350.00

I am interested in all other items that you may have, Mike Force, Seal, Force Recon, LRRP, etc... Please give me a call for an offer. I am also interested in items from post Vietnam covert ops (Central America, Grenada, Rhodesia, etc...)

**Jason M. Hardy**

**580 Parker Street Gardner, MA 01440**

**978.630.3533**

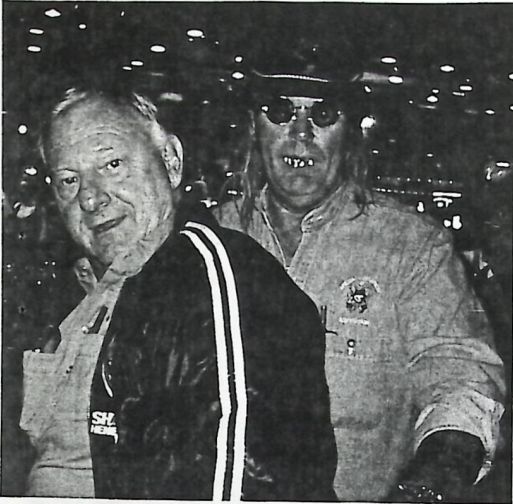


Charles "Slats" Petry and Billy Waugh. Folks, two (2) of SOG's finest. "Slats" was the very first SOG, OP-35 "One Zero". On 18 October 1965 "Slats" led his recon team "across the fence" out of Kham Duc. Unfortunately, SOG lost Larry Thorne on that operation when his helicopter failed to return from its support role. Billy on the other hand didn't and doesn't know when to cease "crossing the fence" and relax – try retirement Billy, you'll like it.



Now, you take this crew. From L to R: Norm Doney, Joe Bilitzke, Fred Walz, Dean Byrne, John Korsbeck, Chester Howard, Fred Mentzer and Bob Mitchell.

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.



Remember in an earlier photo I mentioned that you should see John McClaskey at a later time. Well – Here he is behind me. You now see what can happen to you when you drink.



Mei-Ling Green. Nice legs. Happy camper. Don bring her again.



Billy Waugh making his point as General Singlaub prepares to present roses to Mrs. Betty Skeen, mother of Dale Dehnke.

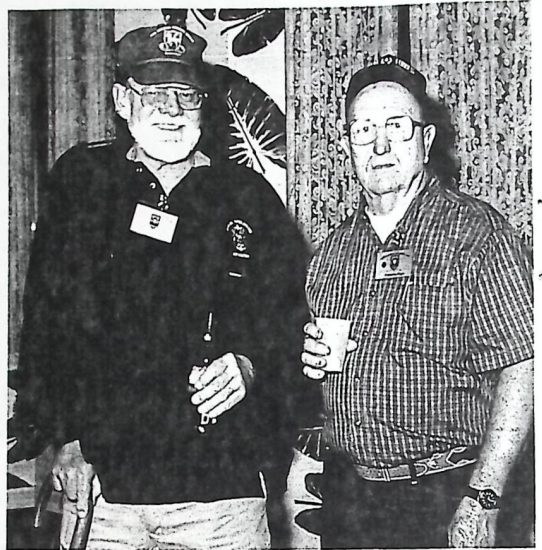


Mother Golden attempting to influence the "Asian Connection".  
From L to R: Hang Ettinger, Yvonne McDermott, Shirley Baker, Nguyet Sherman and "Ma" Golden.  
Bob Golden – she will return to SOAR.

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**Bob Golden and John Ley. Bob – I like your shirt.**

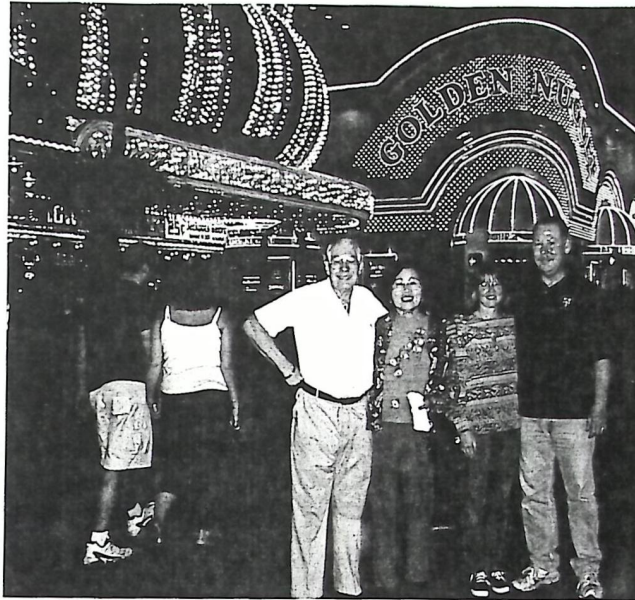


**Bob Lewelling and Clarence Page. Bob is relating to Clarence how the weather in Utah has it all over the weather in Texas, especially, Houston, Texas, site of SFA Convention '01. Clarence is going to prove him wrong – right?**



