

# **THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**SOAR XXV**

**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.”**

**26 - 30 SEPTEMBER 2001**







## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

### SOAR XXV

### INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: All SOA Members

FROM: Executive Director, SOA

SUBJECT: SOAR XXV Pre-Reunion Packet (SOAR XXV PRP)

The following items are incorporated in this SOAR XXV PRP:

1. Pre-Reunion Basic Packet (Includes):
  - a. Schedule of Events w/ schematic of reunion floor plan.
  - b. PRP Informational Newsletter from the President, SOA.
  - c. SOA Officers and Directors
  - d. SOA Fact Sheet.
  - e. The George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Recipients
  - f. The SOA Honor Role of Donors.
  - g. SOA Facts and Figures.
  - h. Fallen Comrades
  - i. Subject Letter: STD Commando Recognition Night.
  - j. Brochure - MACV-SOG & SF Memorabilia Display.
  - k. "Las Vegas Quick Draw".
2. Letter of Explanation of the proposed amendments to the By-Laws.
3. SOA By-Laws dated 30 Sep 2000 with amendments recommended by the BOD as of 17 June 2001.
4. SOA Membership Application.
5. Texas Legislature honors Roy P Benavidez (MOH).
6. Honoring the Defiant One - Rocky Versace.



7. Wife of CPT James D Birchim (MIA-DSC) honors his memory and those of other Warriors with the Dedication of trees at the Presidio Cemetery.
8. Brochure - Special Operations Memorial, MacDill AFB, Florida
9. SOAMS Sales Form.
10. Brochure "Hello World Travel".
11. SOA 2001 Calendar.
12. Ten (10) George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Raffle Tickets @ \$5.00 each. You are requested to return any un-purchased tickets to "Rick" Grabianowski along with your stubs of purchased tickets.
13. SOAR XXV (Advance Discount) Registration Form.
14. ENVELOPE: Dues and/or SOAR Registration - c/o Rick Grabianowski. Also include your check, and purchased ticket stubs, and/or un-purchased raffle tickets.



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## SOAR XXV SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 25 SEP - 30 SEP 2001

### TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2001

1000 - 1700 - SOA BOD Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2001

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

### THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2001

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

1000 - 1200 - 281st BOD Meeting

1300 - 1500 - 281st/DELTA Memorial Service

### FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

0800 - 1300 - Weapons Firing

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite

1000 - 1800 - Late Registration

1130 - 1400 - Lunch (Hosted by SOA)

1400 - 1600 - POW/MIA Issues Norm Doney

1600 - 1700 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited

B Donoghue/D Smith/C Berg

1830 - 2230 STD Commandos Ceremony

### SATURDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2001

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite

0900 - 1000 - Late Registration

0900 - 1200 - General Membership Meeting

1130 - 1330 - Lunch (Hosted by SOA)

1300 - 1500 - 281st General Membership Meeting

1400 - 1500 - Bill Pelletier's Marriage

1800 - 1900 - Cocktails (Hosted by SOA)

1900 - 1915 - Posting of the Colors

1915 - 1920 - Toasts

1920 - 1925 - Introduction of VIP's/Guests

1930 - 1945 - Presentation of 25-Year Pins

1945 - 2100 - Banquet Dinner

2100 - 2115 - Retirement of the Colors

2115 - 2130 - Break

2130 - 2230 - SOA Raffle

2230 - 0200 - Hospitality Suite

### SUNDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

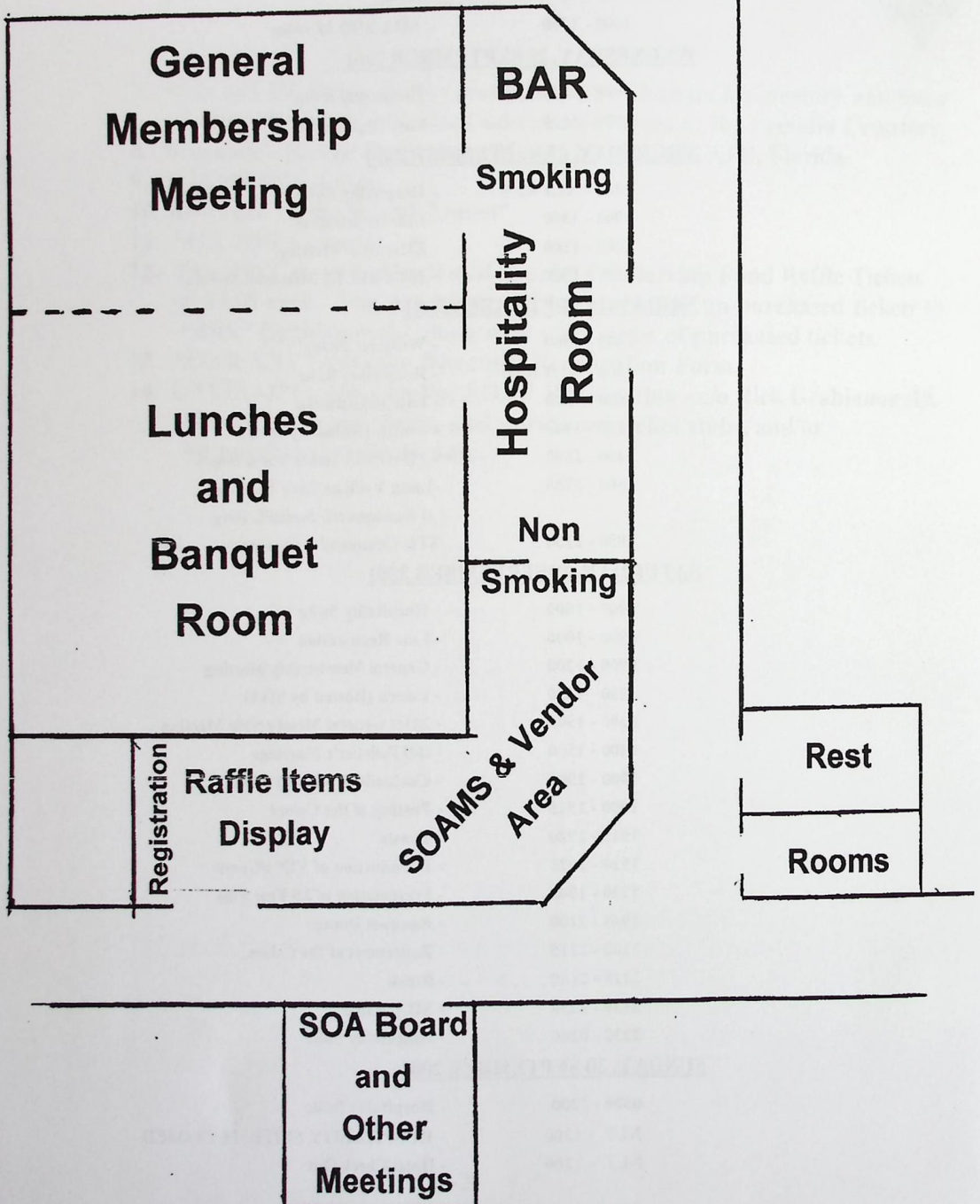
0800 - 1200 - Hospitality Suite

NLT - 1200 - HOSPITALITY SUITE IS CLOSED

NLT - 1200 - Hotel Check Out



# SOAR XXV Floor Plan





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

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

Dear SOA Member,

July 7, 2001

We are coming up on our Twenty-fifth Reunion of the Special Operations Association and all indications point to the largest reunion yet. We're expecting up to 850 Members and guests for this one and SOAR XXV is a good time for the largest Reunion ever.

This has been a year of ups and downs but if growth is any indication, "We're doing well". With over 1400 active members, the early days of a few are almost difficult to put into perspective. Those were the days when we were still young, drank hard, and played hard too. Yes I know, some still can and do. The remarkable part of it all is that the camaraderie remains and is in many ways stronger than before. We join together to remember years past, the good times mostly, and the friends, more like brothers, who made the Special Operations journey with us, that we might join together to SOAR yet another time.

Of course, this year we'll have the 281<sup>st</sup> and 170<sup>th</sup> AHC's joining us and they too will remember, along with us, the good times and lifetime friendships of brotherhood of the past years. As I remember their unselfish dedication and the risks they took in our behalf it gives me great pleasure to share this special time with them. With their participation, SOAR XXV will be that much better. Of course, many of their numbers are members of the SOA and we invite those who are not to become members too.

A year ago I couldn't have imagined that I would be writing this letter now. Although this is not what I had in mind when I ran for office, I do consider it an honor to serve you the membership. It is a good thing that there are so many dedicated and hard working members who take it upon themselves to make it all happen. To the Board of Directors, the Committee Chairmen, especially Patrick Hephner, the Reunion Committee Chairman, and Harold "Jake" Jacobson, our Executive Director, I give my thanks for your dedication and perseverance. Without the efforts of those elected and all those who volunteer to carry the load, not only would SOAR not happen, but the train would grind to a halt. I thank you all for keeping my head above water.

Most folks don't bother to read long letters so I'll close by saying I hope to see all of you at SOAR XXV. Those who attend determine if it is a success. When you attend and have a good time and decide you should continue to return with old friends to share the good time, "One more time", it is a success and a worthwhile endeavor.

**"We, all those who work to make it happen for you, hope to see you there"**

Sincerely,

James F. Hetrick  
President, SOA





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

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

### SOA Officers and Directors

18 June 2001

<b>President: and SOAMS</b>	James Hetrick, SOA # 36-GL 965 N. Grandview jfhетrick@email.msn.com	(520) 636-4121 Paulden, AZ 86334-0000
<b>Vice-President: and Membership</b>	Ray Chambers, SOA # 627-GL 437 North 110 <sup>th</sup> Street commosgm@earthlink.net	(480) 986-2542 Apache Junction, AZ 85220-2216
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rick Grabianowski, SOA # 1313-GL P.O. Box 20279 rick@grabianowski.com	(775) 323-7150 Reno, NV 89515-0279 FAX (775) 323-7153
<b>Secretary:</b>	David C. Smith, SOA # 1242-GL 2914 Tall Cedar Lane bulldogsog@aol.com	(336) 475-3908 Trinity, NC 27370-7501
<b>Directors:</b>	Charles L. Berg, SOA # 31-GL P.O. Box 763 soakva@aol.com	(707) 795-6642 Penngrove, CA 94951-0763
	Robert Jack, SOA # 414-GL 1163 Duncan Drive ender@widomaker.com	(757) 229-8160 Williamsburg, VA 23185-5714
	Justin E. McCarthy, SOA # 256-GL 360 Eppington Circle macgene@juno.com	(757) 851-2094 Hampton, VA 23669-1726
	Cliff Newman, SOA # 6-GL 1903 Temple # 316 Cnewman@aol.com	(562) 597-0725 Signal Hill, CA 90804-5611
	Earl Trabue, SOA # 1056-GL 714 Houston Street ccscurly@earthlink.net	(254) 547-6474 Copperas Cove, TX 76522-3118
<b>Executive Dir:</b>	Harold Jacobson, SOA # 69-GL 4729 Huron Drive jakesoa@aol.com	(850) 492-7639 Pensacola, FL 32507-8738





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

### FACT SHEET

The SOA is an 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 conduct 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.



### THE SOA GEORGE C MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Normally the names of the recipients are announced at the General Membership Meeting, and then published in the After Action Report. In this case the Board received the the names of the recipients early so we are publishing their names in this PRP:

It gives me great pleasure to announce the 2001 SOA Scholarship Winners and the men who they commemorate.

1. **Christopher Dove** - will receive the SOA scholarship for three years. He is currently attending Tulane University. Christopher is the son of Luke Dove. Luke was the one-zero of RT Delaware out of FOB II/CCC 6/68 to 7/69.

Christopher receives the award in memory Msg. Raymond L. Echevarria, one-zero; SFC James Emory, one-one; and SFC Eddie L. Williams, one-two of RT Arizona which was lost on October 3rd, 1966 while on a recon mission in Laos.

2. **Mary E. Turner** - will receive the SOA Scholarship for three years. She is currently attending State University of New York in Purchase, NY. Mary is the daughter of J.R. Turner. JR was the one-one of RT Bushmaster of CCN from September 1969 to December 1970.

Mary receives the award in memory of SFC. Charles Borowsky who was KIA on October 10, 1966 while directing a counterattack against a superior enemy force while assigned to Long Thahn.

3. **Thomas Waskovich** - will attend Flagler College. His award is for four years. He is the son of Thomas R. Waskovich - One-Zero, RT South Carolina and Hatchet Force Platoon Leader at CCC from January 1969 to December 1969.

Thomas receives the award in memory of SFC Charlie Vessels and Fredrick "Huckleberry" Lewis who were KIA on 13 October 1966 while on Operation Crimson Tide, The first attempt by MACV-SOG to recover an American POW. (USAF Cpt. Carl E. Jackson)

4. **Erik C. Howard** - will attend Ft. Lewis College. His award is for four years. Erik is the grandson of James Howard, Team Sergeant of Blackjack 31 in 1966/1967 and Mobile Strike Force 1969/1970.

Erik receives his award in memory of One-Zero Boyd W. Anderson and One-One Michael R. Newbern who were killed in action on 22 October 1966 while assigned to Project Sigma.



5. Gavin Robb - is attending Penn State University and will receive the SOA Scholarship Award for three years. Gavin is the son of Garry Robb --One-Zero and Recon Company Commander at CCN from 1969 to 1970. Garry commanded and led the first airborne operation into Laos in 1970 for MACV-SOG. The jump was from 475 feet at night and they landed on an NVA Battalion headquarters. Garry later became an outstanding covey rider and the Executive Officer of Heavy Hook.

Gavin receives his award in memory of 1LT George K. Sisler and SFC James H. Duncan who were KIA on 7 February 1967. 1LT Sisler was SOG's first Medal of Honor recipient for his actions on that day while leading an exploitation force against a superior enemy force.

Respectfully submitted:

Jim Butler

As you may or may not know Jim Butler is stepping down as Chairman of the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee effective 1 January 2002. Al Keller, # 1488-GL will assume the position of Chairman. Jim made this decision due to health , and personal reasons. The SOA Membership certainly owes Jim for waht he has accomplished with the Scholarship Fund.





## 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
Benjamin, Donald C., SOA # 899-GL		\$8,775.00
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		\$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, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM, IMO F. A. Gassman)	\$ 100.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM, IMO C. F. Bookout)	\$ 100.00
Camacho, Fred, SOA # 133-GL	(SOM, IMO Ivan Bomark)	\$ 100.00
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
Grabianowski, "Rick", SOA # 1313-GL	(SOM)	\$ 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
Smith, David C., (Shirley), SOA # 1242-GL (IMO Tom Sincere)	\$ 100.00
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
Werther, William, SOA # 497-GL (IMO Richard Cole)	\$ 100.00
Whittington, E. Ray, SOA # 049-GL (SOM)	\$ 200.00
2000 SOA BOD (Bahr, R., Benjamin, D., Berg, C., Chambers, R., Hetrick, J. McClaskey, J., Smith, D., Van Winkle, H.) (IMO Tom Sincere)	\$ 200.00

\* Deceased Member

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

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

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 FACTS AND FIGURES

**In Memory of - TAPS:** It is with deep regrets the the SOA Board reports to the membership that six (6) members have passed away since those that were reported in the AAR SOAR XXIV that was dispatched in January 2001.

**CHARLES W TELFAIR, SOA # 1612-GL,** passed away on 21 January 2001 in Port Charlotte, Florida from cancer. He was 64 years of age. Charlie was also a member of Chapter 21, SFA and past president of Chapter 7, SFA in Panama. Funeral and grave side services were held at the Rest Lawn Cemetery, Port Charlotte. Honors were provided by an Honor Guard from 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Georgia, The American Legion, and Chapter 21 SFA. Chapter 40 and 60 of SFA was also represented. He recently retired as Vice President of the Gulf Division for Atlantic Gulf after 15 years. "Charlie" was the recipient of numerous awards, and decorations to include the Bronze Star for Valor with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Combat Infantryman Badge. He served 2 tours in Vietnam with B-52 (Delta) and B-36. He also served with the 10th SFG, Bad Tolz, Germany, 8th SFG, Panama Canal Zone, 3rd SFG, 7th SFG, and SWC at Fort Bragg. Charlie is survived by a daughter, Karen Jean Denison; a son, Charles W Telfair IV; a sister, Patricia Slusher; a brother, Dan Telfair, and five grandchildren.

**TERRY SORSBY, SOA # 507-GA,** died on 9 March 2001 as a result of a motorcycle accident vicinity of Presidio, Mexico. He was born 9 September 1946 in Tacoma, Washington. He enlisted in the US Army in 1964 and volunteered for Special Forces. He was initially assigned to Fort Devens. Terry served two tours in Vietnam with CCN and CCC, being wounded during each tour. He subsequently served in Germany for two years and returned to Colorado and retired. He was an avid "sky diver" and also was a qualified pilot. Terry was interned in Coyame, Chihuahua, Mexico with Military Honors by the Mexican Army which had befriended, and honored him. Terry is survived by his wife Maria, Mother Glenice Uffelman, Step Father Arlie Uffelman; sons: Terry II, Patrick and Rapheal; daughters: Kelly and Nubia. According to his Mother, Terry was very proud of his service in the United States Army, and his membership in SOA and SFA



**ROGER M PEZZELLE, SOA # 68-GL** died on 2 April 2001 at Walter Reed Army Hospital of leukemia. He was 76 years of age. He served in Infantry, Parachute, and Special Forces Units throughout his 31 years of service commencing in 1943 during WWII. Especially noteworthy were the 22 years he served in Special Forces/Special Operations commencing with the 10th Special Forces Group in 1952 as an "A" Team Leader. Subsequent assignments included Deputy Commander 6th Special Forces Group and 46th Special Forces Company in Thailand. One of his proudest assignments was Chief of Op-35, MAC-V SOG. He retired in 1974 from his final assignment as Chief of Special Operations, Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. Although he was cremated he elected to be interred in the ground at Arlington National Cemetery. Roger stated many times that he served this great country for over 31 years and desired his "piece of the ground". LTG William P Tangney, DCINC, USOCOM, MacDill AFB, Florida and representatives from the 10th Special Forces Group, Fort Carson, Colorado, original members from the 10th, Chapter XI, SFA. Colonel Pezzelle is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Arlene; son, R. Michael Pezzelle; daughter, Katherine Jones; 5 grand-children and 1 great-grand child.

**ARNOLD "ARNIE" BALES, SOA # 353-GL** died on 4 April 2001 at the Richard Roudebush Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana of cancer. Arnie was 74 years of age. Arnie was a veteran of the Korean War being a recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. His Special Forces assignments included 77th Special Forces Group, 7th Special Forces Group (Laos), 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, and two tours of duty with 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam, one of which was with CCN. He was awarded his second Silver Star and second Purple Heart with the 5th. Arnie retired in 1969 and spent his retirement in New Orleans actively participating in the activities of the Special Forces Association, VFW, and American Legion. Grave side services were held at Dale Cemetery in Connersville, Indiana with Military Honors provided by the US Army, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Arnie is survived by 4 brothers and 2 sister in laws: Albert Bales, Louis and Delores Bales, Donald Bales, and Bill and Sally Bales.

**WILEY WILBUR GRAY, SOA # 121-GL** died Monday, 16 April 2001 at his home in Fort Pierce, Florida from an apparent heart attack. Wiley was 70 years of age. He was a veteran of the Korean War having served with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. He served in Laos with "White Star, and Vietnam with "Delta Project", 5th Special Forces Group. Wiley was interned at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors provided by 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard). Both Special Operations Association, and Special Forces Association were well represented. Several poignant verses were read/provided at the internment site. One was prepared by "Rocky" Nesom who also unexpectedly passed away on the 6th of May. Chaplain (LTC) May, who officiated, read "Rocky's verse. Wiley's wife, Mrs Evelyn Gray, provided George L Skyeck's verse "SOLDIER" to those in attendance. Wiley is survived by his wife Evelyn, 3 brothers: Norman J Gray, Allen E Gray, and Cyrus G Gray; 2 sisters: Norma G Cahoon, and Sheila G Eakins.