**SOAR – This is what it is all about. From: L to R: Tom Henry, Jimmy Tong Nguyen, Connie and Ed McGowan.**

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**"On the town", Old Las Vegas – From L to R:  
Ben & Shirley Baker, Debbie and Jim Harrison**



**From L to R: Lloyd Bylund, Lorilei  
and Steve Wilson. "Folks, are all hands  
accounted for here? Check those finger  
tips on the left hand....."**



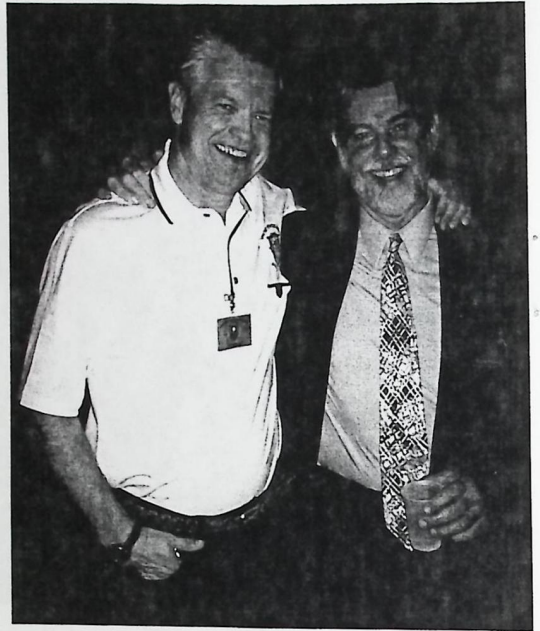
**Sue and Larry Trimble. Sue are  
you trying to avoid whatever Larry  
is attempting to pass to you?**

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.



Ladies and Gentlemen – May I present the United States Air Force Honor Guard from Nellis AFB, Nevada. The various Commanders at Nellis AFB over these many years have always been very supportive of SOA's request for an annual Honor Guard at SOAR. The SOA wishes to express its appreciation to the young men and women who perform this solemn ceremony each year.

Folks – this is Mei-Ling Green and her very proud dad, SOA member Don Green. Bring Mei-Ling again Don, I truly believe she enjoyed being at SOAR XXIV. Added a little extra "class" to the reunion. Right Men?



"Tilt Meyer and Bob Shippen – two (2) CCN (FOB-1 and FOB-3) Recon buddies. Its great to be able to be at SOAR 30+ years later.



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John "Doc" Padgett demonstrating that he has an expertise in other than just medical subjects. Great form "Doc".



Jim Howard commenting on how "dashing and debonaire" Judy and "Bo" Gritz looked this evening.

Sherri and Pete Laurence, the proud parents of daughter Alana, a recipient of a SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship who is now employed as a young working scientist.



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**John Plaster addressing SOAR XXIV attendees on the status relating to the imminent awarding of the Army SOG Presidential Unit Citation.**



**Gordon Liddy and Bobby Evans in quiet discussion.**

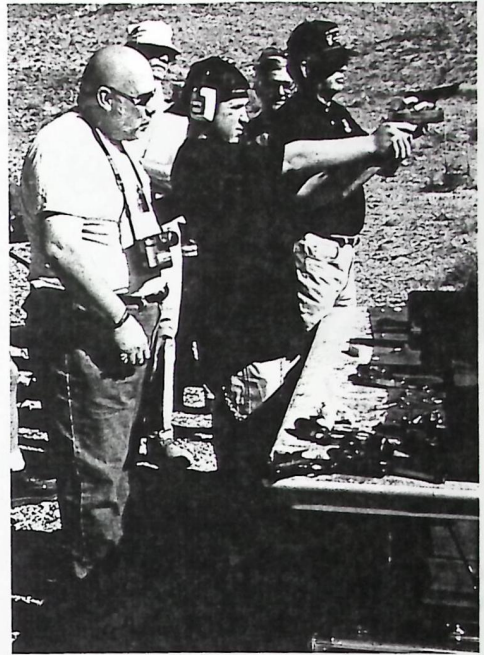


**Tanya – It is very important for you to be looking down range. Do not under any circumstance permit Jerry to distract you. Tanya and Jerry Ginder during the conduct of SOAR XXIV Range Firing.**

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**John "Tilt" Meyer, on behalf of USMC Lieutenant Colonel Bob Coates presents President Pro-Tem, SOA Clyde Sincere with a commemorative USMC First Force Recon "Paddle" in appreciation of SOA's support of First Force Recon humanitarian goals in December 1999. Thank you Bob.**



**Bob Johnston providing "pointers" on the finer aspects of automatic pistol firing to his son "Robby". By the way, that individual to the left of "Robby" is the new President of the SFA, Wayne Lawley. Wayne is a recent newcomer to the SOA ranks. From the seriousness of his demeanor, he may have fired a pistol, once or twice before. Welcome aboard Wayne.**



**SOAR XXIV's "GUN MOLLS". Any Taker Tough Duty. But, someone has to do it.**

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Richard and Doris Hendrick with Don "Sluggo" Murphy taking advantage of the situation.



Mary Olga and Robin Moore. I think Mary Olga is trying to tell us something about Robin – What do you think?



Three (3) young ladies discussing what kind of trouble their husbands were getting into. From L to R: Nguyet Sherman, Sun Page and Shirley Baker.



John "Skip" Sadler and Bill Lueders. First time together since Laos, circa 1961.

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**Harry Claflin, Chairman, SOA Reunion Committee and David "Bulldog" Smith, Administrator, SOA.**

**Harry – "You done well". SOAR XXIV was a great success. On behalf of the entire SOA membership – Thank you and your Committee for a fantastic mission accomplished. Wow, a great time was had by all. By the way – first time we've seen Harry in a "real suit". Usually he shows off his Marine desert BDU's. Oh well.**



**Now – First of all there are a few guys that cannot be called GENTLEMEN. They insisted that the women stand to the rear. From L to R: Art Childs, Rose Childs, "Big" John Fryer, Shirley Baker, Anna Fryer, Toshie Meehan and Peter Gaiss, Anna's brother visiting from Germany.**

**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.**



Ray and Dee Chambers appearing to make the most of the SOAR XXIV Banquet. Thank you Dee for your support at the SOA Registration Desk.



Hanz Manz! How did Rosie Childs get betw  
You and Evelyn?

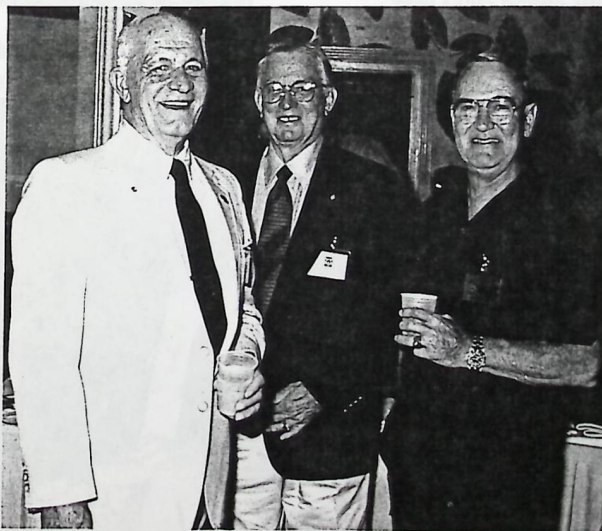


Part of the Hospitality Working Crew. From L to R:  
Bill Garcia, "MAXI", Pat Hephner, JANNA" and  
John Parry. Folks, they all did a yeoman's task.

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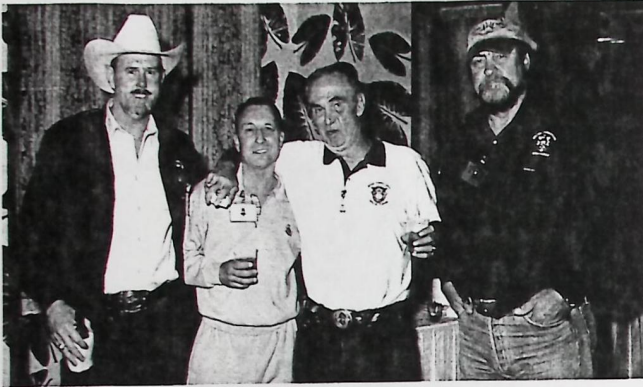


**Everyone wants their picture taken with Chris.  
From L to R: Ray Chambers, Lance Lollini  
and Chris McClure. Why? Can it be his unique  
mustache? – but, then again ????**