**LARKYN W "ROCKY" NESOM, SOA # 204-GL** passed away Sunday, 6 May 2001 in Maple Falls, Washington. Rocky was 77 years of age. His life is what books are written from and movies made of. He was a much decorated veteran of WWII, Korea, Laos, and Vietnam. He served with the 10th, 77th and 7th Special Forces Groups. He retired in 1963 and went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency flying for Air America, and Air Continental. I could go on and on about his exploits but I would like to interject a letter from Hugh Hubbard who attended Rocky's ceremony in Washington as sort of an after action report. Hugh wrote: I arrived in Maple Falls early Tuesday morning, and was surprised to find Rocky's picture posted all over town. "Der Storehausen" (general store) had a makeshift memorial outside their door, with an American flag, and numerous flower donations, and notes from various people. I asked the lady at the store if any of Rocky's friends were in town, and she directed me to Silver Lake Lodge, but while we were talking she started crying. It was clear to me that the entire town was saddened by their loss. I found SF chapter 16 people at the lodge, and also learned that several Air America people were in town. The park started filling up about an hour before the ceremony was to take place, and by the start of things, there were approximately 1250 locals, 15 SF, an unknown number of Air America people, plus Montagnard James Yu B, and former Navy Seal "Kiet" of Bat 21 fame, and holder of the U.S. Navy cross. Last but not least there was Rocky's daughter, his grandson "Zed", and his granddaughter "Savannah." The ceremony went as planned, with "Red" Davis, Chapter 16 being the main speaker. At approximately 1215 a single engine plane flew over Black Mountain, and scattered Rocky's remains, and as the plane flew away, it wagged his wings in salute. During the ceremony, a riderless horse was led through the area by a man unknown to me but surely must have been a friend of Rocky, and someone who had a lot of respect for Rocky. Several people spoke telling everyone what Rocky meant to them. "Yu B" made a very good speech as did "Kiet," and others, but two of the funniest moments were when his grandson Zed, in tears told what Rocky meant to him. Zed said he grew up without a father, and everything that he is today he owes to Rocky, but he brought the house down when he said that Rock also taught him "how to drink and how to cuss like a real man." His granddaughter had the best line of the day, when she told about sitting with Rocky after he had had a series of mild strokes, and after being out of it for a couple of days, Rock sat up in bed and said "this trying to die shit is a motherfucker." Rocky is survived by his daughter, Kandice Blue; grandson, Zed Larkyn Blue; granddaughters, Savannah, and Moriah Blue, Cydney Gillis; and brother Douglas Nesom. There also many grand son-in laws, great grandchildren, step daughters, nieces and nephews. One last note: Rocky had written a verse to read at Wiley Gray's ceremony and was walking to a place of business to have it typed up and he keeled over.

The passing of these warriors brings the total number of deceased SOA members to 130 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:

The following SOA members that are still suffering from various illnesses or have recently been recovering from surgery are:

**George Petrie, SOA # 618-GA**  
**Bill Edge, SOA # 1756-GA**  
**Mike Stern, SOA # 342-GL**  
**Jim Butler, SOA # 1-GL**  
**Harry Claffin, SOA # 845-GL**  
**Ray Chambers, SOA # 627-GL**  
**Ed Clough, SOA # 43-GL**  
**Jim Baker, SOA # 210-GL**  
**Tom Burke, SOA # 1196-GL**  
**Chuck Feller, SOA # 1563-GA**  
**Ray Flaherty, SOA # 109-GA**  
**Rudy Cooper, SOA # 506-GA**  
**Robert C Kingston, SOA # 99-GL**  
**Albert H Davis, SOA # 1018-GA**  
**Jim Ringland, SOA # 1498-GL**  
**John Kull, SOA # 538-AA**

You members on line are probably aware of the aforementioned members being ill or recovering and have already dropped them a line. You members not on line, it is still not too late to drop these members a card or to give them a call. In the case of **Tom Burke** and **Chuck Feller**: Tom is now recovering from surgery of a shattered knee; Chuck Feller has been diagnosed with a grade 4 brain cancer and is pending treatment. All SOA members are requested to contact **Jake Jacobson** or 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 appraised as to the status of a former comrade-in-arms.

Finally, on a sad, and somber note, two of our members lost family members near and dear: **Clyde Sincere, SOA # 10-GL**, who just last year lost his son, Thomas, has just taken a second hit. His brother William J Sincere, age 64, passed away on 13 May 2001 as a result of pancreatic cancer. William served in the US Marine Corps in the mid-50's. Following his military service he joined the Milwaukee Police Department and remained with them until his retirement 30 years later. He is survived by his wife, Lucy. 4 sons, 1 daughter, and a number of grandchildren. **Robert Masterjoseph, SOA # 51-GL**, reported that his mother, Claire "Mom" Masterjoseph passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 91. "Mom" used to accompany Bob to to many of the SOAR's.. She was a "regular" and a "sweetheart".



### SOAR XXV 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 the 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 an 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 XXV Sergeant-at-Arms will be determined upon the close of Advance Registration on 12 September 2001.

### 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 can mail via Bulk Mail (3rd Class) at a great savings. You can acquire the additional 4 numbers by checking with your local Post Office or by just checking some incoming official mail. **One draw back to bulk mailing is that it is not forwardable. If your address is incorrect, the Post Office will discard your mail, and we won't know it.**

1- Check carefully the current SOA Membership Directory, and the E Mail Directory. If you spot an error, and you have not already provided a correction - you are requested to do so immediately to: Ray Chambers, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee at 437 North 110th Street, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220-2216, (480) 986-2541 or, <commosgm@earthlink.net>

2 - If you are attending SOAR XXV (and we hope everyone does), as you report to the SOAR XXV Registration Area, the 1st 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 Membership 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. You are entitled to receive any, and all correspondence. You are requested to **HELP US - HELP YOU**. Thank you.

### CONVENTION/REUNION PLANNING:

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

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

(800) 634-6575 25 Sep - 30 Sep 2001

POC: Rick Grabianowski (775) 323-7150

POC: Jim Hetrick (520) 636-4121

POC: Jake Jacobson (850) 492-7639

#### **Special Forces Association Convention (50th Anniversary)**

Four Points Sheraton Motel, Fayetteville, NC \$75.00 + tax per nite

(800) 992-0819 17 Jun - 23 Jun 2002

POC: Lorenzo Robbins (910) 424-7881

#### **Mike Force Association (Tentative)**

Stone Laying Ceremony at USASOC Hqs, Ft Bragg 18 Jun 2002

Reunion will follow at Green Beret Country (SFA Hqs)

POC: Bob Gilstrap (910) 425-2586

#### **1st Special Forces Group Reunion**

Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, California \$107.00 + tax per nite

(800) 772-8527 3 Sep - 8 Sep 2002

POC: David Ogo (858) 541-0282

POC: Ken Moyer (760) 630-6261

### SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS/DIRECTORS MID YEAR PLANNING MEETING:

As most of you are aware your Board of Officers, and Directors held its Mid Year Planning, and Coordination Meeting in Fayetteville, North Carolina 3 - 5 April 2001. Meetings were scheduled around the MAC-V SOG PUC Ceremony. Many items were on the agenda to include revision of the by laws, revision of the membership criteria, and membership titles, SOAR XXV, scholarships, and many other items. Two items that were brought up were the expulsion of Moe Blakey, and the sending a letter of inquiry to General Westmoreland. These two items brought an immediate demand to see a copy of the minutes by a few concerned members. I might add these few concerned members are always ready to voice their concerns about following the by laws, and "Roberts Rules". Meetings are normally recorded on a audio cassette recorder. They are then transcribed from cassette to readable paper and/or computer disc. The notes are then typed into format as prescribed by "Roberts Rules" and SOA procedure. These drafts are then sent to the Board Members for possible correction. **They are then corrected, and presented as minutes at the next board meeting for reading, and approval.** This particular meeting lasted 20 hours (10 tapes).



### **CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:**

**Eldon A Bargewell, SOA # 1474-GA** was recently selected to be promoted to the grade of Major General. Eldon will be returning to CONUS from Europe, and is being assigned to the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) at MacDill AFB, Florida. Hopefully he will be able to attend a SOAR now that he is back in the States.

**Richard Mills, Commander, 10th Special Forces Group (Abn) Fort Carson, Colorado.** Richard is the brother of Travis Mills, SOA # 44-GL, and has recently been selected to be promoted to the grade of Brigadier General. Richard will be assigned to the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) at Fort Bragg, NC.

### **SOAR XXV DOOR AND RAFFLE PRIZE DONATIONS:**

**Reminder....**If you have an item that you wish to donate to SOAR XXV, and you will be attending the Reunion, please bring the item (s) with you, and give to either Patrick Hephner, or Clyde Sincere as early as possible so it can be displayed for the edification of attending members and their guests. If for some reason you are unable to attend SOAR XXV, and you wish to donate either a door prize, or a raffle prize item, you are requested to mail the items directly to the **PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO, ATTN: Denis Soucy/SOAR XXV/Clyde Sincere/Patrick Hephner, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89125** so as to arrive NLT 25 September 2001. Denis Soucy, Plaza Hotel/Casino Sales and Catering Manager will insure that either Clyde or Patrick receive the items. Books, hard or soft cover, are especially great "door" prizes. If timing becomes a problem, mail your donations directly to Clyde Sincere, and he will insure that the item (s) get to SOAR XXV. For planning purposes you are requested to call Clyde at: (703) 620-0953 or e-mail, him at: <sincere@patriot.net>, and advise him you are mailing door and/or raffle items directly to him at his home in Virginia. All proceeds from the SOAR XXV raffle go directly to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

### **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 29 SEPTEMBER 2001:**

Any member desiring to add an item to the agenda for the General Membership Meeting should submit a request to do so, in writing, and mail via Postal Mail to the **Executive Director, SOA, P.O. Box 34500, Pensacola, FL 32507-4500** so as to arrive NLT 30 days prior to the date of the General Membership Meeting: 29 Sep 01.

### **STEVE SHERMAN'S WEB SITE:**

Steve Sherman will be presenting information about his WEB SITE and how to use related software in the small conference room 1500 - 1600, Thursday 27 September 2001.



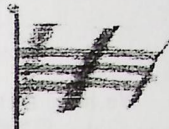
## FALLEN COMRADES

206	ABT, FRED	1988, MAY 20	476	LAYTON, GILBERT	1996, MAY 02
883	ACKLEN, Jr., ROBERT L.	1998, DEC 31	236	LEVERTON, TERRY	1983, JUN 25
338	ALFORD, WILLIAM	UNKNOWN	1059	LIBBY, WM DALE	1999, MAY 02
289	ALLEN, HARDY L.H.	UNKNOWN	1393	LEANDRI, RICHARD A.	1998, May 05
98	AMUNDSON, ROLANDE	1997, OCT 7	441	LONG, JACK	1997, AUG 27
735	ASTRADA, ARNOLD M.	2000, OCT 5	960	LUTZ, JOSEPH C.	1999, MAY 09
1424	AUSTRIA, LOUIS U	2000, MAR 28	499	MAHONEY, PATRICK	1999, FEB 24
941	BAILEY, ROSS N.	1996, NOV 18	439	MAR, ALFRED	1992 OCT 16
396	BALDWIN, DANIEL	1994, JUN 12	795	MARTIN, GARY R.	1995, MAR 09
353	BALES, ARNOLD	2001, APR 4	176	McDONALD, LARRY	1983, SEP 00
792	BAYLESS, CLYDE Y.	1989, 000 00	113	McELEVeen, CLIFFORD	1981, NOV 17
1576	BEATY, "CHIEF" KHOMER	2000, JUL 27	55	McKENNY, RICHARD	1990, DEC 26
550	BECKWITH, CHARLES	1994, JUN 13	145	MEAD, JOSEPH	UNKNOWN
198	BEMIS, DONALD	1996, MAY 10	766	MEADOWS, RICHARD	1995, JUL 29
965	BENAVIDEZ, ROY (MOH)	1998, NOV 29	26	MEEHAN, BERNARD	1995, APR 05
1810	BIRCHIM, JAMES D.	1968, NOV 15	968	MILLER, FRANKLIN D.(MOH)	2000, JUN 30
1284	BOMARK, IVAN	2000, APR 25	873	MOORE, GEORGE W.	1992, DEC 04
261	BROWN, FRANCIS	1998, OCT 13	59	MORTON, GEORGE	1988, NOV 03
391	BRUNKHARDT, JOHN	1995, MAR 06	204	NESOM, ROCKY	2001, MAY 06
519	BURKHARD, J. FRANK	1997, OCT 22	1384	NGO, PAUL LINH	1999, FEB 25
563	BYRNE, JIM	1999, DEC 06	1363	NGUYEN, RINH HUONG	2000, MAR 24
307	CAMPBELL, TOM	1992, MAR 27	835	NIE, KPA WICK	2000, MAR 03
115	CARTER, TENNIS	1992, SEP 27	420	NOE, HOWARD	1990, OCT 12
1024	CHAMBERLIN, RICHARD	1994, FEB 18	624	O'CONNOR, MICHAEL	1999, DEC 29
908	CINCOTTI, JOSEPH G.	1995, AUG 27	793	O'NEILL, LAWRENCE	1990, JUL 04
516	CIPOLLA, JAMES	1991, DEC 10	379	O'ROURKE, WILLIAM	1996, NOV 26
239	COELHO, TONY	1999, FEB 10	128	PARSLEY, JIMMIE	1993, MAR 27
112	COFFIN, ROBERT	1988, OCT 25	33	PATTERSON, ROD	1995, AUG 25
207	COLE, RICHARD "RATFACE"	2000, DEC 30	1307	PERSHING, JOHN "JACK"	1999, JUN 21
1311	COLLIER, JAMES	1999, JAN 28	68	PEZZELLE, ROGER	2001, APR 2
65	COMPTON, MARVIN	1990, SEP 17	431	PHILLIPS, DEAN K.	1985, AUG 22
220	CRABTREE, KEN	1984, APR 15	644	PIERSON, ROGER	1999, JUN 11
975	CRAIG, WILLIAM	1997, SEP 22	19	PINN, LIONEL	1999, AUG 07
415	DANIELS, HORTON	1993, AUG 21	1271	RAMOS, JESSE	1998, AUG 22
71	DEBELLIS, VINCE	1985, MAR 23	97	RAYE, MARTHA	1994, OCT 19
530	DELIMA, WILLIAM	1992, JUN 09	1169	REGNIER, MICHAEL N.	1996, JUL 22
41	DIOGUARDI, DICK	UNKNOWN	749	RIVERS, WILLIAM	1988, DEC 16
631	DONEY, JOHN P.	2000, NOV 14	987	SAAL, HARVEY W.	1997, DEC 01
1658	DOOLEY, JERRY	2001, FEB 01	638	SCHAIBLE, DAVID	UNKNOWN
781	DUARTE, ANTONIO	1989, MAY 06	332	SCHIELIG, KARL	1987, 000 00
62	DUFFIELD, E.W.	1990, NOV 30	106	SCULLY, ROBERT	1986, MAY 25
729	FEOLA, AVIO	1993, DEC 30	815	SHELNUT, ROY E.	1997, APR 16
771	FICKLING, JAMES E.	1996, JUL 22	1244	SHOFF, ROBERT	1995, NOV 12
1262	FICKLING, TED	1997, JUL 24	144	SHUMATE, WALT	1993, MAR 01
243	FIRTH, JOHN	1985, FEB 24	1550	SISLER, GEORGE (MOH)	1967, FEB 07
1053	FONTES, ALEX M.	1998, FEB 13	104	SMERCEK, DENNIS	1986, 000 00
1359	FREEMAN, MICHAEL J	2000, FEB 14	1398	SMITH, ANDRE	1998, JAN 12
158	FRIEND, ALFRED	1998, SEP 02	395	SOMMERS, RICHARD E	1998, SEP 29
250	FRICKE, ED	UNKNOWN	507	SORSBY, TERRY	2001, MAR 09
121	GRAY, WILEY	2001, APR 16	196	SPINAIIO, EDWARD	1992, APR 16
1261	GARVIN, RICHARD	1996, DEC 08	356	SQUIRES, BEN	1984, 000 00
628	GIPSON, THOMAS	1999, SEP 30	743	SWANNACK, BUCK	1995, DEC 13
1072	GORE, WILLIAM E.	1996, DEC 14	863	TAFOYA, EUGENE A.	1997, JUN 22
165	HANRETTY, JOHN	1987, MAY 27	1388	TAPPAN, RICHARD A	2000, AUG 01
990	HARRISON, MARSHALL	1995, AUG 22	1612	TELFAR, CHARLES W	2001, JAN 21
126	HINER, CHUCK	1993, SEP 02	490	THOMAS, JOHN	1999, SEP 28
998	HOFFHEIN, GEORGE W.	1997, FEB 13	447	TOCCI, MARK	1989, FEB 27
103	HOUSTON, GEORGE	1995, SEP 20	74	TRACY, PAUL	1998, FEB 08
1102	HUBBARD, M. P.	2000, JUN 16	17	TRAPP, LARRY	2000, APR 22
461	JUNKINS, JEFFREY	1999, MAY 14	924	TRIPONI, ANTHONY G.	1992, JAN 24
200	KASLER, CHARLES	1991, JAN 20	685	VOGLEER, JIMMY	1999, SEP 00
938	KAUFMAN, MARTIN L.	1997, OCT 31	143	WAINWRIGHT, ED	1999, MAY 25
870	KEETON, SR., JAMES	1982, APR 00	137	WESTALL, BYNUM	1993, APR 00
83	KELLY, FRANCIS	1997, DEC 26	959	WOLF, WILLIAM G	1999, OCT 08
785	KING, ROBERT M.	1995, MAY 00	1357	WOOD, WILLIAM S.	1998, OCT 13
87	KINSLEY, EDWARD	1994, JUN 03	1465	WYNGAERT, J.A. "DUTCH"	2000, NOV 13
921	KIRTCHEN, FRED E.	1992, NOV 09	157	ZABITOSKY, FRED (MOH)	1996, JAN 08
920	KOVALESKI, DAMIEN E.	1996, OCT 23			

# GIA ĐÌNH NHA-KỸ-THUẬT

## STD COMMANDOS FAMILY (Strategic Technical Directorate)

10772 Los Alamitos Blvd. Los Alamitos CA 90720 - Phone & Fax (714) 839 3659 - E-Mail : [stdcomfa@vinet.com](mailto:stdcomfa@vinet.com)



5/21/2001

TO. Mr. Jim Cole - SOA President  
Info : Mr. Butler Jim - Committee Chairmen  
14540 Mt. Quail  
Salinas, CA 93908 - 0000



Subject: A Cordial Request for SOA to help and attend with the STD Commandos on the Recognition Night of Fallen American and Vietnamese Commandos who served in MACVSOG and STD in the Vietnam War on the 2001 XXV reunion, in Las Vegas NV.

Dear SOA President and Members ,

(1). It has been twenty- six years since the bitter war of Vietnam has ended. MASVSOG has finally received the honorable recognition from the President of The United States with the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC). To the Vietnamese Commandos, and the Vietnamese pilots (VNAF) of the Squadron King Bee 219, Squadron 215, Squadron Observation 110, 118, and Vietnam Navy Forces (VNNV) so on had served honorably for MACVSOG feel that this recognition is very meaningful and well deserved for the Commandos who carried out many underground activities in the sanctuary territories of the enemy, and were neglected before and after the war.

(2). We are the Commandos of STD who are still survived, but some left paralyzed after serving in the line of duty. Many of us have been captured in the fields and suffered from hardship through the many years in the prison camps of the enemies in North VN and after released we had to try very hard to cross the borders by boats or by many other dangerous ways in order to seek freedom in the free world. Even though today we have been fortunate enough to migrate to the United States and became American citizens, living in a country of freedom and human rights, but we still feel in our deeply broken hearts that we have a profound debt to the American - Vietnamese Commandos, the Comrades-in-armed of ours, and other unknown soldiers as well as those who were killed in line of duty or missing in action while they were accomplishing their missions, which was almost impossible for STD and MACVSOG in Laos, Cambodia, on the Ho Chi Minh trail systems, on the sanctuary land of VC in the North VN, on the skies and on the seas area of Tokin Gulf . If we do nothing for them, we really feel unhappy so that is why on the special occasion of SOA XXV Reunion will be held on the late September 2001, we for the first time would like to request for SOA to help our STD Commandos Team organize this ceremony for the Fallen American and Vietnamese Commandos in dedication of the memories honor of Commandos of STD & MACVSOG who dedicated their lives for the US and VN.



We hope that you will be on the same wavelength with us and fulfill our wish to make this night come true: that is the ceremony will be held on Friday, September 28, 2001 from 19:30 PM to 22:30 PM according to the ARVN traditional and Vietnamese cultural ceremony at the SOA Meeting Room.

(3). If SOA accepts our request please list the time and date of the ceremony, and post our invitation letter as well on the agenda of the XXV Reunion of SOA to acknowledge fellow SOA members to attend. We would also like to request for the STD Commandos and their families as well who have not yet joined SOA to participate the SOA XXV reunion along with others SOA members.

(4). We will submit a detailed agenda for the ceremony of Friday September 28, 2001 before July, 2001. Along with a list of SOA members that had joined before September 2001. We would also like to inform you the people who have volunteered to assist in the ceremony:

Chieu Lam- SOA #947 GL- ( TOC )

Ben Baker- SOA #897 AL

Cowboy Khanh Doan- SOA #1233 GL- (Launch Site)

"Bulldog" Smith - SOA # 1242 GL

Nguyen Anh- SOA #1347 GA

Johnston Bruce- SOA #1149 GA

Nguyen Dang- SOA #1391 GA

Hiep Ton That- SOA #1503 GA

Davis Craig- SOA #1238 GA

Moon Bob- SOA #1193 GA

Jimmy Nguyen - SOA # 1374 GL

Luong Lap - SOA # 1390 GA + Payne Larry SOA # 1312 GL

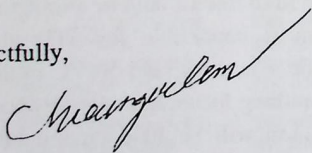
And so on...

(5). Expenses for this special even will be paid by individual donations from STD

(6). If you would like to know more details please don't hesitate to contact Cowboy Khanh Doan, Phone: (408) 251- 2745 or send letter to: STD Commandos Family, 10772 Los Alamitos Blvd. Los Alamitos CA - 90720. E-mail: [stdcomfa@vinet.com](mailto:stdcomfa@vinet.com)

(7). We are looking forward to hearing from you so we can prepare for the event. Thank you very much.