**Three Gentlemen – “Out on the town”.  
From L to R: Jimmy Dean, Wayne Lawley  
and Gene McCarthy.**

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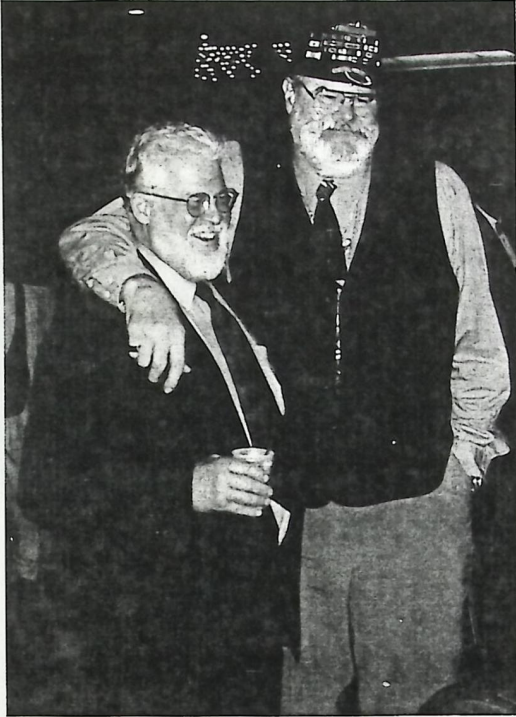
Now – Take this crew – Please.  
From L to R: Chester Howard,  
“Skip” Ettinger, Jay Graves and  
Fred Walz.

Gary Peisen and Bob Bost appear  
to be in serious thought. Just look  
at those facial expressions. Hmmm.



The “Real” BOSS – Mrs. Joan Singlaub and Major  
General Jack Singlaub.

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**Bob Burton explaining his USMC background to Ed Clough, or is it his "Bounty Hunter" expertise? Does it make any difference Ed?**



**Anyone from Colorado? From L to R: Don Green and his daughter Mei Ling, Ralph, Rose and Jade Rodd.**



**Just a small family gathering at SOAR. From L to R: "Lark" and John Frescura, Beverly and Bill Frescura. Enjoy folks.**

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Debbie Stoll – demonstrating to Kent White that she is very capable of handling a weapon, and he had better remember that.

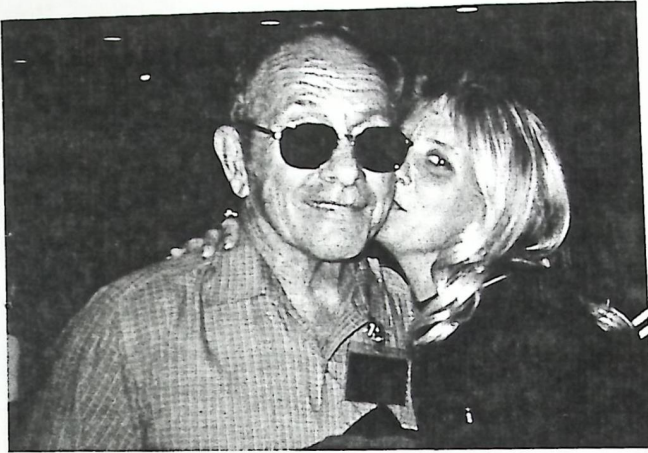


A happy trio – From L to R: Nick Herbert, Linda and Jim Stoddard.



Ben and Shirley met Ed Clough 35 years ago and He, Ben insists that only Ed has gotten older. From L to R: Ben Baker, Ed Clough, Shirley Baker and Cliff Newman.

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**Billy – Billy. What will Robert say?  
Billy Waugh and Kathy Noe.**



**I'll say this now. Thank God for  
Angioplasty. Now I understand  
why I was so damned tired.**



**Lance Lollini attempting to convince  
Tom Shultz of the value of TATOOS..  
Tom is emphatic – get x/#\*@ out of here!**

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**Kathy and Robert Noe.**  
Looking pretty satisfied.  
That is an autographed  
Frank Allen MACVSOG  
Print in Robert's right hand.



**Julie Sylvester and Gordon Liddy.** Julie – you seem to gravitate from one character (Bill S.) to another. Oh well, we'll forgive you.



**Pat Hephner taking a break from Hospitality chores.**  
From L to R; Rose Rodd, Annette Davis, Pat and Donna  
Hephner.

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.



**John Korsbeck – a true representative of the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC. John you are going to have to explain that “headband”.....**

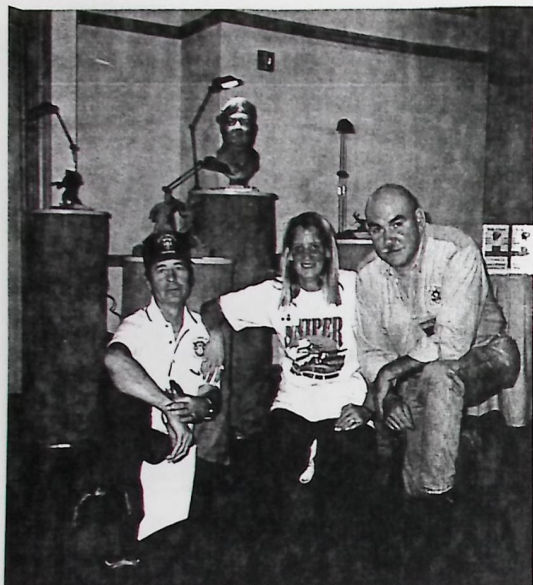


**Fred Platt and Ben Baker. Notice the “Range Money Bucket”. “Bag Men”, both of them – but, they do good work.**



**John Plaster, Jim Harrison and Ben Baker. Ben, Next time grow a mustache like John and Jim, or Provide each of them with a tie – like yours. Nice.**

*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.*



**Robert and Kathy Noe with John Plaster in the front of a couple of Mark Byrd's sculpted statues honoring Roy Benavidez, (MOH).**



**"Doc" Mike Dwyer and Gene McCarthy. Gene was attempting to impress everyone with the fact that he attended SOAR X in Bangkok. I must say this – the shirt still fits him.**



**"Old friends – showing off". From L to R: Ed and Nina Gammon, Thelma and Bob Moon.**

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**Bob Strange and Bob Shippen. Dr. Shippen is explaining John Plaster's book SOG to Bob "student" Strange.**



**Look closely at this picture. There was a definite attempt to convince everyone that only two guys were imbibing – the rest pushed their bottles away hoping they would not show up. Well – the photographer fooled them. From L to R: Bob Golden, John Ley, Ben Roberts, Paul Duffy, Floyd "Wil" Wiltgen and Mike Kim.**

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**Tom Marzullo and Robert Noe.**  
I understand that Tom offered Robert his comb prior to the snapping of this photo.



**Now – Why would two (2) former Chief's SOG, Jack Singlaub and "Skip" Sadler wish to take their picture with Jim Cole and Robert Noe?**



**"Rip" and Sharon Van Winkle**  
providing a member with his SOA  
"Members Only" jacket.

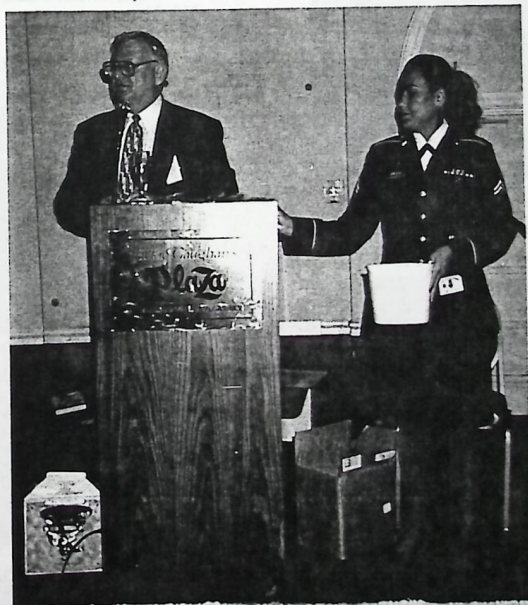


**Sully de Fontaine advising a couple of our friends from "Down Under" how WWII was fought in Europe, or was He querying "Robbie" as to where he received all of his medals?**

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.



**There is no doubt that without Angelique  
This picture would not be here. From L to  
R: Angelique and Sully de Fontaine with  
"Zorro", Don Jutz.**



**Corporal Mei Ling Green, daughter of SOA member  
Don Green providing much needed assistance to  
Clyde Sincere as they prepare to distribute SOAR XXIV  
Door and Raffle prizes.**

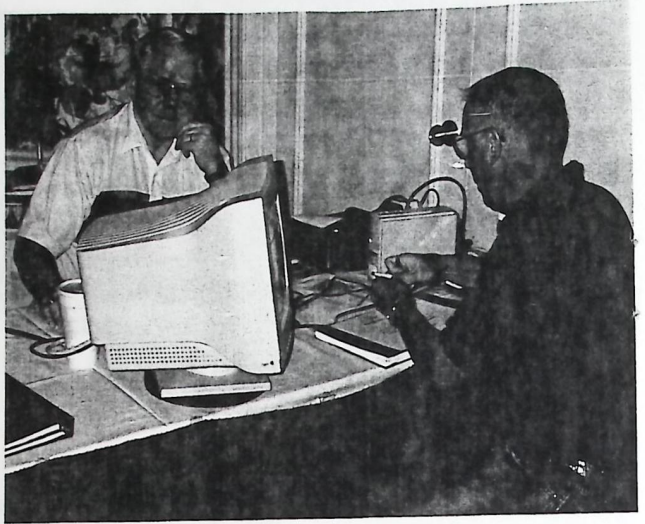
You have never lived until you have almost died. For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know.



**Don Benjamin and "Skip" Ettinger.**  
Don decided to "sit" and relax with  
a cool one during this "Photo-Op"



**Now here is a "Photo Op"**  
**Billy Waugh and Kathy Noe.**



**Ray Chambers posing a query to**  
**Al Keller as Al checks in at SOAR**  
**XXIV.**



**D.C. Caldwell – Number One**  
**Assistant to Mark Kinsler.**

*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.*



**"Skip" Langston, Billy Waugh  
and Kathy Noe. Nice T-Shirt  
Kathy's wearing.**



**Kathy and Robert Noe. You  
Know guys – I think she likes  
him. Robert is still looking for  
a comb.**



**Robert Noe and Tom Henry in  
Deep concentration.**



**Mrs. Betty Skeen and daughter  
Karen Zinder enjoying themselves.**

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.