Respectfully,



Chieu N. Lam - SOA # 947 GL

One Zero CCC/CD 2XK Kontum (69- 75)

STD Team Leader

**P.S.**

- Please R.S.V.P before 9/9/2001, Hot Phone (408) 821 6447
- To honor the Commandos , please have standard combat uniforms, and Vietnamese ladies should dress up "Ao dai " if possible.
- Please enjoy our special Vietnamese food after the ceremony is over



# Special Forces Memorabilia Display !!!

**Where:** Hospitality Suite

**Who:** Scott & Bill Kilpatrick

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

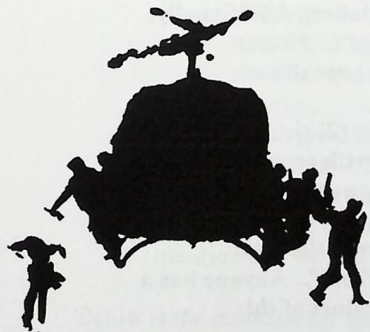
or send us a message via email: [scottk@ti.com](mailto:scottk@ti.com)



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

We focus on all Special Forces related units - Mike Force, Recon Teams, CIDG Camp Patches, Mobile Guerilla Forces, Training Units, MACV-SOG, Special Projects, Airborne, Rangers, LRRPs, 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, Scrapbooks, Plaques, Berets, Knives, Certificates, Flags, Fatigues, Lighters, Bush Hats, Patches, Captured NVA & VC Items, Psy Way Items, Field Gear, Shirts, Photos, Commo Equipment, Montagnard Items, Etc.

~ 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

### "LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW"

#### ONLY 100 TICKETS @ \$25 EACH WILL BE SOLD DURING SOAR XXV

The drawing will take place immediately following the Banquet on Saturday evening, 29 September 2001. Only those individuals taking part in the "DRAW" need remain in the Banquet Hall. Your name and SOA # have already been placed on the back of each purchased ticket stub. You need not be present to win. If you are one (1) of the many lucky winners, Clyde Sincere will locate you during the course of the remainder of the SOAR and pay you off on-the-spot. Okay? You can't beat a deal like that.

All stubs will be placed into the "drawing bucket" and withdrawn one (1) at a time. There will be FOURTEEN winners of \$25 each; the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 35<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 45<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, 65<sup>th</sup>, 75<sup>th</sup>, 90<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> numbers drawn.

There will be FIVE winners of \$50 each; the 10<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> numbers drawn.

There will be FIVE winners of \$75 each, the 12<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 36<sup>th</sup>, 48<sup>th</sup> and 96<sup>th</sup> numbers drawn.

There will be ONE winner of \$1000, the last stub remaining in the bucket.

After the 94<sup>th</sup> number has been drawn, ticket holders may elect to auction off their ticket stubs, or sell them directly to anyone else if they so desire. Additionally, Any unsold ticket stubs will also be in the drum, and the "George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund" will benefit if any of these numbers are drawn.

After the 98<sup>th</sup> number has been drawn, the remaining two (2) ticket holders have a 50-50 chance of winning the \$1,000. They may bargain with each other to share in the prize, take their chances as is, or sell their ticket to anyone else.

FYI, a total of \$1,975 is awarded. All remaining funds from the total collected go into the "George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund". Anyone has a one (1) out of four (4) chances to win some money during the conduct of this drawing. Not too shabby....

If you desire/elect to participate in SOAR XXV, LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW, see Clyde Sincere for tickets at anytime during the course of SOAR XXV.





17 June 2001

Gentlemen,

Attached is a copy of the by laws of the SOA as of 30 September 2000 with amendments recommended by the BOD as of 17 May 2001.

Considering that at SOAR XXIV the point was raised that for years our by laws were not properly amended you might well ask why we picked the 2000 version to amend instead of going back several years until we found a copy that had been properly amended. Good question.

At SOAR XXIV the BOD was told in no uncertain terms to put what had gone on in the past behind us and to move forward as rapidly as possible. This is what we are trying to do.

1. We found out that for at least the past seven years the by laws were not properly amended to include the year 2000.
2. We determined that in the past several years the by law amendments were mailed to the membership to vote on. At the general membership meeting a report on the vote was rendered and in most cases a vote to approve the report on the amendments was called for. In one case the chair just announced that no further action was called for and continued the meeting. The BOD noted that:
  - a. The membership THOUGHT that they were approving the amendments.
  - b. At no point was a point of order called to object to the method of amendment.
  - c. Although the fact that the by laws were not being amended properly was brought up at SOAR XXIV no motion to go back to any specific set of by laws was made and no effort was made to eliminate the amendments erroneously approved earlier in the meeting.

Therefore, in good faith the BOD accepted the year 2000 by laws as the starting point to make the amendments that the BOD considered appropriate at this time. Please note the statement that is made as the second paragraph in Article X. If this statement is approved by two thirds of the membership at the general meeting at SOAR XXV there should be no question that we will be operating in the future with a valid set of by laws.

Below is the rationale for the amendments that the BOD is recommending.

1. Article II A 2. Change is two fold.
  - a. To help insure that we conform to IRS code 501 (c)(19) and
  - b. To simplify the statement. (Deep and hostile might mean different things to different



People. The Special Operations Units List discussed in Article IV B should take care of this.)

2. Other changes in Article II were made to take us back to the original purposes of the founding of our Association as provided by Jim Butler.
3. Article IV Changes were made to:
  - a. Clarify and enhance our 501(c)(19) status,
  - b. To clarify what should be on the application form,
  - c. Simply the wording in the article and
  - d. Create the Operational Associate status for all of the people who worked for and with us in combat but do not meet the requirements of IRS code 501 (c)(19).  
(More time and effort was put into the recommended amendments relating to membership than in the rest of the amendments all put together.)
4. Article V. At SOAR XXIV the BOD was told to come up with a method of having staggered terms for the members of the BOD.
  - a. The amendments that we are recommending are in their totality the fastest and simplest manner the BOD could think of that would not complicate the elections to be held in the year 2002.
  - b. Term limits for all of the BOD members, not just the President, are provided to encourage more people to run for office (there seems to be a tendency by some to not run against an incumbent. This way there will be open seats some of the time). It will also help prevent cliques from getting control of the BOD.
  - c. Change the term outgoing president to immediate past president. (As soon as the president takes office he immediately becomes the outgoing president. The BOD believes that this change here and at all other places the term outgoing president is used expresses the original intent of the founders of the Association.)
  - d. The BOD also recommends that the term of office of BOD members terminates at the end of the general membership meeting in the year that their term ends and that the term of the new BOD members start at that time. (This brings us in line with what Robert's Rules of Order suggests. It also allows the new members to be integrated into the BOD and help plan for the future immediately instead of having to wait until January 1st.)
5. Article V M, N, P & Q were amended to clarify the intent of the paragraphs.
6. Article VI D. This amendment gives the BOD the option of having an Executive Director rather than demanding that they have one. It also gives the BOD the authority to determine the Executive Director's duties as the BOD sees fit with out having to abide by a letter that was prepared by a prior board. It also clarifies the status of the Executive Director.
7. Article VIII C. Clarifies what is needed to nominate candidates that were not nominated by





the nominating committee and what to do when there is no immediate past president.

8. Article X. The second paragraph which should be in all Caps, if adopted, should insure that the by-laws as amended at SOAR XXV will be valid and all past errors in making prior amendments to the by laws become mute.

If you have specific question on these proposed amendments please contact:

Earl Trabue ---- questions in general

Ray Chambers ----- Article IV

Jim Herrick ----- Article II and Article IV 1 and 2

For the Board of Directors

Earl N. Trabue  
Director

P.S. Please bring your copy of the recommended by law amendments to SOAR XXV when you come in order to have a point of referral for the discussions that we are sure will be held. No one claims that the recommendations are perfect. But we sure tried.

ENT



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# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## BY-LAWS

Recommended deletions are in italics struck out in parenthesis = (*deletion*)

Recommended additions are in bold print = **added**

### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

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

### ARTICLE II

#### PURPOSES

A. The purposes of this corporation, herein after referred to as the "Association," are:

- (~~2~~)1. To perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps; and
- (~~7~~)2. To unite fraternally (~~all~~) veterans of **all branches of the United States Armed Forces** who, **since the beginning of World War II**, have **conducted or supported** (~~or are now conducting or supporting classified~~) "Special Operations"; (~~deep in hostile enemy territory; or have been assigned to military units which conduct such operations;~~) and
3. To commemorate fittingly the memory of **all** those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA; and
4. ~~To perpetuate the memory of Col. George C. Morton through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund;~~ **To educate its members and the citizens of the United States in the proper development of Special Operations, and to keep abreast of new developments in the field of Special Operations as is consistent with security regulations;**
5. **To encourage every member of the association toward a closer personal relationship and a friendly spirit of mutual cooperation; and**
6. **To foster and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the members, and to improve by all lawful means their status and condition; and.**
7. **To be a source of inspiration for all Special Operations units now and in the future.**

B. The Association is not organized for profit nor does it contemplate any monetary gain or profit to its members.

## ARTICLE III

### PROPERTY TITLE

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

## ARTICLE IV

### MEMBERSHIP

#### A. ~~(Definition of "Special Operations" units:)~~ Definitions:

##### 1. Special Operations Unit(s)

- a. ~~(The unit/project must be or have been composed of military/paramilitary personnel, organized specifically to conduct special/unconventional operations, with a mission of conducting covert and classified combat and/or reconnaissance operations as its normal function, within hostile territory and forward of the area of influence of conventional ground support units)~~ **The unit/project must be or have been composed of military/paramilitary personnel with a mission to conduct Special Operations as defined by this Association; or**
- b. ~~(w)~~ **With the mission to conduct counter-terrorist operations as its primary function; or**
- c. ~~(o)~~ **In a ROUTINE basis to provide DIRECT combat support (fire-transport-forward air control) to organizations meeting the above criterion and approved by the Special Operations Association. This definition applies only to those who actually crewed these land, sea, or air weapons or vehicles. ((Since) Because the interpretation of "Special Operations" and the above guidelines may be relative to each applicant, the final definition shall rest with this Association.)**

##### 2. Membership and Operational Associates:

###### a. General Member:

**A person having the right to full participation in all of the proceedings of this Association to include but not limited to the right to MAKE MOTIONS, TO SPEAK IN DEBATE ON THEM AND TO VOTE. General Members must meet the requirements, not only of this Association as stated in Par IV E 1 below, but also as specified for IRS code 501(c)(19) organizations.**

###### b. Associate Member:

**A person who not only meets the requirements of this Association as required in Par IV E 2 below, but also as specified for IRS code 501(c)(19) organizations. However,**



while Associate Members are welcome to attend meetings and to take part in the discussion when recognized by the presiding officer **THEY DO NOT HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF MAKING MOTIONS OR VOTING AND MAY NOT DO SO.**

- c. Operational Associate - A person who meets the requirements of Par IV F below. Operational Associates are welcome to attend membership meetings and to speak when recognized by the presiding officer. However, they **DO NOT HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF MAKING MOTIONS OR VOTING AND MAY NOT DO SO.** Operational Associates do not have to meet the requirements of membership as specified for IRS code 501(c)(19) organizations because they are **INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONAL ASSOCIATES** to our Association.

**B. Special Operations Units list.**

1. The Membership Committee shall prepare, for the approval of the Board of Directors, a list of all units known to fall under the guidelines of Special Operations Units as defined in the paragraph A 1 above. The Membership Committee will, as necessary, recommend changes to the list of units to the Board of Directors for approval.
2. No unit will be called a Special Operations Unit under the Association's guidelines unless approved by the Board of Directors. However, in the case of applicants who served in units meeting the Association's criteria for Special Operations Units that are still classified, a letter from the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (DCSOPS) of the United States Special Operations Command certifying that the applicant meets the Association's standards for the status he is applying for will be required before the applicant may be accepted in that status.

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

**D. (B)Application**

1. Application Form – The Membership Committee shall prepare the Association's application form, for approval by the Board of Directors, for use by those persons who desire to join the Association. As a minimum, the following information shall be required:
  - a. Applicant's full name, address, telephone number(s), E-mail address, Social Security Number and Service Number if the individual served in an approved unit prior to 1969.
  - b. Class of membership for which applicant is filing.
  - c. The question, "Will you accept Associate membership or Operational Associate

status if not qualified for General Membership?"

- d. Assignments the individual has had to military or civilian organizations that qualify the person for membership in the Association.
- e. Space for the name and membership number of at least one General Member who can attest to the applicant's assignments and duties.
- f. Membership and or Operational Affiliate fees and when payable.
- g. Authority for release of information and records. This item must be signed by the applicant and a witness, indicating that the information on the application was provided voluntarily by the applicant.

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

~~(D)~~ E. **Classes** – Membership in this Association shall consist of (~~four~~) **three** classes: General **Members**, Associate **Members**, and Honorary **Members**.

- 1. **General Member** – General (~~voting~~) membership is granted upon application and approval of the Membership Committee, to those persons who **have requested General Member status and who can document that they are Veterans or members of a U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations unit, as determined by this association, who has conducted Special Operations as an operational combat element or provided direct support to the operational combat element in an operational role within an assigned Special Operations Area of Operations.** (~~now conducting or supporting "Special Operations" deep in hostile enemy territory or have been assigned to units recognized by this Association which conducted or do conduct such operations.~~) The routine or normal duty of the applicant while at this assignment must have placed the applicant in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire. The applicant must supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by this Association or one General Member in good standing must verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment. **Further, General members must meet the requirements of membership as specified in IRS code 501(c)(19).**
- 2. **Associate Member** – Associate (~~non-voting~~) membership is (~~awarded~~) **granted** to any person (~~upon application~~) **applying for Associate Membership and (approval of) approved by the Membership Committee.** Applicant must (~~have served or is now serving, in a Special Operations unit recognized by this Association in a position in which~~) **be a Veteran or member of a U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Unit, as determined by this Association, who supported the conduct of his unit's special Operations in a non operational role. (the applicant's)** The Associate Member's routine or normal duty did not involve direct threat or



exposure to hostile fire. ~~(Having met the eligibility criteria as defined above, the application form must (H))~~ **The applicant must also** supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by the Association, or ~~(FZ))~~ one General Member in good standing must verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment. **Further, Associate members must meet the requirements of membership specified in IRS code 501(c)(19).**

~~(3- Life Member—Life membership may be granted to qualified applicants upon receipt of their application and appropriate fee-)~~

- (#) 3. Honorary Member—Honorary ~~(non-voting)~~ membership status may be granted upon approval of the Board of Directors, to a person who has contributed significantly to U. S .Special Operations and who would add to the prestige of the Association. Any member may propose a candidate for Honorary membership by written application citing specific examples wherein the candidate has contributed significantly to Special Operations and how the candidate would add to the prestige of the Association. The application shall be submitted to the Membership Committee **together with an abbreviated biography of the candidate**. The Committee shall consider the application and forward the application with the Membership Committee's recommendation to the Board of Directors. Upon approval by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, the Membership Committee shall confer Honorary membership status upon the candidate. **Honorary Members may not offer motions or vote at membership meetings. Further, they do not have to meet the requirements of membership specified in IRS code 501(c)(19).**

F. Operational Associate – The Operational Associate is a **DISTINCTION** conferred on members of foreign military units and para-military personnel who served with U.S. Special Operations Units, as determined by this Association, in the role defined in the General Member category. As the Operational Associate does not meet the requirements for membership as specified in IRS code 501(c)(19) the Operational Associate is not entitled to make motions or vote in the business of the Special Operations Association. The Operational Associate Category is created to recognize the courage and the professional contributions made, by those who meet its requirements, while working within the units designated Special Operations Units by this Association.

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

~~(F.)~~ G. Dues:

1. Annual dues ~~(are payable by 31 December to the Association by General and Associate members in amounts determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.)~~ in the amount ~~(determined by resolution of)~~ approved by the Board of Directors are payable to the Association's Membership Chairman or Treasurer by 31 December of each year. **Initial (D) dues** are payable for the first year upon the submission of the application for membership or Affiliate status and annually thereafter at such time or times as may be fixed by the Board of Directors
2. ~~(No annual dues shall be payable by Life members; however, a Life membership fee in an~~



*amount determined by resolution of the Board of Directors shall be payable upon submission of the application for Life membership.)* **Life (Membership) status** may be granted to qualified (applicants) members and Operational Associates upon receipt of their written request for Life status and the appropriate fee. No annual dues shall be payable by those Members or Operational Associates with a Life status.

3. No annual dues or membership fees shall be payable by those persons granted honorary membership in the Association.

(G)**H. Non-liability of Members and Operational Associates**— A member or an operational associate of the association shall not solely because of such membership or Operational Associate status, be personally liable for the debts, obligations or liabilities of the Association.

(H)**I. Transfer of Membership**— Neither membership in the Association, or Operational Associate status with the Association nor any rights of or to the membership, or to the operational associate status, may be transferred, except in the cases of widowed spouses, or others on a case-by case basis as determined by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the membership Committee.

(I)**J. Termination of Membership**— All rights of a member in, or operational associate with, the Association shall cease upon the termination of the member's membership, or operational associate status, due to any of the following causes: *(The membership and all rights of membership shall automatically terminate on the occurrence of any of the following causes:)*

1. The *(membership of any member of the Association shall automatically terminate on such member's)* written request or *(his)* witnessed verbal request for such termination. Requests shall be delivered in person or by mail, to the President of the Association or to his designated representative. Upon receipt by the President or his designated representative, the request shall be forwarded to the Membership Committee and the member's, or operational associate's name shall be stricken from the membership or operational associate rolls.
2. The death of a member or operational associate.
3. The non-payment of dues within 90 days after they become due and payable.
4. A member or an operational associate of the Association may be expelled from membership or operational associate status upon discovery by the Membership Committee or the Board of Directors that the member or operational associate submitted false or misrepresented information on his application for membership or operational associate status. Additionally, a General member may be expelled for falsely verifying the qualifications of an applicant for *(either)* General membership, *(or)* Associate membership or for Operational Associate status.
5. The Board of Directors, by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, may suspend for a period not to exceed two (2) years, or may expel a member or an operational associate



of the Association (~~if that member~~) **who** persistently disrupts any meeting or function of the Association; misuses or destroys Association property; or (~~the member's~~) **engages in any** conduct and/or actions **that** demonstrates an antagonism to, or (~~such conduct and/or action~~) becomes inimical to, (~~and~~) **any** of the principles of the Association as set out in the specific purposes of the Association in the Articles of Incorporation.

6. A member's **or operational associate's** suspension or expulsion becomes effective on the date the Board of Directors personally delivers or mails written notice of such expulsion or upon conclusion of the appeal process as prescribed in these By-Laws.
7. The advertising of Association membership **or operational associate status** for either commercial or political purposes is prohibited. Violations of this paragraph will be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors and may result in revocation of membership **or operational associate status**.

(J)K. Appeals

1. An expelled member **or operational associate** or a person whose application for membership or **operational associate status** was denied may request a hearing before the Appeals Panel by delivering in person or by mail, to the President of the Association, written notice of request within thirty days of the delivery or mailing of the notice of expulsion or denial of (~~membership~~) **the application**.
2. The President of the Association shall appoint an Appeals Panel and notify each Panel member of the request for hearing. The Appeals Panel shall set a date for a hearing convenient to its members and the person requesting the hearing. If, following the hearing, the Appeals Panel votes to affirm the decision, the decision becomes final and the Membership Committee is so notified. If, following the hearing, the Appeals Panel votes against the decision, the Appeals Panel shall remand the matter to the Board of Directors with its recommendations. If by a two-thirds vote of the entire Board, the Board votes to expel the member or to deny the (~~membership~~) application, the decision becomes final and the Membership Committee is so notified. Upon receipt by the Membership Committee of notice from the Appeals Panel or the Board of Directors of the expulsion of a member **or an operational associate**, the member's **or operational associate's** name shall be stricken from the membership or **operational associate status** rolls.

(K)L. Reinstatement of Membership – A member **or operational associate** who resigns or whose membership or **operational associate status** is terminated for non-payment of dues may apply for reinstatement by submitting a request to the Membership Committee. No action shall be taken on any request for reinstatement until the applicant has paid the annual dues and has paid a reinstatement fee in the amount determined by a resolution of the Board of Directors. The applicant may be required to undergo the entire application process.

## ARTICLE V

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. Number – The SOA Board of Directors shall consist of eight elected members, plus the (*outgoing*) **Immediate Past President**, for a total of nine.
- B. Qualifications – The Directors of the Association shall be either Annual or Life (General) members in good standing and have attended at least two of the last three SOARs.
- C. Composition – The SOA Board of Directors of the Association shall consist of the four Officers ((*a*) the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) and five Directors ((*four elected and the outgoing President*))(Director Place 1 (**Immediate Past President**), **Director Place 2**, **Director Place 3**, **Director Place 4** and **Director Place 5**).
- D. Terms – One third of the Members of the Associations's Board of Directors shall be elected every (*two*) year(s) by absentee ballot and within 120 days prior to a scheduled reunion of the Association. In order to transfer from the two year non staggered term system effective in 2000-2001 to a three year staggered term system the terms of office of the current Board of Directors (2000 - 2001) shall be changed as follows.
1. The term of the President, Vice President and Director Place 1 (**Immediate Past President**) shall terminate at the SOAR XXVI (2002).
  2. The term of the Treasurer, Director Place 2 and Director Place 3 shall terminate at the SOAR XXVII (2003).
  3. The term of the Secretary, Director Place 4 and Director Place 5 shall terminate at the SOAR XXVIII (2004).

The general members present at the general membership meeting at SOAR XXV will determine which current directors will be assigned to Place 1 (immediate past president position), term ending at SOAR XXVI (2002); place 2 and 3, term ending at SOAR XXVII (2003); and place 4 and 5, term ending at SOAR XXVIII 2004. If the current president is reelected in 2002 the director selected for place 1 will continue to serve in that position until SOAR XXIX (2005). If the current president is not reelected as president he will then take the position of place 1. If for any reason the position of place 1 (immediate past president) becomes vacant the Board will fill the position as provided elsewhere in these by laws. For the purposes of this paragraph there shall be five offices on the Board of Directors, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Placed Director. (*All members of the Board of Directors shall hereafter in these By-Laws be referred to as "Director". The office of President shall be limited to two consecutive terms and that individual shall then serve as the eighth member of the board until replaced by his successor or as otherwise provided in these By-Laws. All other Directors shall be eligible for re-election without limitation on the number of terms they may serve, provided they continue to meet the qualifications required by these By-Laws.*) All offices on the Board of Directors shall be limited to two consecutive full terms. (Any period of



time less than 1 ½ years shall not be considered a full term. Any period more than 1 ½ years shall be considered a full term. As long as the SOARs are held in the late September - early October time frame 1 April will be the half year mark.) However, an individual completing his second term in one office may, if elected, serve in another office immediately after completing his second term. i.e. A Placed Director may run for and serve as President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may run for any other office to include the office of placed director. After being out of office for one year an individual may, if qualified, serve in any Board position as if he had not served on the Board before. All members of the Board of Directors shall hereafter in these By-Laws be referred to as "Directors". In the event a Director is removed in accordance with Article V, paragraph H of these By-Laws, that Director's term of office will cease at a date set by the majority of the remaining Directors. **Directors going out of office due to the termination of their term shall vacate such office at the conclusion of the general membership meeting at the SOAR in the year their terms end. Newly elected officers/directors will assume their office at the conclusion of the general membership meeting at the SOAR in the year that begins their term of office.**

- E. Nominations – The (*outgoing*) **Immediate Past President** will chair a Nominating Committee which will select qualified candidates and prepare the ballot for the election of the members of the Board of Directors. Additional candidates may be nominated by a petition of **10** of the voting members presented to the Nominating Committee 90 days prior to the election.
- F. Election – The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for their respective Board of Directors positions are elected. A tie vote is resolved by a majority of the Board voting for one of the candidates.
- F. Compensation – The Directors shall serve without compensation.
- G. Removal of Directors
  - 1. Removal for Cause – The Board may declare vacant the office of any Director whose conduct is inimical to the Association, as determined by the majority of the other Directors.
  - 2. Removal Without Cause – Any or all of the Directors may be removed without cause if such removal shall be approved by the majority of the members at an annual General Membership meeting.
- I. Resignation – Any Director may resign effective on giving written notice to the President or the Vice President, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. Vacancies may be filled in accordance with these By-Laws.
- J. Vacancies
  - 1. Causes – Vacancies shall exist on the death, resignation, or removal of any officer.
  - 2. Filling Vacancies by Directors – Except for the position of President, vacancies may be filled by appointees receiving a majority vote of the Directors.

- K. Duties – The Board shall have responsibility for the general and financial management of the Association. They shall carry on the business and control the property of the Association. The Board shall make rules governing the conduct of the members while representing or conducting activities on behalf of the Association.
- L. Meetings – The Directors shall hold regular meetings at such time as they may select.
- M. Audits – The Board shall cause a review **and/or an audit** of the books to be made within 90 days prior to scheduled General Membership Meeting and shall submit the results of the review **and/or audit** to the membership at the General Membership meeting. **An Audit of the books will be made upon a change of treasurers. The results of such audit shall be given to the Board of Directors.**
- N. Special Meetings – Special meetings of the Board may be called by the President or in his absence, by the Vice President or by ~~(two)~~ **four** of the Directors.
- O. Conduct of Meetings – The President or Vice President, or in their absence, any Director selected by the Directors present, shall preside at meetings of the Board. The Administrator or Secretary of the Association or in the Administrator's or Secretary's absence, any person appointed by the presiding officer shall act as Administrator or Secretary of the Board. Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another. Such participation shall constitute personal presence at the meeting. Voting by written proxy is authorized for any meeting of the Board of Directors.
- P. Action Without Meeting – Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board may be taken without a meeting, if a majority of the members of the Board individually or collectively consent in writing to such action **provided that two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board were notified of the requested action.** Such written consent or consents shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Board. Such action by written consent shall have the same force and effect as ~~(the unanimous)~~ **any other** vote of the Directors.
- Q. Quorum – A majority of the Board **as defined in Par V C above** shall constitute a quorum.
- R. Bequests – Whenever the Association shall receive a gift or bequest it shall be deposited or invested in such a manner as the Board and the Association's Treasurer may determine, except as otherwise specified in the gift or bequest. The income from any such gift or bequest may be expended from time to time in furtherance of the Association's purposes. The Board from time to time by resolution, may add any accumulated income to the principal, in which case it shall become part thereof and its expenditure shall be subject to the same restrictions as the original principal.

## ARTICLE VI

### DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- A. President – It shall be the duty of the President to serve as the general executive officer of the



Association. The President shall preside at all meetings, sign and acknowledge all instruments when required, and generally perform the duties pertaining to his office.

- B. Vice President – The Vice President shall assume and perform the duties of the President, in absence of the President, and other duties as may be assigned by the President. In the event that the Vice President is unable to assume the remaining tenure of the presidency, the elected Director who received the most election votes will assume those responsibilities. In the event that two or all three of the elected Directors received an equally high number of votes, the Director with the longest paid status as a member of the Association will assume that position.
- C. Secretary – The Secretary shall keep minutes and records of all the meetings of the members and Directors(-); shall give notice of meetings when required(-); **shall receive, route and maintain US mail correspondence between the membership and various board members;** and shall perform the duties generally performed by a secretary of an association.
- D. Executive Director – The position of Executive Director, SOA (~~will~~) **may be (appointed) engaged as a private contractor** by a majority of the SOA Board of Directors and (~~will~~) **may** receive an appropriate annual compensation on a monthly basis as determined by the SOA Board of Directors. Duties will encompass those administrative tasks as (~~reflected in the "Request for Proposal" and as may be further~~) defined by the SOA Board of Directors. The (~~position of~~) Executive Director, SOA is (~~a non-voting position on the SOA Board of Directors~~) **not a member of the Board of Directors and therefore has no vote on the Board. However, he is expected to attend all Board Meetings unless excused by the Board..**
- E. Treasurer – The Treasurer shall keep the books of account and shall handle the finances of the Association. All money received shall be forthrightly deposited in a reliable bank approved by the Directors, to be withdrawn only upon the check of the Association signed by the Treasurer of the Association. Any check in the amount of (two) **one** thousand dollars or above must be signed by two of the Directors whose names appear on the bank signature card.
- F. Directors – The Directors, four elected and the (~~outgoing~~) **Immediate Past President** (a total of five) shall be assigned duties as deemed appropriate by the President.
- G. Planning and Budget Committee – The SOA Board of Directors shall appoint a Planning and Budget Committee consisting of such numbers of members as may be designated from time to time by the SOA Board. In coordination with the Treasurer, SOA, the Planning and Budget Committee shall be responsible for preparing the annual (based on the Calendar Year [CY]) estimate of revenue: Where funds are received from; the projected amount; and how funds are to be utilized. The Committee shall provide the SOA Board a proposed budget/intended course of action for the following CY at the annual SOAR Board of Directors Meeting. The Planning and Budget Committee shall have other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the SOA Board of Directors or these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE VII

### REUNION AND SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- A. Reunions – The reunions of the Association (SOARs) shall be held at a time and place selected at the previous Board of Directors meeting. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the members at least 90 days prior thereto.
- B. Special Meetings – Special meetings may be called by the President or by ~~(two)~~ **four** members of the Board, or when requested in writing by ~~(ten)~~ **twenty five percent (25%) of the general** members of the Association. Notice of a special meeting shall be given by the Secretary in the same manner as notice of a regular meeting
- C. Quorum – ~~(Fifty)~~ **One hundred** voting members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction business at any general or special meeting of the Association.
- D. Proxies – No voting by proxy shall be allowed at any general or special membership meeting.
- E. Topics for Discussion – Topics at either general or special membership meetings should be presented to the Board of Directors for inclusion in the meeting's agenda at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII

### COMMITTEES

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

- A. Membership Committee – The Board of Directors shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of such number of members as may be designated from time to time by the Board. The Membership Committee shall keep and maintain a register of the members, showing the names of the members, their addresses, type and date of membership and current status. The Membership Committee shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or these By-Laws.
- B. Reunion Committee – The Board of Directors shall appoint a Reunion Committee consisting of such number of members as may be designated from time to time by the Board. The Reunion Committee shall be responsible for scheduling, planning, coordinating, and arranging all aspects of the SOAR and social events for the members of the Association. The Reunion Committee shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board or these By-Laws.



- C. Nominating Committee – The (*outgoing*) **Immediate Past President** will chair a Nominating Committee. This Committee shall select candidates qualified to be Directors under the provisions of these By-Laws and shall prepare a ballot for the election of Directors. Additional candidates may be nominated by petition of **10** of the voting members presented to the Nominating Committee at least 90 days prior to the election of Officers pursuant to the By-Laws. **If there is no Immediate Past President the President will appoint one of the nominating committee members to be the chairman.**
- D. Tally Committee – In advance of any election, the Board of Directors shall appoint a Tally committee to collect, authenticate and count votes. The announcement of each election will include where to send ballots and the closing date for the receiving of ballots by the Committee. The results of all elections will be confidential and reported only to the Association President by the Chairman of the Tally Committee. Cast ballots shall remain confidential, be retained for thirty days after the election results are announced, and then be destroyed.
- E. Scholarship Committee – The Scholarship Committee shall manage the operation of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The duties will include the evaluation and selection of recipient students and the periodic appraisal of their academic progress. In concert with the Treasurer, the Scholarship Committee shall cause issuance of scholarship checks to recipient students. The Committee shall render an activities report at the Annual General Membership Meeting.
- F. Memorabilia Sales Committee – The Memorabilia Sales Committee shall be responsible for the sale of memorabilia items for the Association. This shall include the purchasing of items, related records management in coordination with the Treasurer, and the sale of items both by mail and at reunions.

## ARTICLE IX

### RULES OF ORDER

Rules of Order – All matters of procedures not otherwise provided for in these By-Laws shall be governed by **the latest edition** of Robert's Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE X

### AMENDMENTS

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

**THESE BY-LAWS; WHICH WERE VOTED ON AND APPROVED BY TWO THIRDS OF THE**

**GENERAL MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING AT THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AT SOAR XXV; AMEND AND SUPERCEDE ALL PRIOR BY-LAWS, AND AMENDMENTS  
THERETO, OF THIS ASSOCIATION.**

ATTEST:

David C. Smith  
Secretary

James F. Hetrick  
President

Amendments proposed  
17 June 01

Approved by Membership vote  
30 September 2000







# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## Application for Membership



1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
4. E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Social Security \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Service Number (Prior to 1969): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Class of Membership: General \_\_\_\_, Associate \_\_\_\_\_. (see types and requirements on reverse of form)
7. If you have applied for a General Membership, but the listed duties do not meet the requirements for that class of membership, will you accept an Associate membership? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_.
8. Assignment to Military or Civilian organizations that would qualify you for membership:

Unit or Project	Date(s) of Service	Duty	Location

9. Reference (only a General Member with personal knowledge of the above can be used as a Reference):

Name	Unit	Member #

10. I understand that SOA Membership entitles me to the rights and privileges specified in the SOA BY-LAWS. Enclosed is \$25.00, payable to the Special Operations Association, for the initiation fee and the first year's dues. To maintain membership, I will pay annual dues of \$25.00, no later than January 31 of each year. Lifetime Membership is available to members in good standing at a cost of \$250.00

### *Authority for release of information and records:*

I hereby authorize release of information and records bearing on my military service to the Special Operations Association. I further affirm that the information submitted on this Special Operations Association membership application form is voluntary, as well as true and correct. *Signature of a witness is required.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to:  
**Ray Chambers**  
SOA Membership Chairman  
437 North 110<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220-2216

## Membership Criteria

The SOA is a fraternal organization made up of U.S. and allied participants in Special Military Operations conducted in combat area during WW II, the Korean War, the SE Asian conflict and other post Vietnam era conflicts.

### Types and requirements of membership

#### A. General Member

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

#### Requirements

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

#### B. Associate Member

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

#### Requirements

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

### LIFE STATUS

A one time charge of \$250.00 (US)

### GUIDELINES

Definitions of "SPECIAL OPERATIONS" type units.

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

or

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

or

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

#### EXAMPLES OF UNITS RECOGNIZED:

**PRE-1954:** OSS; 8240<sup>TH</sup> A.U.; MERRILL'S MARAUDERS; USMC RAIDERS OR SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS OF WORLD WAR II OR THE KOREAN WAR.

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





## **SALUTING UNCOMMON VALOR**

### **Legislature honors Vietnam War hero Roy P. Benavidez**

by Sig Christenson EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

05/03/01 Thursday

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AUSTIN - Army Master Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez always did his duty.

Thirty-three years to the day he saved eight fellow Special Forces soldiers in the jungles of Cambodia, an action that earned him the Medal of Honor, Texas paid tribute to Benavidez's selfless act.

In a rare hourlong joint session Wednesday, the House and Senate gave the late Benavidez the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor, making him the first Hispanic and only third veteran from the Lone Star State to receive the honor.

The last joint session was held Feb. 16, 1999, in observance of Military Appreciation Day.

"We use the word hero sometimes lightly," Gov. Rick Perry said in an interview before addressing the session. "But there's only one word to describe Roy Benavidez, and it is appropriate to use the word hero. He was a great man."

Though Benavidez died nearly three years ago at age 63 in San Antonio, his memory was celebrated by family, friends and fellow soldiers who gathered in the House as lawmakers watched his wife, Hilaria, receive the medal from Perry.

A procession of speakers then paid tribute to Benavidez, who also was posthumously given a Presidential Unit Citation for his service as a member of the small Studies and Observations Group.

The elite group worked in Cambodia and Laos during the Vietnam War and was so secretive its members wore no U.S. markings and used weapons made outside the United States. Credited with forcing North Vietnam to post 50,000 troops in the region, it wasn't acknowledged by the government until last year.

"Dad would be humbled, but he wouldn't accept this award for himself personally," said Noel Benavidez, his 28-year-old son. "He would accept it for those heroes who fought and died alongside of him that day."

"He probably would say that he couldn't believe it," Hilaria Benavidez said. "But I'm sure he's very happy."

Benavidez died at Brooke Army Medical Center on Nov. 29, 1998, 30 years after enduring a battle he described as "six hours of hell."

A North Vietnamese regiment surrounded a dozen soldiers from his unit during a secret mission to Cambodia on May 2, 1968. Three helicopters trying to save the men came under heavy fire and were unable to land.

Benavidez suffered wounds to the right leg, face and head while charging through heavy enemy fire to reach the helicopter. He repositioned soldiers so they could give cover to the helicopters, then carried the wounded to nearby aircraft.

As the fight raged, Benavidez retrieved secret papers, then gathered wounded troops from a downed aircraft and set up a defense perimeter. He called in airstrikes, directed fire from helicopters buzzing over the battlefield and, though injured himself, gave first aid to wounded fellow troops.

"Because of his selfless acts, the lives of eight American soldiers were saved and miraculously, despite being wounded more than 40 times, Roy Benavidez endured," Perry told those in the crowded chamber.

"He endured another 30 years, 30 years in which he lived with a punctured lung, 30 years he lived with two pieces of shrapnel lodged (near) his heart."

Retired Sgt. Maj. Benito Guerrero, an old friend, said Benavidez began to reach out to young people after receiving the Medal of Honor on Feb. 24, 1981, from President Reagan, who urged him to be an example to others. Over the years Benavidez urged kids to stay in school and stay off drugs.

"Until failing health stopped him only a few months before he died, he was still going about the business of saving lives," said Chris Barbee, editor and owner of a newspaper in El Campo, where Benavidez lived most of his life.

House Speaker Pete Laney chuckled as he thought of a meeting years ago with Benavidez, who was "tougher than nails but (had) a good heart."

"If you went into an alley, you'd want him with you," Laney said with a smile.

The Navy last fall said it would name the seventh in a class of large, medium-speed, roll-on/roll-off sealift ships in his honor. It will christen the USNS Benavidez on July 21 in New Orleans.

A \$14 million special operations complex was dedicated two years ago in his honor at Fort Bragg, N.C. The 42,124-square-foot complex is used to deploy combat service and health units to Special Operations units.

Benavidez follows Lt. Jack Knight and James Marion Logan in receiving the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor. Though a law creating the medal took effect in 1963, the first one was given to Logan, of Kilgore, in 1997.

Rep. Miguel D. Wise, D-Weslaco, and Sen. Eliot Shapleigh, D-El Paso, spearheaded the drive to give the award to Benavidez.

"I was getting chills this morning as they were reading the citation," said Rep. Carlos Uresti, D-San Antonio, who joined the Marines as a private and left in 1989 as an officer. "I was trying to imagine as he went through that day, and I just couldn't imagine. But obviously he did it because he loved his fellow soldiers."





## Honoring the Defiant One

Alexandria Family, Friends Await Executed POW's Long-Denied Medal

By Steve Vogel  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Sunday, May 27, 2001; Page C01

His head was swollen, his hair completely white and his skin turned yellow from jaundice. He was rail thin, and he had no shoes, and his Viet Cong captors were yanking him around from village to village by the rope tied around his neck.

On patrol in late 1963 in the Mekong Delta, Army Capt. Jack Nicholson listened to villagers describe the scene they had witnessed. When they said the American prisoner had continually argued with his captors -- using Vietnamese and French to rebut their propaganda -- he knew they were talking about Rocky Versace.

"He had a funny expression about him, a smile, a flashing of teeth, that got their attention," said Nicholson, now a retired brigadier general living in Virginia. "And then when they heard him speak, they listened, because they couldn't help it."

Versace's defiance grew even as his condition worsened, infuriating his captors. In 1965, at age 27, Versace was executed. His remains have never been recovered. His family was told little. And in the eyes of many, Versace has never received the recognition he earned.

But after a long campaign by supporters, the former Alexandria resident is close to being posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, an award he was denied 30 years ago. An Army recommendation to give the award was approved this year by Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and forwarded to the secretary of defense's office.

Unlike the Air Force, Navy and Marines, the Army has never awarded the Medal of Honor to a POW from Vietnam for actions during captivity. Pentagon officials said they think it would be the first time in the modern era that the medal has gone to an Army POW for heroism during captivity.

"It's well known around here that the Army's very reluctant to give the award to a prisoner," said a Pentagon official, who ascribes the Army's attitude to a stigma associated with being captured.

Today, in conjunction with Memorial Day observances, a band of supporters will be near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, raising money for a memorial in Alexandria to honor Versace. For those who know it, Versace's story has made an indelible impression.

"He told them to go to hell in Vietnamese, French and English," one of Versace's fellow captives, Dan Pitzer, who died in 1997, told a historian. "He got a lot of pressure and torture, but he held his path. As a West Point grad, it was duty, honor, country. There was no other way. He was brutally murdered because of it."

Another prisoner held with Versace, James "Nick" Rowe, escaped in 1968 after five years of captivity. Rowe made an impassioned plea to President Richard M. Nixon that Versace receive the Medal of Honor, describing how his resistance deflected punishment from other captives and stiffened their will to resist.

The Army downgraded the award to a Silver Star. Rowe, embittered, kept talking about Versace until the day he died, assassinated by communist rebels in 1989 while serving as a U.S. military adviser to the Philippine armed forces.

The pending honor will focus attention on a group of POWs who have received little recognition. While the ordeals suffered by downed aviators who were imprisoned in North Vietnam, such as Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), are well documented, less has been said about the more than 200 prisoners, mostly infantry soldiers, held in horrendous jungle camps in South Vietnam.

Versace is "a perfect symbol for a lot of the guys in the South who were overlooked," said Stuart Rochester, a Department of Defense historian and co-author of a history on Vietnam POWs. "The guys in the South really took tougher punishment than the guys in the North."

The medal will come too late for Versace's mother, who died in 1999, never fully accepting that her son was gone. "My mother, she never gave up," said one of Rocky's brothers, Dick Versace, president of the National Basketball Association's Vancouver Grizzlies. "Until she died, she thought he'd come walking out of those jungles any day."

Humbert Roque "Rocky" Versace was just a few days short of joining a seminary to become a priest when he was captured.