## **Balance Sheet**

(As of November 30, 2000)

### **ASSETS**

#### **Current Assets**

Checking Accounts	\$	80,006.48	
Certificates of Deposit		130,000.00	
Inventory—SOAMS		<u>24,856.62</u>	
Total Current Assets			234,863.10

#### **Property and Equipment**

Equipment		1,159.00	
Accum. Depreciation		<u>(807.54)</u>	
Total Property and Equipment			<u>351.46</u>

Total Assets \$ 235,214.56

### **LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL**

#### **Current Liabilities**

Total Current Liabilities .00

#### **Long Term Liabilities**

Scholarship Awards Payable	<u>86,000.00</u>	
Total Long Term Liabilities		<u>86,000.00</u>

Total Liabilities 86,000.00

Total Uncommitted Capital 149,214.56

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 235,214.56

**Unaudited—For Management Purposes only**



## INCOME STATEMENT

(For Eleven Months Ending November 30, 2000)

### Revenues:

	Year to Date
Membership Dues (Annual)	\$ 12,025.00
Membership Dues (Life)	9,925.00
Contributions	58,293.00
Interest Income	6,442.34
SOAR Registration	48,885.00
SOAR Raffle Tickets	19,187.00
Vendors & Advertising	375.00
America Remembers Pistol Royalties	1,023.75
Memorabilia Sales	<u>14,254.50</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 170,410.59

### Expenses:

Scholarship Expense	\$ 23,000.00
SOAR XXIV Expense	50,940.39
PRP/AAR/Spring Newsletter	14,962.34
Misc. Printing Expense	1,991.47
Misc. Supplies Expense	5,483.61
Bank Charges & Visa/MC Fees	1,008.28
SOAMS Cost of Goods Sold/S&P	7,230.20
Security Bond/Liability Insurance Expense	3,338.47
Memorial (Flowers) Expense	657.65
Mail Forwarding Expense	115.00
Storage/Equipment Rental Expense	1,372.68
Executive Director Contract Expense	1,200.00
Telephone Expense	1,424.13
Depreciation Expense	276.31
Travel Expense	8,132.81
Postage & Shipping	3,681.61
Total Expenses	\$ <u>124,814.95</u>
Net Income	\$ <u>45,595.64</u>

Unaudited-For Management Purposes Only



# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT  
THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
HAS AWARDED THE  
PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION  
TO THE

STUDIES AND OBSERVATION GROUP,  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
COMMAND, VIETNAM

FOR  
EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM IN MILITARY  
OPERATIONS AGAINST AN ARMED ENEMY.

24 January 1964 to 30 April 1972

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

THIS 22D DAY OF AUGUST 2000



*James D. ...*  
SECRETARY OF THE ARMY



By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I have today awarded

THE PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION (ARMY)  
FOR EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM  
TO THE  
STUDIES AND OBSERVATIONS GROUP,  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM

The Studies and Observations Group is cited for extraordinary heroism, great combat achievement and unwavering fidelity while executing unheralded top secret missions deep behind enemy lines across Southeast Asia. Incorporating volunteers from all branches of the Armed Forces, and especially, U.S. Army Special Forces, Special Operations Group's ground, air and sea units fought officially denied actions which contributed immeasurably to the American war effort in Vietnam. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam-Special Operations Group reconnaissance teams composed of Special Forces soldiers and indigenous personnel penetrated the enemy's most dangerous redoubts in the jungled Laotian wilderness and the sanctuaries of eastern Cambodia. Pursued by human trackers and even bloodhounds, these small teams out-maneuvered, out-fought and out-ran their numerically superior foe to uncover key enemy facilities, rescue downed pilots, plant wiretaps, mines and electronic sensors, capture valuable enemy prisoners, ambush convoys, discover and assess targets for B-52 strikes, and inflict casualties all out of proportion to their own losses. When enemy counter-measures became dangerously effective, Special Operations Group operators innovated their own counters, from high altitude parachuting and unusual explosive devices, to tactics as old as the French and Indian War. Fighting alongside their Montagnard, Chinese Nung, Cambodian and Vietnamese allies, Special Forces-led Hatchet Force companies and platoons staged daring raids against key enemy facilities in Laos and Cambodia, overran major munitions and supply stockpiles, and blocked enemy highways to choke off the flow of supplies to South Vietnam. Special Operations Group's cross-border operations proved an effective economy-of-force, compelling the North Vietnamese Army to divert 50,000 soldiers to rear area security duties, far from the battlefields of South Vietnam. Supporting these hazardous missions were Special Operations Group's own United States and South Vietnamese Air Force transport and helicopter squadrons, along with U.S. Air Force Forward Air Controllers and helicopter units of the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps. These courageous aviators often flew through heavy fire to extract Special Operations Group operators from seemingly hopeless situations, saving lives by selflessly risking their own. Special Operations Group's Vietnamese naval surface forces - instructed and advised by U.S. Navy SEALs - boldly raided North Vietnam's coast and won surface victories against the North Vietnamese Navy, while indigenous agent teams penetrated the very heartland of North Vietnam. Despite casualties that sometimes became universal, Special Operations Group's operators never wavered, but fought throughout the war with the same flair, fidelity and intrepidity that distinguished Special Operations Group from its beginning. The Studies and Observations Group's combat prowess, martial skills and unacknowledged sacrifices saved many American lives, and provide a paragon for America's future special operations forces.