His father, Humbert, was a West Point graduate and Army officer, his mother, Tere, an accomplished author who would write "The Fifteenth Pelican," a short story that became the basis for "The Flying Nun."

The oldest of five children in a close, strict Catholic household in Alexandria's Del Ray neighborhood, Rocky took on the role of father when Humbert Versace was away with the Army. He had a firm sense of duty and moral responsibility -- in addition to being infuriatingly opinionated and headstrong, his brothers said.



"If he thought he was right, he was a pain in the neck," said his brother Steve, a professor at the University of Maryland's University College. "If he knew he was right, he was absolutely atrocious."

Versace followed his father to West Point, graduating in 1959. Assigned to the "Old Guard" at Fort Myer, he chafed at the ceremonial duties and volunteered for a tour in Vietnam.

In 1962, Vietnam had barely registered on the American consciousness. There were no U.S. combat troops, only a few thousand military advisers sent to help the South Vietnamese government fight a communist insurgency.

Versace was assigned as an intelligence adviser for the South Vietnamese army in the Mekong Delta. Tall, dark-haired and handsome, Versace quickly made his mark. "If you were going to ask for a West Point cadet from central casting, he was it," said Don Price, a Marine officer who met him there.

Versace immersed himself in Vietnamese culture and the delta town of Camau. He created dispensaries, procured tin sheeting to replace thatch roofs and arranged for tons of bulgur wheat to feed family pigs, Price said. He wrote to schools in the United States and got soccer balls for village playgrounds.

When his one-year tour ended, Versace volunteered for a second stint and then planned to leave the Army. He had been accepted into the Maryknoll Order and wanted to work with children in Vietnam.

In October 1963, two weeks before his second tour was to end, Versace accompanied an operation near U Minh Forest, a Viet Cong stronghold. The South Vietnamese company was overrun by a large enemy force, and Versace went down with three rounds in the leg. He, Rowe and Pitzer were taken prisoner, stripped of their boots and led into the forest.

It was a dark maze of mangrove, canals and swamps. The prisoners were kept in bamboo cages, deprived of food and exposed to insects, heat and disease.

Versace's untreated leg became badly infected, but within three weeks he tried to escape, dragging himself on his hands and knees. Guards soon discovered him crawling in the swamp. Back in camp, they twisted his injured leg.

Versace was kept in irons, flat on his back and frequently gagged in a dark and hot bamboo isolation cage that was 6 feet long, 2 feet wide and 3 feet high.

The VC cadre set up indoctrination classes, but Versace attended only at the tip of a bayonet. Rowe and Pitzer "adopted a sit-and-listen attitude between bouts of body-wrenching dysentery, feeling the more we said, the worse off we'd be," Rowe later wrote. "Rocky, on the other hand,

was engaging all comers." The instructor's voice would "climb an octave from its already high pitch" as Versace tripped him up with verbal gymnastics, Rowe said.

Increasingly, Versace was separated from the other prisoners.

Patrolling the delta, Nicholson kept hearing stories from admiring rice farmers about the resolute, white-haired POW whom the Viet Cong pulled around by a rope.

"Rocky Versace made an impression on these people, which heightened our eagerness to rescue him and caused us to immediately respond to any intelligence we could get," said Nicholson, who now works for a veterans organization in Alexandria.

Three times, after receiving tips about Versace's whereabouts, U.S. advisers launched helicopters to rescue him, and three times they came back empty handed, taking heavy casualties on one occasion.

"It was very frustrating," Nicholson said. "Very frustrating and very sad."

When his tour ended in 1964, Nicholson went home and called Versace's father, who wept at the news of the attempted rescues. "You know, it's been almost a year since he was captured, and I haven't heard one word, not one word, from the government," Humbert Versace told him, Nicholson said.

Back in Vietnam, Versace tried three more times to escape, and his treatment worsened. The last the other prisoners heard from him, he was singing "God Bless America" at the top of his lungs from his isolation box.

On Sept. 29, 1965, Hanoi Radio announced that Versace had been executed in retaliation for the killing of suspected communist sympathizers by South Vietnam.

His family learned the news from television reports. "The thing that hit my dad hardest was when he heard Rocky had been executed on the 6 o'clock news," said Steve Versace. "I think he started dying then."

Tere Versace refused to believe it, pressing for more information and flying to Paris to try to meet with North Vietnamese diplomats.

But for most people, the story told by Rowe after he escaped ended any hope Versace might be alive. At a private meeting at the White House in 1969, Nixon was one of the first to hear it.

"The president wasn't prepared -- I don't think anyone was -- for what we were about to hear," said retired Col. Ray Nutter, an Army congressional liaison officer who accompanied Rowe to the meeting.



Rowe spoke for more than an hour, describing the prisoners' treatment and Versace's resistance. When it ended, Nixon, visibly moved, stood and hugged Rowe, Nutter said. Rowe told the president that Versace deserved the Medal of Honor. Nixon turned and told the liaison officers to "make damn sure" it happened, Nutter said.

The submission sat for two years before being turned down in 1971.

"The political climate of the time stopped that thing right in its tracks," Nutter said, noting that Rowe had publicly criticized antiwar senators.

Versace's case has been pushed in recent years by a hodgepodge group of soldiers and civilians who have heard his story: officers in the Army Special Forces command, West Point classmates and friends from Alexandria.

What they have in common is the haunting image of a man who, as Rowe wrote, did not break, or even bend. Said Nicholson, "It makes you think, 'Good Lord, could I be that strong?'"

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This article was extracted from Army News Service, San Francisco, May 7, 2001

Barbara Birchim saw her personal campaign to reforest San Francisco's Presidio National Cemetery come to fruition April 28 with the dedication of the first six of seventy trees at the cemetery.

The wife of Special Forces Captain James D Birchim, who has been missing in action since 1968, was visiting a memorial marker for her husband when she noticed that the cemetery had lost many of its trees. She has been traveling around the nation for almost a year to raise donations for the trees and, a bronze plaque for the cemetery.

Barbara Birchim was a 21-year old mother of one, and pregnant with her second child when her husband was reported missing in action in 1968. He was leading a reconnaissance patrol from the 5th Special Forces Group on a search mission in Laos when he disappeared.

Barbara is a registered nurse by profession, and has visited Vietnam five times since 1989, bringing medical supplies, and seeking information on her husband, and others still missing.

Her campaign to "Save Our Shade" at the Presidio Cemetery began last summer when she visited her husband's memorial marker. "I had spent a lot of time at the Presidio, and remembered the heavy canopy of Montgomery Cypress trees that shaded the graves at the cemetery," Barbara recalled. "On this particular occasion, I noticed how much lighter it was, and saw workers cutting down trees."

Through inquiries to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Barbara learned that some sixty had been removed due to disease. and bad weather. The Veterans Administration had no plans to replace the trees, they agreed to accept Barbara's proposal to replace the sixty trees, and dedicate them to Veterans.

Barbara went to work on her one-woman crusade, starting at a Special Operations Group Reunion last September. "For \$100, individuals or groups could purchase a tree in memory of a fallen veteran," Barbara sold seven trees at that Reunion.

Since then she has traveled the country meeting with veterans' groups, and was even "adopted" by the Special Forces Association ZIA Chapter LVI in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Exceeding her own goal of sixty trees, Barbara sold seventy trees, and also purchased a bronze plaque.

"My hope," said Barbara, "is that people will be inspired to maintain our nation's cemeteries, and unite with with Veterans, and their families in remembering those who have paid the ultimate price for freedom."



1st Lt James D Birchim was declared missing in action on November 15, 1968. In 1972, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, and promoted to the rank of Captain. Birchim served in Vietnam from July 1968 until November 1968 with 5th Special Forces Group.

He was leading an eight-man, long range reconnaissance patrol on a search mission in Laos when the patrol was ambushed. While trying to evade the enemy, he suffered a broken ankle, and fragmentation wounds. He radioed that his patrol be extracted that evening; however due to difficult terrain, no helicopters could land. Extraction rigs consisting of four ropes anchored to the floor of the helicopter, and weighted with sand bags were dropped from the hovering helicopter. After four team members were successfully extracted by the first helicopter, the second helicopter dropped its ropes. One rope got hung up in the trees leaving only three for the remaining four team members.

Selflessly, Lt Birchim made sure that all his men were rigged, and then he hung on to the back of one of his men. Their rig was dragged through the trees nearly dislodging them, but Birchim hung on for 30 - 40 minutes before falling.

Lt Birchim's body was never found but his selfless service and courage under fire allowed the remainder of this team to escape to safety.

The following is a list of servicemen who were honored with a tree at The National Cemetery, The Presidio, San Francisco, California 28 April, 2001.

CPT James D. Birchim	Joseph Flaherty
LT Edward R. Sherwood	Harry Hunt
1LT Sharon A. Lane	SGM Walter L. Shumate
MAJ Tommy E. Gist	LTC Norman Kaufman Pratt
COL Kenneth Crabtree	SFC John D. Shewmake, Sr
LTC Fredrick C. Phelps	MAJ Lester M. Stone, Jr USMC
Lt Francis Curry	CSM Ivan Bomark
SFC Frederick H. Lewis	1LT Henry Porter Rathmell
SFC Walter "Doc" Simpson	SSG Michael Shanley, Jr
PFC B.Evans	The Shanley Brothers
PFC M. Pruett	CPL Jerry Georges
MAJ Hugh F. Ewing	PFC Waldram
LCDR James B. Mills	SGM VanAlstyne
COL Milton "Bud" Halsey, Jr	COL William C. Cauthen
SSG Robert L. Teeter	LTC Vincent J. D'Annibale
SGT Percy L. Jones	MG John S. Lekson
CSM Franklin D. Miller	SGM Eugene Hicks
1LT George K. Sisler	RADM H.L. Reiter, Jr, USN
SSG Fred Zabitosky	MSG William Dale Libby
MAJ Sam Lee	LT Bud Jones
SGT Wilson C. Koehler	LCDR Edward C. Moore, III
LT Neville S. Drummond(Canada)	SP4 John M. Tomkins
COL Edward C. Moore, Jr	CPT David W. Coppernoll
LTC Francis G. Donahue	

# Special Operations Memorial

## MacDill AFB, Florida

USSOCOM Special Operations Memorial Foundation, Inc.,  
Special Forces Association,  
Special Operations Association,  
UDT/SEAL Association.



The walls flanking the central generic SOF warrior will hold individual engravings in addition to special operations organizational histories. Engravings may be purchased, and designed to reflect either the buyer's name and/or organization, or may memorialize another (past or present) special operator. To maximize the available space, the same individual will not be memorialized more than once. The memorial is located adjacent to the entrance to the US Special Operations Command Headquarters complex, MacDill AFB. Engravings are limited to eighteen (18) letters per line (including spaces); the number of lines may be purchased as follows:

Special Operations Memorial Foundation, PO Box 6696, MacDill AFB, Florida 33608-0696

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

2 Lines - \$100 ☐

3 Lines - \$250 ☐

4 Lines - \$500 ☐

Did the Honoree serve with SOF? (Y or N) \_\_\_\_ If YES, which unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mbr: SFA\_\_SOA\_\_UDT/SEAL\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

MC/VISA (circle one) # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

# SOAR XXV

SEPTEMBER 26-30 2001

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

## AFTER ACTION REPORT



**THIS AFTER-ACTION REPORT IS HUMBLLY DEDICATED TO  
THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11TH AND  
TO THOSE SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONEL SERVING IN  
AFGANISTAN AND ELSEWHERE.**

**"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

## SOAR XXV SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 25 SEP - 30 SEP 2001

### TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2001

1000 - 1700 - SOA BOD Meeting

### WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2001

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

### THURSDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER 2001

1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1000 - 1200 - 281st BOD Meeting  
1300 - 1500 - 281st/DELTA Memorial Service  
1500 - 1600 - Internet, CD's, etc - Steve Sherman  
1600 - 1700 - SOA Internet Operation - Bob Jack/ Bob Golden

### FRIDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2001

0800 - 1300 - Weapons Firing  
0900 - 1000 - STMP Montagnard Advocacy - Greg Stock  
1000 - 1200 - SOA By-Laws Meeting - Open to All  
1000 - NLT 0200 - Hospitality Suite  
1000 - 1800 - Late Registration  
1130 - 1400 - Lunch (Hosted by SOA)  
1200 - 1300 - STD Ceremony Rehearsal  
1300 - 1400 - Vietnam Today - Dr Antonia Neubaur  
1400 - 1600 - POW/MIA Issues Norm Doney  
1600 - 1700 - Lang Vei/Khe Sanh Revisited - B Donoghue/D Smith/C Berg  
1830 - 2230 - STD Commandos Ceremony

### SATURDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2001

0900 - 1800 - Hospitality Suite  
0900 - 1000 - Late Registration  
0900 - 1200 - General Membership Meeting  
1130 - 1330 - Lunch (Hosted by SOA)  
1300 - 1500 - 281st General Membership Meeting  
1400 - 1500 - Bill Pelletier's Marriage  
1800 - 1900 - Cocktails (Hosted by SOA)  
1900 - 1915 - Posting of the Colors  
1915 - 1920 - Toasts  
1920 - 1930 - Introduction of VIP's/Guests  
1930 - 1945 - Presentation of 25-Year Pins  
1945 - 2100 - Banquet Dinner  
2100 - 2125 - Guest Speaker Remarks  
2125 - 2130 - Special Award Ceremony  
2130 - 2145 - Retirement of the Colors  
2145 - 2200 - Break  
2200 - 2245 - SOA Raffle  
2245 - 0200 - Hospitality Suite

### SUNDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2001

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





## **SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**

**5130 Charleston Boulevard**

**Suite 5-583F**

**Las Vegas, NV 89122-1003**

Gentlemen:

January 15, 2002

The After Action Report (AAR) wraps up the matter of SOAR XXV and in retrospect it was one of the best, if not the best reunion, we've ever had. It was my first as part of the implementation team and it amazed me to see how much effort it takes to make it all happen. There were many activities and thanks to the Board of Directors (BOD), a few volunteers, and especially to Patrick Hephner, the Reunion Committee Chairman, it all fell into place in an exceptional manner. My sincere thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make it look so easy.

SOAR XXV featured some changes in locations within the reunion site, increased vendor participation, and expanded activities and unit participation's. The most significant additional festivities were the Delta and 281st AHC, and the STD Commando Memorial Ceremonies. They honored the fallen, and rekindled the camaraderie of the past. There were emotional reminders of good days and bad which made our gathering a little better as we shared memories and stories of the past and caught up on what was going on in our lives today. Again, thanks to all of you who worked so hard to make it happen.

There are questions that also came to the fore as we began to focus on SOAR XXVI. How many people do you think there will be this year? What kind of activities will we have? Should we reduce the number of vendors? Did we have so many in attendance at SOAR XXV because it was the Silver SOAR or will we have another record breaking attendance at SOAR XXVI? They're all interesting and valid questions as we begin planning for our next reunion, but in reflection, what I saw were many new faces this year. Some I hadn't seen for over 30 years and seeing these old friends once again made me realize that we have grown tremendously over the past several years and that we may grow until all of our reunions will be of greater attendance than SOAR XXV.

Additionally, the BOD will consider the future of the reunion range firing. Although a traditional activity, the rising costs of ammunition, buses, and the increased requirements of human resources have made it more difficult to support the activity. However, the greatest concern is that of liability. With increased participation comes an increased liability possibility. All of these aspects will be weighed at the mid-year Board meeting and a decision made as to whether we will continue range firing in the future.

Growth was one of the questions that came up during SOAR XXV. The question was and is, will we accept new members from today's Special Operations Units? Some say no because the Vietnam era Spec. Ops. Units were unique while others say yes because we want a living Association that will be perpetuated far into the future. What we do know is that there are Special Forces and other Spec. Ops. Units involved in Special Operations even as this letter is being written and read. We need to address this question to determine what direction our Association will take into the future.

**"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 another issues related to the membership question too, namely, who should be a General Member and who should be an Associate. We are restricted in some cases by the IRS requirements because we are a Fraternal Veterans Organization. Most members have indicated they want to remain a Veterans Organization so we have incorporated the "Operational Associate" to allow the members of the Allied Military Units with whom we served, but who fail to meet the criteria prescribed by the IRS. This solution may not be perfect, but it allows the inclusion of the Allied Soldiers who are rightfully a part of our Association. Now the question of inclusion of CIA Operatives has surfaced. Should they also be included, if so, how?

I don't pretend to know who is on the top wrung of the membership ladder or who is on the bottom. That is a decision that we make as an individual, depending on how we feel about ourselves, the role we played as a Spec. Ops. Operators, and how we feel about those others who were also a part of the effort. In my research, I noted that right from the beginning we were a collection of units and so we have never been pure SOG Recon, Mike Force, or Delta Project. We have not through the years maintained the pure "On the ground = General Member and Support Personnel = Associate Member" philosophy. We are what we have become, a conglomeration of units and people who have shared like dangers as participants in the same operations although we didn't share the exact same role and experiences.

To return to the beginning in an attempt to re-create our Association would in all likelihood establish an hierarchy of membership status that will not change our Association to what we "intended it to be, but will go a long ways toward dividing and possibly destroying what a few dedicated members have worked so hard to achieve over the years. I don't know about you, but when I sit at a table in the hospitality suite and talk with those guys I haven't seen for 30 years, I never give a thought as to whether the members at the tables around us have as much right to be there as we do.

But no, we don't want wannabes and frauds either and when they come to our attention we deal with them. For the most part our concerns are wrapped around our own personal opinions of our roles and the roles of the units we were in, our egos, and our lack of tolerance for others. We're all entitled to those opinions and we're entitled to express them, but because we, as individuals, are not always objective, we operate better as a group. As a group, the SOA has done pretty well over the years. We are, for the most part, a mix of special units and special people.

We may not be pure anything as far as units and membership status goes, but the SOA includes a very exclusive group of true warriors who have left their mark on the Special Operations Community history with their tremendous legacy. We should think long and hard before we do anything that will damage one of the most exclusive Veterans Fraternal Organizations in existence today.

The preceding were a few of the issues and concerns that came up and need to be considered. We, the Membership, will decide these issues and how the Association will go forward. Not everyone will agree with my perception and that's good and that also brings up another subject, the election of Officers for the coming year. The opportunity for new leaders with different philosophies, who are willing to step up and share their fresh ideas of what the SOA should be, and the direction it should go. The Association will continue to go forward only if there are members who are willing to make the effort to insure that it does. As an organization, "We need your leadership!"

*"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".*

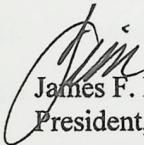




This year we will elect a new President and Vice President. Enclosed is a form to fill out and forward to the BOD if you are willing to serve as part of the leadership of the SOA. The minimum tenure will be two years as we start the staggered system of Officer/Director tenure. The new system we hope will provide better continuity within the SOA Leadership opposed to replacing everyone at the same time.

There is a long agenda of items to be considered at the mid-year BOD meeting in April and with, the Special Forces 50th Anniversary in June, we will be pleasantly busy for this year. We, the BOD, will strive to keep everyone up to date through the quarterly publications. We will strive to serve you well. We hope the coming year will be one of good health and prosperity for all of you," Members who are very special people in a very special organization, the Special Operations Association."

Hope to see you all at Ft. Bragg in June,



James F. Hetrick  
President, SOA



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

**FACT SHEET**

The SOA is a 2000 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 of the 1980's and 1990's; membership is limited to those who aided or took part in missions deep inside hostile territory.

For the most part, our association is composed of US Army Special Forces personnel, but also includes Air Commandos, Navy SEAL's, Marine Force Recon and veterans of other elite organizations, both military and civilian, who were part of special operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the SOA are:

- a. To perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps; and
- b. To unite fraternally all war veterans who are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" in hostile enemy territory, or have been assigned to the United States or foreign military units which conducted such operations; and
- c. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World; and 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, through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Grant Fund. Since 1983, over \$327,500 has been awarded or committed to 101 deserving young scholars.

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the IRS as a non-profit veteran's organization operating on tax deductible donations. Annual membership dues are \$25.00 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$250.00 U.S. The organizational correspondence is the Spring Newsletter, the Pre-Reunion Packet and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report and the post SOAR news letter.

The SOA will hold its twenty-sixth annual reunion (SOAR XXVI) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 25 - 29 September 2002: We anticipate in excess of 800 members and guests

**"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

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SATURDAY, 0900 HOURS 29 SEPTEMBER 2001

### I. Call to Order: President

The year 2001 General Membership Meeting SOAR XXV was called to order by Jim Hetrick at 0900 hours 29 September 2001 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. President called attention to the copy of Standing Rules for the meeting. All members were asked to look at the standing rules.

### II. Pledge of Allegiance: Jim Kennedy

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

- A. Mr. Hetrick requests the membership remain standing for a moment of silence for our fallen and absent comrades and those that lost their lives on September 11th.
- B. Mr. Hetrick reports to the membership that the SOA has been notified that seven SOA Members have passed away since SOAR XXIV:

Charles W Telfair, SOA # 1612-GL  
Terry Soresby, SOA # 507-GA  
Roger M Pezzelle, SOA # 68 GL  
Arnold "Arnie" Bales, SOA # 353-GL  
Wiley W Gray, SOA # 121-GL  
Larkyn "Rocky" W Nesom, SOA # 204-GL  
Rick Campbell, SOA # 1798-GA

### IV. Administrative: President

#### A. Roll Call: Secretary

The Secretary announces the SOA Board of Officers are all present:

President;	Jim Hetrick
Vice President;	Ray Chambers
Secretary;	David Smith
Treasurer;	Rick Grabianowski
Director;	Earl Trabue
Director;	Charles Berg

Director;	Gene McCarthy
Director;	Robert Jack
Director;	Cliff Newman
Executive Director;	Jake Jacobson

The Secretary announces the Special Staff are all present:

John McClaskey	Memorial Committee
Ray Chambers	Membership Committee
Jim Hetrick	Memorabilia Committee
Bobby Evans	Budget Committee
Pat Hephner	Reunion Committee
Jim Butler	Scholarship Committee
William Lueders	Tally Committee

#### B. Credential Report

Ray Chambers

Mr Chambers reported that registration total of 732 included:

Three hundred and fifty (350) Regular Members.  
 Thirty-two (32) Associate Members.  
 Three hundred and fifty (350) Guests.

C. Mr Hetrick introduces Solveiga Unger, professional registered Parliamentarian, who will assist the chair on parliamentary procedure.

D. Mr Hetrick introduces Pam Dehnke, court recorder, who will record this meeting.

E. This meeting will be conducted in accordance with SOA By-Laws and with Robert's Rules of Order, and that for the purpose of this SOA General Membership Meeting, the SOA Membership present, constitute a quorum for any business purpose.

#### V. Business Meeting:

President

##### A. President's Remarks:

I welcome everybody here and say thank you for being here. I think this has so far been the greatest SOAR ever. It certainly has been the largest. We've had aviation units that have joined us. Delta Project has joined us. And we've had aviation units say they want to participate with us again next year and we welcome them for that. It's been a positive year. We've had the PUC, Presidential Unit Citation, awarded to the members of MAC V SOG; and even though that was 30 years late, it was welcome and appreciated. We had a great time at Ft.



Bragg where we had some opportunity to re-establish some camaraderie in the rustic lounge. We had a great ceremony put on by General Brown. And the camaraderie was like that of old.

We've grown and that's good. We're larger now than we ever have been. We're approaching and have probably already exceeded 2000 members. In that growth we need to understand that we can no longer act like we did at the Landmark when we were chasing the pig around and Colonel Morton got to take the pig home, and such things as that. We have grown, gotten larger. And we have found there are some weaknesses that we have within the association. And those have been pointed out very, very ably by a number of people. So we have decided to address those things.

But first of all I'd like to say thank you to the Board of Directors up here and say that each and every one of them have worked very hard. They serve at your pleasure. I serve at your pleasure. But you have to remember that they all have lives to live and they are volunteers. But nevertheless they have done an exemplary job and I thank them for that.

We have some other things that we have come up with and that we thought we needed to change and so we empanelled a by-laws revision committee. Now understand, "revision" means major changes. The reason we're doing that is because in consultation with parliamentarian and with several other people that knows about by-laws, it's obvious that we have been doing it in an amateurish way. And that's not to say -- to make bad comments about anyone. None of us are attorneys. None of us really have a handle on by-laws. So what we've done is take a look. And that will cover membership; it will cover many, many things. I've empanelled that committee under the Vice President Ray Chambers. And if you would like to serve on that committee, please step forward. We need people to serve on the committee.

We also wondered why we are not incorporated in the State of Nevada. We have our meetings here, our address is here and everything else. So what we are going to do is go out under Mike Haas and take a look at incorporating in Nevada and see what it will take and see what the advantages or disadvantages might be and then we will report that to the membership.

We have empanelled a budget committee. We need a budget committee. We deal with a lot of money. We need to know where the money is coming from, how much money that we have that we can work with, to deal with. We need to know realistically how many scholarships that we can award.

So those are the things we have looked at. Our vision has changed. Some people want to perpetuate the organization with new members; some people do not. We may reach that. We are trying to make that happen as far as current special operators today. Some say, "No", we want to stay by ourselves." In the

beginning we talked about a big bottle of really expensive cognac and to pour glasses, and when we got down to the last four guys, we would bust open the cognac and drink it and toast everybody else, and it would be over with. But is that what the membership wants? Some want to be a scholarship society, and that's fine, but you have to keep it under control because you only have so much money. Some just want to be a good-old-boy get together, raise hell and have fun organization. Your Board of Directors agrees with you. So what's the point? You, the membership, have to get involved. This organization will go the direction that ten people want it to go if nobody else stands up and says anything, or does anything, or makes any recommendations, or gets involved. We need people to step forward and say, "I would like to serve on the Board of Directors." We need people to step forward and say; "I'd like to serve on a committee" or "How can I help?" We've had many people helping this year just on the reunion and I thank you all because without the volunteers, it couldn't happen. You elected this Board of Directors, all of them. We serve at your pleasure. We serve again for free. I feel like I'm kind of in an unfortunate position.

I'm standing up here flapping my jaw and the only thing I can tell you is that so "What does the membership want?" All I hear when I'm talking to people is, "We're tired of the crap; we don't want to hear it anymore." I can honestly tell you I don't want to hear it anymore either. That's why I'm not on any net or any lists. If you want to talk to me, write me a letter or call me direct. I'd be glad to talk. Many people call me direct. I have letters. I get e-mails that say, "I'm tired of this bull shit. I quit. You ought to get a life." I have a life and I don't have to hang on the Internet to get it.

As I said, you elect us. We want to serve you. We need to know what you want us to do. Right now what I don't know is if I have a mandate to represent you. I ascended to this position because we had another one of those people with a lot of quit in him quit. I will not quit. I stood to be elected as vice president. The circumstances have put me here. And all I can tell you now is that I will serve if you wish me to serve as your president, but I don't know that because I don't have the mandate. So what I'm going to do right now is call the vice president up here and I'm going to walk out of this room and you get the chance to say, "Yeah, I'll support you" or "I will not support you." And if you support me, I have a plan to move us forward and I'll take us out of this bull. If you don't want to support me, I will come back in and resign and Mr. Chambers will take over.

(President Hetrick leaves the proceedings.)

1. President requests a vote of confidence by turning the chair over to the Vice President and leaves the proceedings.
2. Vice President requests that all those in favor of retaining Jim Hetrick and



moving forward raise the voting card.

3. The vote to retain Jim Hetrick was unanimous.

## **B. Unfinished Business**

### **1. SOA By-Laws:**

President

The By-Laws voted on September 30, 2000 and approved are in order and in effect. The question of legality will not be allowed on the floor of this assembly in this meeting today.

### **2. Tax Exempt Status:**

President

The Membership voted on September 30, 2000 to remain a 501©19 Fraternal Veteran's Organization. Any questions regarding 501©3 or 7 will not be allowed on the floor of this assembly in this meeting today

### **3. Management Control Review (MCR):**

President

The MCR was rejected and abolished by the General Membership Meeting on 30 September, 2000. Questions of management control review will not be allowed on the floor of this assembly in this meeting today.

### **4. Mr Buscetto was recognized by the chair:**

Mr Buscetto made a motion that Charles Berg be removed from the board without cause. Mr Buscetto was informed that he was out of order and that his motion would be the last order of business under new business.

### **5. Agenda:**

President

The Agenda with the addition of Mr. Buscetto's motion is approved.

### **6. Minutes of the GMM of 30 September 2000: Secretary**

The Secretary moved to approve the minutes of the meeting as was published in the AAR for SOAR XXV and asked for any corrections.

Mr. Blakey was recognized by the chair:

Mr Blakey stated that minutes published in the AAR were totally incorrect. Further stated that he made a motion to amend the minutes of the year before and they were passed and accepted, and in the AAR they were reversed by whoever wrote it. Mr. Blakey moved that those minutes, if possible, be disbanded, not accepted and we just do away with the minutes from that

meeting because they are completely and totally incorrect.

Discussion continued. The President called for a vote on approval or disapproval. Membership voted to disapprove.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report:

#### Treasurer

Mr. President:

First of all, I would like to thank John McClaskey, my predecessor, who made my job a little easier by putting in the procedures for the treasurer.

Our financial status -- we have conducted a financial review of the year 2000 financial records by an outside CPA firm located in Texas. No irregularities were found. We collected an estimated 61- to \$65,000 for SOAR XXV, more than adequate to pay our bills. Due to this month's tragedy, we were accommodating in refunds, cancellations. We had a few. That was understandable.

We gave additional five scholarships, which put us for a total liability of \$448,000. . I would like to say at this time also that the scholarships are being subsidized by other funds. In other words, what we take in for scholarships does not cover what we give out. We gave out \$31,000 this year to scholarships alone.

We have taken all the SOA funds and consolidated them into two accounts; Merrill Lynch for the general, scholarship and everything else. And then SOAMS has their own account. Also, we have established a rotation for the CDs. In other words, we have taken one-fourth of the available monies for CDs and every quarter we buy one-year CD's. So, therefore, every quarter, if needed, we have availability for the funds. Right now we have approximately \$140,000 available for CDs. I have not finished the rotation, because when I consider, there is still the money market account, which incidentally, the money market account almost is the same as the CD rate at present, or it was last month.

We formed a budget committee and you'll hear about that in a few minutes.

I would like to say that the treasurer does not approve any expenses. I just respond. However, I have, with the help of the Board, established a few additional safeguards. As we all know, checks written over \$2,000 require two signatures. However, what I have done also is any expenses that I pay, I do not approve. One member of the Board has to approve any expenses under a thousand. Two members of the Board approve expenses over \$2000.

Also, we are getting more competitive quotes for larger ticket items. Ap-



proximately \$500 and over I personally go out and try to get several quotes to get the best deal.

We are in the process of earmarking all the life membership dues that have been paid into an untouchable account so we can live off the interest. We are just about there, because, as I said, we have about \$140,000 and I added up all the life membership dues paid and it comes to approximately \$142,000.

The balance sheet and income statement for this year, of course, will be included in the next AAR. (See Enclosure 1)

Mr. President, that's my report.

President: Are there any questions for the treasurer? There being no questions, the report will be filed

**8. Budget Committee Report:**

**Bobby Evans**

Mr Evans gave a brief description of his plans as Committee Chairman for this newly formed committee.

**9. Scholarship Committee Report:**

**Jim Butler**

Jim Butler, member No. 1. Last year, as you know, I was quite ill and I had to give up my chairmanship. And I do individual -- Al Keller, are you here? Al Keller will take over as chairman of the Scholarship Committee. I am going to stay on and work as historian. We had about 16, 17 applications this year. Two or three came in late. Some came in that were incomplete. When we get done we had nine complete applications for us to look at. Of those nine, five were selected. (See Inclosure 2).

**10. Membership Committee Report:**

**Ray Chambers**

Members of the association, Ray Chambers, 627 GL I wish to present to you the following report as it deals with the membership. The membership committee consists of the following members. If any of the members are in the audience please stand. I'm Ray Chambers. I'm the chairman, 627 GL.

Robert Gilstrap represents the Army side  
Curtis Williams represents the Navy arm.  
John Korsbeck represents the Army/Navy aviation assets.  
Ray Dawson represents the Air Force  
Harry Claflin represents the Marine Corps  
Chieu Ngoc Lam represents the STDs

Our last membership number, 1,985, was issued on 28 September this year, just the other night. Several applications have been rejected due mainly to the omission of information required on the application form. An example of this is not including the proper required documentation. Someone listed, as reference may be able to verify that a cited operation was actually conducted, but they may not have been on that operation. So you have to use a little caution here. Documentation substantiating an individual's assignments and/or operations therefore is an absolute necessity. Another example is that the witness signature is missing. By signing an application a witness affirms only that he or she has physically watched the applicant sign the release of information section of the application. This requirement is intended to protect the association and the individual applying for membership.

Since the award for the presidential unit citation on 4 April of this year, the membership chairman has written over 50 letters of rejection to members of the STD community. These individuals were the original people who were recruited by the CIA and early operation being conducted by the section known as MAC SOG. This rejection was due to the manner in which our by-laws have been written and the IRS rulings on membership. Hopefully this body of general membership will approve the recommended changes to the by-laws and allow the veterans of special operations in the north of Vietnam into the association under the category of operational associate.

During the years that the association has been formed, only 23 persons have been expelled. Also the association has had only 16 resignations, indicating that the leadership over the years has been doing something right and that the membership is satisfied with its elected officers and Board of Directors.

Some relative facts about our current membership:

- Annual general members, 706;
- Annual life members, 509;
- Annual associate members, 60;
- Life associate members, 57;
- Honorary life members, 33.

Unpaid dues -- and this is where we get a big hit on our finances. We have 422 people who are not in good standing with the association. We have six organizations that are members of the Special Operations Association. We have currently on the rolls 137 fallen comrades. Investigations are now pending on several members who may have submitted false or inconclusive evidence to gain admission to the SOA. The findings of these investigations will be submitted to the elected officers and directors with recommendations for required actions. The last individual who was expelled from the



association was Mr. James Hawke. He had submitted his application for membership and used information that implied what he had done and where he had been. His application was totally misleading and not substantiated by the required documentation. The fact is three members of this association were assigned overlapping tours of duty at FOB 2 and no one can remember Jim Hawke being there.

Board of Directors for action during the mid-year 2000 and was taken for One honorary application is still pending. Dr. Peters' nomination is before the discussion during a Board of Directors' meeting, SOAR XXV. Another application that is in front of this body and has been reviewed by the complete membership committee and meets with their approval is for the honorary membership of Navy Commander Schwartz. Commander Schwartz has been active in the recovery and identification of the remains being found in Southeast Asia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Both of these individuals should be approved for membership as honorary.

An item that deserves a special recognition is that two additional honorary membership categories --this is a little redundant. WW and WS. They have been created for the last two years. This honors several of our ladies who have chosen to carry on in the tradition of their now deceased member husbands and remain affiliated with the association. As of this date this category also includes one lady whose husband was KIA in Vietnam during a recovery mission in 1968. The second new honorary membership category is one that honors the SOG veteran member by having his son represents him as the WS, or warrior son. The category of WW and WS equals a total of 21 persons.

Communications by the internet using the Special Operations web site supervised by Bob Jack, SOA No. 414, and assisted by Bob Golden, SOA 1282, has proven itself to be worthwhile. Through it much has been provided to bona-fide people who want to join the SOA and some who are want-a-be's and also want to join. Like all electric devices the site has had some problems, which I understand may have been caused by hackers. Some want-a-be's thought it was the way to join the SOA. Go get them, Bob. The Internet can be a boon or it can be a bust. In the days after the ceremony for presentation of the presidential unit citation certain members' use of the Internet did nothing to enhance the Special Operations Association. Information was running rampant. There was nothing more than a lot of speculation, misinformation, untruths and rumors. Because of this misinformation, several good members of the SOA decided that they could no longer be members of this organization and submitted their resignation. The then president Jim Cole resigned as well, leaving the association with many problems to deal with. His action by resigning caused serious riff within the membership ranks.

The archives of Steve Sherman SOA 759 AL continue to be used to verify many new members. Steve in turn gets to keep all the extra copies of assignment orders and orders for decorations and awards. This, of course, helps him build a greater database for Special Forces in general. Thank you, Steve, for assisting in the verification of these new members. In closing let me say this? Gentlemen, we are no longer a good-old-boy club. We are a 2000 member organization and it's time we acted like one. A copy of this membership committee report is available for the asking. Respectfully submitted, Ray Chambers, Membership Committee Chairman.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Thank you, Ray. The report will be filed.

**11. SOAR XXV General Report:**

Pat Hephner

I'm Patrick Hephner, 1249 GL. I took over Harry Claflin's job. He called and asked me to do that. I didn't know what I was getting into, but I like it.

**Room reservation:** There were a couple of problems I understand. When I was notified of those problems, I took care of them. Just for the record purposes, for anybody's interest, last year we reserved 350 rooms, we used 300. This year I reserved 450 rooms, we used 450 rooms plus some at the hotel across the street, about 30. So I think we're well covered there.

This year we have a new layout as you've seen. Some of you wanted to go to the old hospitality suite. That is still available, but you got to buy a bingo card this year.

The good news is you're expending record number of dollars at the bar. Things have never been greater out there. We have taken on a couple extra cocktail waitresses or bartenders and you are wearing them out, too, but the tips are good. They like it. So keep the coming.

I think generally that everything has been going pretty well, but there is always room for improvement. If you have some suggestions, please let me know. I received a couple already. I disregarded them, but if you have some keep them coming. Seriously, if you do have suggestions that you think are worthwhile, feel free to discuss them with me, but I would ask you to put them in writing because this four days will wipe out my brain.

For those of you out there who are visually impaired, lunch today will be served at 11:30 and it will go till 1330. It will not run until 1400 as it did yesterday.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Hetrick for letting me serve you. And he tells me if I don't screw it up; I can do it again next year. So let me know



what you think, guys.

12. SOA Qualifications:

President

The next item on the agenda is the SOA Qualifications. These three (3) were tabled by the membership on 30 September 2000, directing the Board to do further study and report back to the membership.

1. The first item is what should be the designation of the Allied Special Operations applicant. We have dealt with that in the by-laws change, which we will be voting on later, and so therefore at this time it is not appropriate to bring this forward.

2. The second item is should the unit 1970 through 1973 that was subsequently charged with the mission of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne B-52 (Delta Project) both as to the AOR and the operational control be considered for membership in the SOA. The membership voted yes. The Board of Directors still says yes. The problem is when the title 75th Ranger Regiment was added everyone said no, but that's your decision. Okay. So now we'll vote on it. There is no need for comments or debate. It's either up or down. It will be the 75th infantry regiment who served in that time, in the time the B-52 stood down until all operations were terminated. That is the only portion that we're considering, those people that served during that time frame and they did in fact take over Delta's responsibilities in country. All of those in favor of accepting the 75th Ranger Regiment and that portion of it raise your hand.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Point of order.

Mr. President, could you please state the period of time you're talking about, the starting date, and add it to that motion? Thank you, sir.

MR. BERG: It's from the official date that Delta Project stepped down in 1970 until the end of cessation's for the 75th infantry unit in Vietnam. The 75th infantry has had the documentation that shows which units they were specifically from the conversion from the LRRP's to the Rangers. Does that answer the question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, sir, I do think it's appropriate that the date be included in the amendment change or recommendation. And if you don't have the correct dates at this time, I think it should be tabled and re-voted at another time.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Good point. In the motion it says, "Should the unit 1970 to 1973." Those are the year time frames. Are those adequate for the gentleman?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: No. Okay. Then I will refer this back to committee.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I propose we vote on it as you stated right now.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. There has been an amendment to the motion --

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Mr. President, I believe, and with all due respect to the gentleman, I think we ought to vote on it, but I do believe that the amendment has to be stated correctly as to how we will vote on it. And I assume 1970 to 1973 is not specific enough, I don't believe.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. The motion was should the unit 1970 to 1973 that was subsequently charged with the mission of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne B-52 Delta Project vote as to the AOR and operational control to be considered for membership in the SOA. Now, you have come back and stated that you want to amend the amendment, or amend the motion. This gentleman says he wants to amend the amendment to the motion.

**MR. HENRY:** I'm Henry, 993 GA.

(General discussion.)

**MR. HENRY:** I'm Henry, 993, and I move we vote on this motion as it just was stated by our director president and we get this done. We've been trying to do this for two years. I think we all know where the Rangers were. We knew what they did. We can correct the dates very easily, but right now we need to get these people in our status so we can bring them on Board. So I so move that we vote now today to accept that. We can amend the dates, if that has to be done, at a later date. But we know who they are and we know the time frame generally when they performed that mission for B-52. That's all I have to say.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Point of order. I agree with the gentleman, however if we are voting on --

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Your comments are out of order. Please be seated. Okay. We have an amendment to the amendment. We must take the amendment to the amendment first. I've got a motion on the floor. Okay. Go ahead, Bobby.

**MR. EVANS:** Evans, Bobby J., and 659 General Life. Mr. President, another member stood and tried to bring up a point of order and you ruled him out of order. I don't believe that is by Robert's Rules. If you would please go back and readdress that.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. Mr. Buscetto, please state your point of order.

**MR. BUSCETTO:** I am not opposed to them being part of the group. All I'm requesting is that the Board specifies the date period so the only ones covered are the ones that actually did the job that Delta was doing. That's all I'm requesting.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** I understand. Then your amendment was to in specific dates. Okay?

**MR. BUSCETTO:** Yes, sir.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Thank you. Mr. Henry's amendment to your amendment was to vote on it as it is now and to go and we will find a specific specified date so we can move on and finish this piece of business. First



of all, we will take the amendment to the amendment. Is there any further discussion on the amendment to the amendment? Okay. Mr. Henry has proposed that we vote on this now and that we will get the correct dates in there. It is surely available to us.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second to motion.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: There is a second. All those in favor raise your right hand. I need the tally committee to count the votes, please. Your hands up, please. 82, 84. Okay. Mr. Henry, the amendment to the amendment is defeated. Excuse me, I'm sorry. All those opposed? The I's have it. The amendment is changed. The amendment goes back to the original amendment. Let me correct myself. The approval of the amendment to the amendment that Mr. Buscetto proposed invalid -- makes it moot and we will therefore vote on --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can the Chair please explain to me why that would be because all we wanted was the exact dates they served.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Because the membership voted. Mr. Henry asked to do so.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I called for a motion to restate it and re-vote it so everybody here clearly understands what we just voted.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: I'm going to do that right now. Thank you.