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"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."

August 16, 2000

To: The SOA Membership

From: James B. (Jim) Cole

RE: 1. The office of the President  
2. The Health & Welfare of the SOA  
3. Personal comments to the membership

1. During SOAR XXIII I was approached by a long time, well respected, SOA member and asked if I would consider running for office. I said "yes".

Several weeks later I was asked again by another long time member if I would contemplate running for President and the Board and once again I said "yes".

Having never held office in either the SOA or SFA other than at SFA Chapter Level, I was not fully aware of the turmoil going on in the SOA. From the time I agreed to run for office until now, I have been privy to some of the activity going on and from an "outsider" so to speak, it is not what you would expect from such an august association. Can it be fixed without tearing the SOA apart? I believe so. Will some terrific longtime devoted member either get hurt or be hurt? I think so. My last question is why? I want to address this in my personal comments later on in this letter, however this type of scenario happens in almost every association and private club and is the very reason I have always chosen not to hold office, accept directorships (with the exception of the USO), or volunteer for committees. I am accepting this challenge, if elected, for one reason...I believe I can help.

2. The health and welfare of the SOA is paramount to any other issue. We are an association with one of the simplest agendas of any organization I know of.
  - a) Raise money to fund scholarships for our children.
  - b) Enjoy each other's company.

It's that simple. Why make it difficult? We are not responsible for the national debt. We do not have to answer to anyone other than the person who looks back at us in the mirror. Do we occasionally need a "team leader"? Yes! Are we all capable of doing things on our own? Yes! Team Leaders, Officers, and Directors simply make it easier for all of us by providing direction and helping to cover our derrieres. Do I think there is one individual in this association who would betray our trust intentionally? No, I do not. We are a band of brothers...period.

3. My personal comments will either get me elected or severely shorten my membership in the SOA. Remember what I said earlier, this is why I do not normally agree to run for office. It's the old 50/50 rule of being right or wrong in someone's eyes.

First, let's address the most important issue, the children...scholarships.

- Some children do not make the grades that fall within our parameters.
- Some children do not communicate the way we expect them to with reference to their educational goals.

- Some children may have even spent scholarship money in other ways.
- Some children have excelled.
- Some children have exceeded our prerequisites.
- Some children will go on to become leaders in their chosen endeavors.

Has the SOA succeeded with their scholarship program? A heck of a good job in my opinion.

Children will be children...so it behooves you to remember your childhood.

I vividly remember a major faux pas at the age of 16 when a Scotland County Sheriff walked into the Laurel Hill, NC poolroom and arrested me and my buddy on charges of kidnapping, statutory rape, and white slavery. The investigation proved otherwise, but we are all guilty to some degree.

The only perfect person to walk this earth was born in the town of Jerusalem. There is very little chance of anyone else walking in those footsteps.

So, now let's address "us" the SOA.

I cannot really speak for those of "us" from other areas of Special Operations, only those from Special Forces, but I would assume the term "brother" applies to all. I certainly believe it does.

I am watching long time best buddy friendships go down the tubes.

I hear slanderous statements being made toward each other.

The Internet is attracting comments from Non-SOA members who cannot believe what we are doing as an association.

Long time good members are being asked to resign.

Long time good members are walking away.

What is wrong?

How do you train together...

Go to war together...

Protect each other's back together...

And then try to destroy one another while belonging together to one of the best associations ever.

Some of those same magnificent warriors of days gone by who make up this association have changed.



Most have become older...

Some are bitter about the fruits of war...

Some drink too much and say little of consequence...

Some drink less and say too much about nothing...

Some want to control...

Some look for confrontation...

Some want to be left alone...

Some look forward to just seeing each other again if only once a year...

Perhaps this is all because we are a dying breed of men...

Our ranks are thinning almost daily, however, the replacements are not coming fast enough and they do not have the same "let's-make-it-up-and-make-it-work" type savvy of days gone by.

Have you forgotten the fight is not from within it is from without?