The question is -- we're going to vote -- should the unit in the time period of 1970 to 1973 that was subsequently charged with the mission of the 5th Special Forces Group Airborne B-52 Delta Project both as to the AOR and the operational control be considered for membership in the SOA. Are we ready to vote? All those in favor of accepting the 75th infantry regiment people who were in the 75th Rangers during the time frame they took over the B-52 AOR and operational commitment into the SOA, please raise your right hand or raise your card over your head.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 43 on this side.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: How many?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 58.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: All those opposed?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 30.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 57 on our side.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Okay. Those for, 91; those opposed, 87. The motion is carried.

MR. ORMES: If I may --

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Your name and your number, please.

MR. ORMES: Ralph Ormes, 1949. I'm a brand new member. I'm a little bit confused about how this parliamentary procedure is moving. I always understood on the rules that a motion is supposed to be made from the floor, seconded, open for discussion and then voted. The motion generally is not made by the president. It's made by the membership. Now, he can request that a motion be made by the membership and seconded.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Good point. What I want to do is let the parliamentarian address that.

**PARLIAMENTARIAN:** This motion was not made by the president. It was something that was referred from the previous membership to the Board of Directors. This motion came from the Board of Directors, not from the president. Motions made by the members at a meeting or at an annual meeting such as this can be made under new business, which we -- you'll be able to do later on and we've added to the thing. You can make amendments to things, but the motion that you just voted on did not come from the president. It came from the Board, but it originally came from the membership a year ago to address the issue.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Excuse me, that gentleman that made a recommendation for the change,

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** It was voted on.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** You voted on something different. He wants to amend what was voted on.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** We voted on his amendment.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No, we didn't.

**MR. HETRICK:** Yes. When we voted on the amendment, his amendment -

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** His amendment was for specific dates and we didn't vote on that.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. There are two amendments allowed on the floor. There are three actually, an amendment and an amendment to the amendment and second amendment to the amendment. We had all three.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** You have to address the other amendment on its own. It has to stand on its own merits.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. But it was moot.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** You have to take my motion and address on its own merits. You can not lump it on the sum.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That's exactly right. You're trying to lump all three together and you can't do that.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** When we voted on the amendment to the amendment, it made his amendment moot and I announced that.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That's not what I understood. I understood what we last voted for was for 1970 to 1973. We did not vote on specific dates.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** We did in that the amendment to the amendment stated to vote it as stated.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** But you can't do it that way is what I'm trying to explain. You have to address each change to the amendment on its own merit, and this was not done. All of a sudden he superseded what this gentleman was trying to propose. And that's not right. You have to address each one individually.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Pardon me?

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Point of order, sir. I think I can get you off the hook. This amendment to the amendment did make his moot because he stated it differently than you have restated it. He said let's vote now and get the specific dates later.



**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** I thought that's what I said.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No, sir. You said he said let's vote now as it is written. We voted to get the specific dates later, but vote on the basic question now.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. The minutes will reflect that we will get the correct dates of the time that they were operationally in there.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Now, I would like to call for a recount because the vote tally that was announced for that side of the room seemed to be far in excess of the number of cards that were held up. I would like to ask for a recount.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Mr. President, may I be recognized.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Just a moment, Glenn. We've got too many people recognized at the moment. The problem we have with that is everybody's leaving.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That's too bad.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** That's true.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Point of order, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Okay. Laf, go ahead.

**MR. KEATON:** Laf Keaton, 1168 GL. We voted on a period of time, which was specific, 1970 to 1973. At a later time we can get the specific dates. It does not have to be voted on in this meeting. We have again fallen in this trap of arguing back and forth about minutia.

**MR. SHELTON:** Bill Shelton, 890 GL. I would like to call for a roll call vote on that last issue.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** There is a motion on the floor. I need to get it stated and a second and then we vote a discussion. The motion on the floor is to conduct a recount and to do so by roll call. That's not possible. We have 1,700 members or more. What we can do is do a standing count.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** I need a motion first. Excuse me, there is a motion. We have this second. Discussion? There being no discussion, we'll vote.

**MR. JONES:** Mr. President, I have discussion. I'm Jim Jones. I've got a three-digit number. I don't know what it is. GL. One of my biggest concerns is if we're going to vote on an organization to come in here, are we going to get bottle washers and everybody associated.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** You're asking me the question?

**MR. JONES:** Right.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** The membership of the Special Operations Association, whether you were in Mac V SOG, whether you were in Delta Project, whether you were in Aviation Unit or whatever, there are two types of memberships, general and associate. The general members are the people who ran on the ground or the people who in the helicopter units took us in and took us out. The guy that patched bullet holes back in Dak To is an associate member. He didn't go in, risk anything. He wasn't a part of the operational aspect of the unit. The Rangers come in. They have general mem-

bers and associate members just like the rest of us. And we really have few associate members. The only guys that will be allowed general membership will be the guys that ran on the ground. And also the guys that probably some of the same aviators supported them that supported us who put them in. Those are the only ones.

MR. NGUYEN: Jimmy Tong Nguyen, 1374 GL. We already have the amendment. We keep referring back to amendment to amendment. We have one amendment. We have two motions. And we use the correct term. We have to vote on those two motions. But what I'm seeing here, there's a tiny difference. The gentleman proposed that we just lead on at the date on the year. And the motion of Mr. Henry is to take it as it is. If we can stipulate to later on the general member voting on this amendment and later on stipulate we going to add the date and month, that's all it takes.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Right now the motion on the floor is to vote, to do a recount vote. All those in favor raise your right hand, standup. All we need to do at this point is raise your right hand with your voting card, if you want a recount. Okay. The motion is to do a recount, recount on the Ranger issue. We're voting now only on the recount, whether to do a recount.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 45 on this side, sir.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 40.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: All those opposed raise your hand. This is opposed to the recount.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 31 on this side.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 41.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Okay. The I's have it. We'll conduct a re-vote.

MR. HOWARD: Mr. President, my name is Chester Howard, 1609 GL. One thing, you did not have any discussion on this. All we saw was the questionnaire and we mailed it in. So the group here has not heard any reasons why. All they are reading is the motion. They're going to vote on it. Fortunately you all have allowed us, the Delta people, to come here. I don't think there is a Delta man in this room that is for this. It is more problems with SOA now. We are voting too big and not filling our ranks with SOA votes.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Okay. Your comments at this point are out of order in that we need to restate the motion. I understand what you are saying, but every man in Delta like everyone else is entitled to vote.

MR. HOWARD: But the other people do not have a clue how we feel.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: They do now. The motion then is should the -- we'll say the 75th infantry regiment from the -- who were members from 1970 to 1973 that were subsequently charged with the mission of the Special Forces Group Airborne B-52 Delta Project both as to the area of operation and the operational control be considered for membership in the SOA if they fall within the exact dates, which will be determined later and applied and reported to the membership so that we are assured that only those who belong here are entitled to be here, would be granted membership. Does



that cover it all?

MR. KEATON: Not quite. Laf Keaton, 1168 GL. The 75th Ranger Regiment Airborne --

PRESIDENT HETRICK: 75th Infantry Rangers Airborne. Thank you. Okay.

Discussion? Chester.

MR. HOWARD: Chester Howard, 1609 GL. The problem that we have and I've noticed talking to a lot of people from the other CC units is that there is some kind of a growth problem here. I don't know who's driving it. I can only assume that it's the Board who continues to push it. I think the general feeling of the folks here in the room who did the work here is that if we all die in five years, we'd shut the door and give the money to some charity or set up something, a trust or whatever. But I don't see this need to continue growth and I don't see this need to bring in people that have always been associated with us and now all of sudden they are equal to us and they walk away from here believing that. The support people did a fine job. None of us will deny that. But they were associates then. They were just working with us. They did not go through the training the people in this room did. They are in no shape, form or fashion SOA. The 75th Rangers were a good outfit. That's right. But they started up over there and they filled their ranks with legs and whatever. They were not Rangers. They were given the designation. So they were different people. They are Airborne. They are Rangers. But again the problem is I think the problem with membership is that we are filling our ranks with people that are not SOA.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Okay. Are we ready to vote?

MR. BERG: No. Charles Berg, No. 31. Everybody in SOG was not Airborne, was not Special Forces. We have non-airborne people in SOG running recon teams. And so that issue is not exactly as the member stated it. The same procedure for processing for vetting for the 75th Infantry Rangers would be that that was used for the 281st, for the whole gorilla force, for everyone, for everybody that was in the same criteria that was mentioned would be betting that would have met that criteria. If we brought in -- when Delta came in, when these people stood up, how you differentiate between them, I don't understand. One day it was people from Delta. They stood down. The AO became that for them, for the 75th Infantry Rangers. It's not an issue of being -- I think I heard the implication of Special Forces and that is not the criteria to be a member of SOA.

MR. PRUETT: Bobby Pruett, 1765 General Member. I have orders that say SOA B-52 CCC. Is SOA under orders? I don't know.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: What are you referring to, SOA?

MR. PRUETT: Orders which assign a unit are B-52, CCN, CCS, SOG, MAC SOG, headquarters had SOA on it, Special Operations.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: I can assure you that in 1966 mine didn't have them.

MR. PRUETT: Maybe not then.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: We were retained in headquarters at Nha Trang.  
UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. But after '68, '69 they had SOA on there.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Thank you. Just a minute, Chester.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Bobby's question was, did the 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers have SOA. No, they did not. That's the point. They are not Special Operations Unit. They went over there. They were regular infantry outfit. They went in there and they did a job. They did not go through the same training. And I don't mean Special Forces. There were no people who ran recon in Delta without at least being Airborne. There were very few people that ever came into the unit that were not necessarily qualified. But I know that they served in the other units and that's fine. That's not the question. The question is, were they Special Operations Unit, period. They were not.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Go ahead.

MR. PLASTER: Just a clarification. Excuse me, John Plaster. I think its 826. I've heard it stated several times that these Airborne Ranger companies assume the role of Project Delta. I don't think -- from my understanding, I don't think that's correct. They existed before Project Delta disbanded. Project Delta -- excuse me, corps area to corps area working directly for corps area or even Mac V level operational orders. I'm not aware -- I'm fairly certain of this. I cannot say chapter and verse. I'm 99 percent certain that all these Airborne Ranger companies were divisional. Each American division and 173 Airborne Brigade had one company of Airborne Rangers. So therefore it's inaccurate I believe to say that they, a, assume that roll and, b, will perform a strategic level reconnaissance air --

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Thank you. Is there anything new to add? If not, we will vote. Are we ready for the vote? All those in favor of bringing this unit as stated in the motion into the SOA please stand.

Thank you

Those opposed

Thank you be seated

The Motion is defeated

3. The next item under SOA Qualifications was should the SOA actively pursue corporate sponsorship. I will rule on this in that we voted on it last tear and we voted no. I will also inform you that that does not preclude us from accepting donations if they want to donate it, but they do not sponsor us, and there are no strings attached to that donation.

#### C. New Business:

President

##### 1. SOA By-Laws:

President

- a. The president stated that the next order of business would be the consideration of the recommended amendments to the by laws. He also stated that the recommendations would be considered



seriatim. The President then introduced Earl Trabue.

**b. Recommended By-Law Changes:      Earl Trabue**

Mr Trabue referred the members to the by laws approved by the membership 30 September 2000 which was mailed to all members as a part of the PRP for SOAR XXV with the amendments recommend by the by laws committee incorporated into them. Mr Trabue then informed the members that according to Robert's Rules of Order a recommendation by the committee replaced the need for a motion and a second and that immediately after the recommendation the proposed amendment was open for discussion and action by the membership. He also informed the membership that a 2/3 vote of approval was necessary to pass the amendments recommended by the committee. Before Mr Trabue could go further several members asked for copies of the proposed amendments. Mr Trabue reminded the membership that in his cover letter to the proposed amendments he had asked the members to bring their copies with them. However, to solve the problem he would, with their consent, read the Articles and/or paragraphs that contained the recommended amendments proposed in the PRP and, that in order to avoid confusion, instead of saying by deleting, substituting, adding or inserting as the case might be, he would read the paragraphs as they would read if the amendments were adopted. There were no objections from the membership and Mr Trabue continued his presentation.

**Recommendations of the committee —Mr Trabue presented the recommendations of the committee with results as follows:**

- (1) Article II A. Result —Approved by the members.
- (2) Article IV A 1. Result — Approved by the members.
- (3) Article IV A 2 a. The chairman stated that the committee recommended that the recommended par 2 a as presented in the PRP be amended by adding the sentence: Regardless of the provisions of Par. IV A 2 c below, any general member in good standing as of 28 September 2001 shall retain that category of membership. Result — Approved. The chairman then stated that the committee recommended that the recommended par 2 a as amended be approved. Result — Approved.
- (4) Article IV A 2 b. The chairman stated that the committee recommended that the recommended par 2 b as presented in the PRP be amended by adding the sentence: Regardless of the provisions of Par. IV A 2 c below, any associate member in good standing as of 28 September 2001 shall retain that category of membership. Result — Approved. The chairman

then stated that the committee recommended that par 2b as amended be approved. Result — Approved

(5) Article IV A 2 c. Result — Approved. However, based upon the discussion of the paragraph the President, with no dissent from the membership referred this paragraph to a new by laws committee which would consist of both members from the BOD and the general membership for further study and/or refinement.

(6) Article IV B 1. Result — Approved. However, due to the large amount of discussion on the amendment the president, with no dissent from the membership referred the paragraph to the new by laws committee for further study and or refinement. (A large number of the membership expressed the desire to have the membership make the final decision on approving unit list changes.)

(7) Article IV B 2. The chairman stated that the committee recommended that the recommended par B 2 as presented in the PRP be amended by striking the words Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (DCSOPS) of the United States Special Operations Command and replacing the deleted words with the words Commander in Chief of the United States Special Operations Command, or his designated representative. Result — Approved. The chairman then stated that the committee recommended that par B 2 as amended be approved. Result — Approved.

(8) Article IV D 1. Result — Approved

(9) Article IV D 2. Result — Approved.

(10) Article IV E. paragraph Classes Result — Approved.

(11) Article IV E 1. Result — Approved.

(12) Article IV E 2 Result — Approved.

(13) Article IV E. Delete old par 3. Result — Approved

(14) Article IV E 3. Result — Approved.

(15) Article IV F. Result — Approved.

(16) Article IV. Delete old paragraph E. Result — Approved.

(17) Article IV G 1. Result — After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the membership, withdrew the recommendation and referred it to the new by laws committee for further study and/or refinement. (Several members wanted the members to give final approval on any increase in dues.)

(18) Article IV G 2. Result — Approved.

(19) Article IV H. Result — Approved.

(20) Article IV I. Result — Approved.

(21) Article IV J. Result — The entire paragraph IV J was approved with the exception of subparagraphs 5 & 6. After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the mem-



bership withdrew the recommendations on these two paragraphs and referred them to the new by laws committee for further study and/or refinement.

(22) Article IV K. Result — After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the membership, withdrew the recommendation on this paragraph and referred it to the new by laws committee for further study and/or refinement.

(23) Article IV L. Result — Approved.

(24) Article V A. The chairman noted that this amendment changed the title of outgoing president to Immediate Past President and asked that this be done through out the entire by laws. Result — Approved.

(25) Article V C. Result — Approved

(26) Article V D. Lead paragraph and sub paragraphs 1,2, & 3. Result ---Moved to amend the recommendation to delete the word Treasurer in par 2 and insert the word Secretary in its place and to delete the word Secretary in par 3 and insert the word Treasurer in its place. Amendment approved and this portion of V C as amended was approved

(27) Article V D. Unnumbered Paragraph following subparagraph 3. Result — Approved

(28) Article V E. Result — After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the membership withdrew the recommendation on this paragraph and referred it to the new by laws committee for study and/or refinement. (The question from the membership was who should appoint the committee.)

(29) Article V M. Result — After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the membership withdrew the recommendation and referred this paragraph to the new by laws committee for study and/or refinement.

(30) Article V N. Result — Approved.

(31) Article V P. Result — After much discussion the president, with no dissent from the membership withdrew the recommendation on this paragraph and referred it to the new by laws committee for study and/or refinement. (Many members thought that all of the BOD member should be notified.)

(32) Article V Q. — Approved.

(33) Article VI C. Result — Approved.

(34) Article VI D. Result — Approved. However due to the large amount of discussion the president referred this paragraph to the new by laws committee for further study and/or refinement.

(35) Article VI F. Result — Approved.

(36) Article VII B. Result — Approved.

(37) Article VII C. Result — Approved.

(38) Article VIII Unnumbered lead paragraph. Result — Approved.

(39) Article VIII C. Result — Approved. However, due to the discussion the president referred this paragraph to the new by laws committee for further study and/or refinement. (See Article V E which is related to this paragraph)

(40) Article IX. Result — Approved.

(41) Article X. Result — Approved.

2. Agenda Items 5 & 6 deleted by President under Administrative Entries.

3. SOAR XXVI Status Report:

Pat Hephner

I don't know what you have been voting on. Maybe you changed my membership number while I was gone, but if you didn't it's still 1249, Patrick Hephner. And SOAR 26 next year will be at the Plaza again. Same facilities. But before I go any further, I want to tell you I was remiss earlier when I was talking about thanking you for letting me do this. Actually I should have been thanking those out there helping me as well, specifically the guys behind the bar and everybody else. But let me take the time to just mention Bill Garcia and his son Greg and Dick Simpkins because those are the guys out there that have been carrying the load out there at the bar.

Which brings me to the next topic, which is next year I need volunteers at the bar and we'll try to do it in a little more organized fashion and have a sign up list and if you really, really, really want to help put your name on the list and if you want to be really, really, really helpful show up when your name is on the list. If you get shit-faced, you can't serve, so anyway.

We precluded any registration problems that might occur. I'm suggesting that you don't wait until two weeks or three weeks or four weeks or five weeks or six weeks before the SOAR to register. You can register for the next SOAR in January if you want. You don't have to wait until July or August or September. There is no problem with that. They will accept it. If you are worried about losing your money because you might not be able to make it you can also cancel two days in advance and you will get your money back. They aren't going to charge you anyway until you come here. Don't wait until the last minute. Any questions?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dates.

MR. HEPHNER: 25th through 29th of September 2002.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Thank you.

MR. HEPHNER: 25 through 29 September.

MR. BUSCETTO: Mr. President, Pete Buscetto, 1813. I respectfully request that my motion earlier tabled to new business be put on the agenda under new business and moved up.



4. Mr Buscetto made a motion early that Charles Berg be removed from the Board of Directors without cause. All in favor?

TREASURER GRABIANOWSKI: Discussion.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: I stand corrected. Do we have a second? Thank you. Okay.

MR. STRANGE: Bob Strange, 1304, General Life. First of all, I want to thank all you guys that are still here. For whatever reasons the other ones left because of lack of interest or no beer, I have no idea.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Speak to the question, Bob.

MR. STRANGE: Okay. When we started here this afternoon we were very concerned about going on with our organization for whatever reason and there's been a lot of confusion about voting and additions to and committees and everything else. And quite frankly I'm confused at some of the things and some I can handle pretty good. But for whatever reason, I don't know if our parliamentarian can give an explanation or if this is in fact plausible I mean just to be able to vote somebody out for no reason. Do we need an explanation here as to why an individual would want to vote somebody out? Some of the guys may or may not know what's going on. I'm a little confused. So please say something about this and just -- you know, half of the people that were here, three-quarters of them have left.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: I will defer to the parliamentarian.

PARLIAMENTARIAN: The only thing I can say because this is the first time I've served your organization, but you do have in your existing by-laws removal of directors and it says, "Removal Without Cause," "Any or all of the directors may be removed without cause if such removal shall be approved by the majority of the members at an annual general membership meeting." Now, that's all your by-laws say. I don't know what you've done in the past. My understanding would be if there is a motion and a second it can be discussed. Any other times that there has been an action like this it's usually been done in an executive session and it isn't done in a general membership meeting where it's actually heard in sort of closed hearing, but your organization seems to have it in their by-laws that the membership can decide at the regular meeting, so it's open like any other motion.

MR. EDENS: My name is Ralph Edens, 438, General. I just want the president to acknowledge that for purpose of this vote that there is a quorum at this general meeting.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: So acknowledged. Any other comments?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I move for a secret ballot.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: It's been moved that this be a secret ballot.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: It's been seconded. All in favor?  
Opposed?

The nays have it. The motion is -- the proposal is to remove Charles Berg from the Board of Directors without cause. All those in favor? All right. Discussion.

MR. BUTLER: No more discussion?

PRESIDENT HETRICK: All right Jim.

MR. BUTLER: My name is Jim Butler, membership No. 1. I can't understand what's going on. What is this discussion? What's the problem? How does the Board feel? I think that all the members of the Board have worked with Mr. Berg for the last couple two or three years and I don't see them pulling this kind of stuff. Where is this coming from? Is this part of the same political game that we've been playing for the last three years that we need to get rid of? Come on, let's be a unit or let's just pack it in.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Any other discussion?

There being no other discussion, all those in favor of Mr. Berg's removal raise your voting card.