It's time to reload, focus on the mission, take care of one another, forgive those indiscretions that might occur and above all behave like brothers.

If we can't do that, the least we can do is remember the children.

I said I believe I can help but I don't know if Jim Cole can truly help the SOA, that's a performance issue. However, I can tell you one thing for sure, I will not turn on or against any member. I never had a brother until February 17, 1961 and from that day forward I have enjoyed many wonderful times with my brothers, those who are still here and those who are gone...

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

What have I done?

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KNOW."



5130 Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1000

November 27, 2000

SUBJECT: SOA Update

I am pre-empting my in-coming President's message, as your President-Elect, to bring you "up to speed" on the events, which occurred during SOAR XXIV and also the subsequent developments.

To those who were present at SOAR XXIV, you could sense the turmoil within the SOA membership. It was a situation that had to be quickly diffused before a permanent rift occurred. The camaraderie, which we normally have enjoyed over the years, was breaking down with separate factional meetings, finger pointing, disgust at what was going on, and just plain bad perception all around.

Every one of us is better than those words above because we are the Special Operations Association... without peers.

As your President-Elect, I wanted to stay removed from the situation until January 1, 2001. However, the general membership meeting started to deteriorate rapidly and I decided to step in.

Everything I did occurred within a five-minute window. It was effective and I accomplished what needed to be done. For those of you who did not attend SOAR XXIV, I will share with you how the situation was managed, as I perceived it, based on what I had learned to date.

As most of you know, a Management Control Review (MCR) was authorized by Clyde Sincere, President SOA in concert with John McClaskey, incoming Treasurer, to review the SOA financial books. The MCR, or its contents to a degree, pointed toward indiscretions allegedly committed by Jack Abraham and Ralf Miller. The MCR was also available to some SOA members and sides were chosen. A horrific time ensued for many months and it affected members on both sides.

Whether Jack and Ralf were right or wrong, I cannot say.

Whether the MCR was right or wrong, I cannot say.

Whether the BOD was right or wrong, I cannot say.

I am neither judge nor jury.

However, I can say, in my 40 years of association with Special Forces and Special Operations, I have never met a man who could not "talk the talk" and "walk the walk", with one exception... he is no longer a member of the SOA.

I quickly spoke with Clyde Sincere and advised him of my intention to take the microphone.



I then asked Jack Abraham if the SOA membership were to apologize and reinstate him to Vice-President, would he step down for the remainder of his term and take no legal action against the SOA... He said OK and I shook a man's hand on his word.

I then asked Ralf Miller if the SOA membership were to apologize and reinstate him to President, would he step down for the remainder of his term and take no legal action against the SOA... He said OK and I shook a man's hand on his word.

I then addressed the membership and said "as your new President Elect, I wrote all of you a letter on August 16, 2000, but elected not to send it, because I wanted to attend SOAR XXIV and see for myself what was going on." I asked the membership if they would like to hear me read the letter and it was almost unanimous, the answer was "yes, read the letter." (See attached)

After finishing, I asked the membership to stand, turn, and then apologize to Jack and Ralf and to throw the MCR out. It was done.

Was I right or wrong? That is for the Special Operations Association members to decide.

I have been told that I did not follow Robert's Rules of Order and probably did not do so. At that moment of engagement, I was more concerned with the SOA than Robert's Rules of Order.

The membership ruled.

The aftermath was quite intense. I hunkered down and absorbed the shots and kept my silence.

Then I began to receive phone calls and e-mails from members with "well wishes" and "gratitude" for my actions and that made me feel good.

I then began to receive e-mails and calls of a different nature. Ralf Miller told me he was going to re-assume the Presidency. He wanted my comments. I simply told him, "a man has to do what he has to do", and that's not the only time I had to use the same phrase.

Clyde Sincere resigned, other members resigned and we were heading back to ground zero.

I flew to Washington, participated in the interment of Jack Isler, spent an evening with Clyde, discussing the health of the SOA and asked if he would stay on as President Pro Tem, complete the AAR and work together. He agreed if I could reverse the situation with Ralf Miller.



I talked extensively the next day with Ralf and also Jack. They both agreed that the SOA is above all of us and the agreement we made on a handshake in Las Vegas was good enough. Now that is what a Special Operations Association member is all about! Ralf Miller has told me his action in re-assuming the Presidency was a mistake, but his intentions were honorable and I believe him.

In closing, I want to say that SOAR XXIV was a wonderful success. Officers are to be commended for that success. The Committee Chairmen are to be commended for that success... And last but not least, that hard working Clyde Sincere is to be commended for that success. That may be redundant, but it is true.

I look forward to addressing all of you in January with my incoming President's message and it will outline my Agenda, Objectives, Goals, Things-to-do, Questions and Summary.

Most of all, I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you at SOAR XXV and a good time will be had by all.

Jim Cole  
President-Elect