Sergeant of Arms, please get a vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 23 from this side.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 26.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: All those opposed?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 49.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 28.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: The motion is denied.

Mr. Berg is not removed from the Board of Directors.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Put it to rest.

5. Recognition of the Sergeants at Arms: President

Their job is not easy and especially this year. Jim Kennedy knew that he would be could not make the meeting, I asked Bill Meyer to stand in. And they have both done a very good job counting the votes and trying to control things. And I'd like everybody to give them a hand to show appreciation.

6. Recognition 20-year Pin Members: President

All those members that have a membership member number up to and including number 474 would you please come forward to receive your 20-year pin. The following members were present:

Sammy Hernandez # 61-GA	Hank Gole # 291-GA
Ray Flaherty # 109-GA	John Anderson # 352-GL
Larry Dunlap # 116-GL	Jack Abraham # 365-GL
Julius Farago # 118-GL	John "Doc" Padgett # 404-GL
Fred Camacho # 133-GL	Ronald DeCarlo # 408-GL
Lester "Nail" Silvernail # 140-GA	Robert Jack # 414-GL
Al Montez # 152-152-GA	Ralph Edens # 438-GA
Larry Kennemer # 181-GA	Jay Massey # 442-GL
James Baker # 210-GL	Art Mellon # 446-GA
Andy "Alex" Alexander # 222-GA	Robert "Spider" Parks # 465-GL
Mike Nelson # 253-GA	John Garrison # 473-GL



7. Honors for Deceased Members:

Jake Jacobson

Last July there was an unfortunate incident that took place. Rick Campbell # 1798 took his own life. I got a call from a Crash Makool that the next of kin, in this case his sister, had no idea where to go to get anything in the way of honoring her brother Rick Campbell. During my tenure as President with the Special Forces Association, this was one of my pet projects. Jimmy Dean and I did a lot of research finding out just what a deceased veteran is entitled to.

The latest Defense Appropriation Bill that was just passed outlines some specific entitlements a veteran is entitled to. I got a letter from Frank Tiganos requesting that this be addressed at this membership meeting. I'm not going to go into all the aspects of this. I will say that Wayne Lawley, current President of SFA, and Jimmy Dean are well versed on this subject, as is Charlie Berg with the VA aspects. So I'm going to do my homework with Wayne Lawley and Charlie Berg and put something out to the membership, possibly for the PRP, hopefully sooner.

I did this in SFA and, gentlemen; it was tragic because the people that should have seen it are the next of kin; the wives, the mothers. The membership got it; and just like everything else, it goes in file 13. The member dies and the next of kin knows nothing. So I'm going to prepare some kind of a document which will outline the benefits that your next of kin are entitled to and how to go about getting it. And it's my desire that you give it to them. Like I said, I'll try to get this out prior to the PRP. Thank you.

8. Honorary membership:

Ray Chambers

As a matter of information, the submission for honorary membership of US Navy Commander, Joe Schwartz, has been very actively involved in French-Indochina for the recovery of POW, MIA body parts and working with the Joint Task Forces – Full Accounting in Hawaii to identify them. All the necessary and required information was submitted for a review and this was disseminated out to the Membership Committee for approval. It came back approved overwhelmingly. So we will be according him honorary membership in the very short future. In addition to that, the same thing is applicable to Dr. John Peters who was submitted a couple of years ago. And his activities involved those that were ongoing at that particular time in Central and South America with the operations that the Special Forces, overt and covert, were doing at that time. Dr. John Peters is a civilian, whereas, Dr. Joe Schwartz is a Navy Lieutenant Commander on active duty.

9. President Emeritus for Clyde Sincere: Billy Waugh

Billy Waugh # 005. I make a motion, Mr. President, that Clyde Jason Sincere, Junior, be designated President Emeritus of the Special Forces Association.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: It has been moved that Clyde J. Sincere, Junior, be named President Emeritus of the Special Operations Association.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: It's been seconded.

Okay, Billy. Discussion?

MR. WAUGH: A motion to the membership of the SOA is to recognize Clyde Sincere for the following: his 25 years of distinguished service to the organization. I live up close to Clyde and I know he has worked like hell. He has faithfully served in every position on the Board of Directors except treasurer and has also served many years as administrator of the SOA. He's contributed to the growth of this association in a most outstanding manner and richly deserves this honor. And I enjoy doing this.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Ready for the vote?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: All those in favor? Opposed?

The motion is carried. Congratulations, Clyde.

MR. PADGETT: John Padgett, Life 404. I would offer a motion here -- or just suggest that the record show that the motion was unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Thank you, sir. It will be so noted

10. Cedar Point Foundation: President

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve a \$3,000 donation to Cedar Point Foundation

11. Good of the order: Charles Berg

Now comes the good part. Many of you remember Frenchie Amundson. She's a little lady who just keeps on giving. Frenchie was a veteran of World War II, served as a nurse, amongst other duties working with the free French and the OSS to combat the Nazis. She was captured and interrogated by the Nazis, sent to a concentration camp. She served in 1947 in Indochina driving an ambulance in the French War. In 1976 she was attending an air show which included members of the SF Reserve Sky Diving Team, Paso Robles, California, and began a conversation about parachuting with members of the Third Battalion, 12th Special Forces Group, United States Army Reserve, and this began a relationship that remained until her passing away. Frenchie attended Chapter 23 Special Forces meetings in San Francisco and was a welcome guest at the SFA national conventions. She



was a favorite at the SOA Conventions. She has donated significant funds to both Associations. The first payment was \$30,000. We presented that at the national SFA Board and the SOA Board in Boston and here. The second payment was \$23,000, which I gave Jimmy Dean for the SFA and sent onto Clyde. I'm very pleased to announce today that there are two more checks. Each check is for two -- for both organizations, for the SFA and SOA. Each check is for \$29,413.50. At this time I'd ask that the president of the SFA and Jimmy Dean come up here so I can present them with a check, please. SFA first. If I can get the president of the SOA and treasurer to come forward, I'll give them a check also. Rick, here is the actual check.

Colonel Larry Kimmel from SOG has been the executor for this account working with the attorneys. Larry was unable to represent either association in the process. To date this means a total of \$79,413.50 from that little silver-haired lady with the strange accent.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Adam.

**MR. HUSAR:** Adam Husar, 022 GL. I'd like to know what funds the money is it going to go into or is it programmed for any special fund or it is a general fund.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** It was designated general fund, wherever we need to use it.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Last night we had a ceremony with our Vietnamese allies. I thought it was a really nice ceremony. The only bad part of it was my speech. The good part of it was that we got our camaraderie a little closer and it was genuine. And they have given us this memento for the fallen, STD and MAC V SOG Commando and SOA Reunion 25. And this will be posted and held in our archives.

**Billy Waugh.** And this is an unpaid announcement.

**MR. WAUGH:** The people I work with are looking for people. I would like to describe them and tell you who they would like to get their hands on and tell you the address that person would mail a resume to. The people must be either Special Forces or Project Delta or Ranger retirees or young people who have gotten out, should be under 40 years old. I'm going to give you an address in a minute, so be ready. These people if they have a language such as Russian or Urdu, or Arabic they can be over 50 years old. Because that's hard to come by. The address they mail the first resume -- it's an IC job, independent contractor job for one year. The pay is good. There's one big drawback, besides the place they are going to work, and that's the poly-graph. And it's fairly difficult to pass. But if you know any people, or your

sons or anyone that has gotten out recently or you're near a place where a person is getting out and he's a good man, you have to be squared away people, they would mail to this address, 721 Fox Drive, Romeo Delta Alpha. That's 721 Fox Drive, P.O. Box 1135 in McLean, Virginia 22101-1135. The resumes will be reviewed by a panel of personnel and if there is interest, they will be called and told to submit the most difficult part, which is your psychological resume and so forth. The contacts need -- there are 50 to 60 people required. And that's a lot of people. The polygraph cuts out a lot. So think about it and if you know somebody, send them on down. Tell them to send their resume. I don't take e-mail applications myself. I will take a resume.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Bill, do they have to pass a psychological? Is that what you're saying?

**MR. WAUGH:** 270 psychological questionnaire, yeah.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I have a question. How did you pass it? Did you cheat?

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Yes, sir.

**MR. RINGLAND:** Jim Ringland, 1498 GL. In regards with the good of the order, with what is transpired here today I hope to hell we don't send any-more of this hate mail on e-mail. Let's get a life. Let's get on with the damned program and keep this organization flowing smoothly.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** I'd like to close on that note, but Melvin Hill asked me for time to speak and everyone knows that Melvin Hill should be able to speak.

**MR. HILL:**

Mel Hill, 832. Most of what I wanted to talk about has been said by many of the members here today. Some of you may know, especially Billy may know, I'm very involved in some fraternal orders. And let me tell you, two of them, one of which I was in charge of, self-destructed by the same kind of internal pulling. Please, guys, let's don't destroy what we've got.

**MR. deFONTAINE:**

Sully deFontaine, 177 GL. As you know, I never talk in public in general but -- never used to take my pictures -- but I felt I should say something in front of the membership. I know a lot of you guys said I walk funny and talk funny. But, you know, John Wayne walked funny and Henry Kissinger talked funny, so I'm in good company. The point is we have an organization here which is quite amazing and really great. An organization like OSS, SFA, as you know SFA has a colonel commanding the regiment, Colonel Banks. OSS has President Emeritus. OPIO, if anybody knows that outfit and the Special Forces. The British Special Forces. They all have a president emeritus alive. And with all due respect to Clyde, and I'm sure he's



tough to follow billing, and I definitely feel Clyde should President Emeritus, we can have more than one. Well, in this assembly here we have a gentleman who is actually very humble, laid back. We had his picture and under it was "The Boss." What I'm talking about is General Singlaub. I think General Singlaub should be President Emeritus and sit right there on the dais with the president, the present president, and be sitting on his right. I think that would be a great thing for the organization, for the representation we have. And I propose, and I don't know if I can make a motion on that, but I propose that General Singlaub will be our President Emeritus. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** The problem we have with that, Sully, is that it wasn't presented 30 days in advance, so what we will do is we will put that in as a proposal and notice it for the next vote.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Mr. Chairman, I make a motion we suspend the rules that govern that and proceed with this.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** It's been moved to suspend the rules governing that portion of the regulation and --

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Second.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** It's been seconded. All in favor? Opposed? Then the motion is that General Singlaub be named President Emeritus

also.

Any discussion? All those in favor? Opposed?

The I's have it. Congratulations.

**UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Mr. Chairman, can the record show that the last vote was unanimous.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:** Yes, so be it.

Is there anyone else who wishes to speak? Okay. Go ahead.

**MR. BUSCETTO:**

Pete Buscetto, 1813. I echoed a couple of general comments as far as I'm concerned. I asked for the vote just to get it over with. It's not personal. I said it to you earlier. We voted. Let's support them. You're going to get my support. As far as I'm concerned, the craps over.

**PRESIDENT HETRICK:**

I want to address one thing. The e-mail that we had that was called the SOA net is no longer the SOA net. The SOA has removed any sponsorship and all references to the SOA will be removed from that current net. We are going to establish that we have a means to talk to the Board of Directors through the web page when we get it updated. Our e-mail addresses are on the web page. I've had several members who have written me letters and resigned because of what

happened on the net. I'm going to go back to these guys and ask them to reconsider because I think that it's over. I think the membership has spoken. Is that not the case?

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Yeah.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Is there anyone who does not understand that?

Thank you, gentlemen.

MR. HEPHNER: Patrick Hephner. I have some bad news. I just discovered that I made an error in the schedule. We have to close the bar at 5:00 o'clock this afternoon, at 1700. However, on the other hand, we can reopen it again an hour later at a different place. The second item is the mess line will remain open an extra half hour.

PRESIDENT HETRICK: Norm has extra handouts for the POW, MIA issues. Norm, I'd like to have one. Thank you. Clyde, I suggest we adjourn for lunch now and come back and do the raffle.

MR. HEPHNER: I rearranged the schedule. The room will be available -- we better do it now. We only have it until 2:00 o'clock.

V. Adjournment:

President

There being no further items of business, Mr. Hetrick adjourned the SOAR XXV General membership Meeting at 1330 hours, 29 September 2001.

HJ/hj

Respectfully submitted,

Encls: a/s

/s/David C. Smith  
/t/DAVID C. SMITH  
Secretary



SOA 2000  
Income Statement  
For the Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2000

	Year to Date
Revenues	
Annual Membership Dues	13,331.00
Life Membership Dues	10,175.00
Contributions - General	58,293.00
Interest Income - General	7,038.06
SOAR Registration	48,885.00
SOAR Raffle Ticket Sales	19,187.00
SOAR Vendors	375.00
America Remembers Pistol	1,023.75
SOAMS Sales	14,389.50
Total Revenues	<u>172,697.31</u>
Cost of Sales	
SOAMS Cost of Sales	<u>6,383.20</u>
Total Cost of Sales	<u>6,383.20</u>
Gross Profit	<u>166,314.11</u>
Expenses	
Bank Card Processing Fees	853.35
Bank Service Charges Expense	169.09
Depreciation Expense	276.31
Executive Director Expense	2,400.00
Equipment Rental Expense	581.41
Insurance - Liability	3,087.47
Insurance - Security Bond	251.00
Las Vegas Quick Draw Expense	1,975.00
Meetings Expense	198.42
Memorial Flowers Expense	546.88
Postage - Forwarding	165.00
Postage - General	3,785.46
Postage - SOAR	5,327.89
Printing - AAR	36.77
Printing - General	1,924.06
Printing - SOAR	3,743.48
Publications Expense	149.78
Scholarship Fund Expense	23,000.00
SOAMS Misc Sales Expense	879.70
SOAMS Shipping & Handling Exp	134.30
SOAR AAR Expense	135.62
SOAR Guard/Hostess Expense	530.00
SOAR Hotel/Catering Expense	34,459.28
SOAR PRP Expense	5,780.17
SOAR Registration Gift Exp	9,400.52
SOAR Supplies & Expenses	4,467.17
Storage Rental Expense	862.05
Supplies Expense	5,762.43
Telephone - Voice Line	1,573.52
Travel Expense	8,290.31
Total Expenses	<u>120,746.44</u>
Net Income	<u><u>45,567.67</u></u>

Inclosure 1

SOA 2000  
Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2000

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Scholarship Checking	\$	3,317.33
Operations Checking		5,018.99
Convention Checking		17,952.39
SOAMS Checking		10,850.29
Merrill Lynch CD's		154,685.00
Administrator Checking		2,018.51
Merrill Lynch Mgt Account		15,803.00
		<hr/>
Total Current Assets		209,645.51
Property and Equipment		
Equipment		1,435.94
Accum. Depreciation-Equip		<807.54>
		<hr/>
Total Property and Equipment		628.40
Other Assets		
Inventory-SOAMS		21,958.00
		<hr/>
Total Other Assets		21,958.00
		<hr/>
Total Assets	\$	<u>232,231.91</u>

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
		<hr/>
Total Current Liabilities		0.00
Long-Term Liabilities		
Scholarship Awards Payable	\$	85,500.00
		<hr/>
Total Long-Term Liabilities		85,500.00
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities		85,500.00
Capital		
Beginning Balance Equity		86,745.02
Retained Earnings		14,419.22
Net Income		45,567.67
		<hr/>
Total Capital		146,731.91
		<hr/>
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	<u>232,231.91</u>



July 6, 2001

Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to announce the 2001 SOA Scholarship Winners and the men who they commemorate.

Christopher Dove will receive the SOA scholarship for three years. He is currently attending Tulane University. Christopher is the son of Luke Dove. Luke was the 1-0 of RT Delaware out of FOB II/CCC 6/68 to 7/69. Christopher receives the award in memory of MSG Raymond L. Echevarria, 1-0 SFC James Emory, 1-1; and SFC Eddie L. Williams, 1-2 of RT Arizona which was lost on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1966 while on a recon mission in Laos.

Mary E. Turner will receive the SOA Scholarship for three years. She is currently attending State University of New York in Purchase, NY. Mary is the daughter of J.R. Turner. J.R. was the 1-1 of RT Bushmaster of CCN from September 1969 to December 1970. Mary receives the award in memory of SFC. Charles Borowsky who was KIA on October 10, 1966 while directing a counterattack against a superior enemy force while assigned to Long Thanh.

Thomas Waskovich will attend Flagler College. His award is for four years. He is the son of Thomas R. Waskovich 1-0, RT S. Carolina and Hatchet Force Platoon Leader at CCC from January 1969 to December 1969. Thomas receives the award in memory of SFC Charlie Vessels and Fredrick "Huckleberry" Lewis who were KIA on 13 October 1966 while on Operation Crimson Tide. The first attempt by MACVSOG to recover an American POW. (USAF Capt. Carl E. Jackson)

Erik C. Howard will attend Ft. Lewis College. His award is for four years. Erik is the grandson of James Howard, Team Sergeant of Blackjack 31 in 1966/1967 and Mobile Strike Force 1969/1970. Erik receives his award in memory of 1-0 Boyd W. Anderson and One-One Michael R. Newbern who were killed in action on 22 October 1966 while assigned to Project Sigma.

Gavin Robb is attending Penn State University and will receive the SOA scholarship for three years. Gavin is the son of Gary Robb, 1-0 and recon company commander at CCN from 1969-70. Gary commanded and led the first airborne operation into Laos in 1970 for MACV-SOG. The jump was from 475 feet at night and they landed on a NVA battalion headquarters. Gary later became an outstanding covey rider and the Executive Officer of "Heavy Hook". Gavin receives his reward in memory of 1Lt. George K. Sisler and SFC James H. Duncan who were KIA on 7 February, 1967. 1Lt. Sisler was SOG's first Medal of Honor recipient for his actions on that day while leading an exploitation force against a superior enemy force.

Respectfully submitted;

Jim Butler

Enclosure 2

## SOA ODDS AND ENDS

**IN MEMORY OF – TAPS:** Again it is with deep regrets that the SOA Board announces to the membership that three members have passed away since the last reported losses were reflected in the SOAR XXV PRP:

**RICHARD “RICK” A. CAMPBELL SOA # 1798-GA,** died on July 24, 2001. Rick was a member of the 101st Aviation “Comancheros” serving two tours in Vietnam. He was a door gunner for “**Crash” Makool, SOA # 1790-GA,** flying missions for CCN. During his tours he was shot down twice. He was awarded numerous medals to include the Purple Heart. Rick was also a member of the Detroit Police Department for 22 years. Rick, age 50, beloved husband of Sheila; dearest father of Scott, Jessica, Santana, Miriah, Lauren, Jaila, Donovan, Ken, Scooter; dearest brother of Ronnie (Dorothy), Robert (Elizabeth), Les (Janie), Mary Anne (Fred) Dudek; loving son of Ellsworth and Julie was interned with full honors from the US Army and the Detroit Police Department.

**CHARLES “CHUCK” L. FELLER SOA # 1563-GA,** passed away peacefully at his home in Willow, Alaska on October 30, 2001 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. At “Chucks” request, his ashes were spread on an unnamed Alaskan Mountain Top that held great meaning to him. Chuck was a very beloved husband, father, son, brother, and uncle. He distinguished himself through two careers; first as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, and then as a member of the Alaska State Troopers. Born in Keyser, WV on December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945, Chuck enlisted in the US Army in September 1962. He served with SOG, 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968 receiving numerous awards, and decorations to include the Bronze Star for Valor. Chuck was transferred to Fort Richardson, Alaska where he retired from the US Army in 1983. During this time he was also a member of the Alaska State Troopers serving as a reserve officer. He was a member of the Alaska Civil Air Patrol being a qualified pilot. He was also a member of various flying clubs, and the VFW. Chuck Feller is survived by his wife, Sandra Feller of Willow; parents Verna and Charles L Feller Sr of Cumberland, MD; sons Christopher Feller of Oakland, MD and Gary Feller of Kinsman, OH; daughter Tania Coddington of Oakland, MD; brothers Robert Feller of Rock Hill, SC; Rick Feller and Sister in Law Cindy Feller of Wasillia, AK; brothers Rodney Feller of Keyser, WV and Daniel Feller of Mt Savage, MD; sisters, Vickie Feller of Keyser, WV and Cheryl Porter of Cumberland, MD. Many grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins also survive Chuck.

**WILLIAM “LIAM” ROY ATKINS, SOA # 1688-GA,** passed away on 4 December 2001 in California from a massive brain hemorrhage. Bill was born 17 October 1944 in Washington, DC. He served in the US Army from 1966 to 1972 with two assignments in Vietnam: 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade and MACV-SOG. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery on 11 January 2002. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Hart Atkins. Two sons from a previous marriage, mother and two sisters also survive him.



**AMANDUS M "CAP" IHLI, SOA # 364-GA,** passed away at his home in Spokane, Washington on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2001. Cap Ihli was 66 years of age. He retired from the US Army after completing 22 years of service. He served in the 16<sup>th</sup> SFOD referred to as the 8231<sup>st</sup> Army Unit in Japan, which later became 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group on Okinawa. Ihli served with distinction on Special Forces assignments which took him to Germany, Thailand, and Vietnam. He was a Life Member of the DAV, VFW, and Eagles. He was an original member of the "Decade Club" later to be renamed the Special Forces Association. He was interned at Greenwood Memorial Terrace with full military honors. He is survived by his wife Dawn; his former wife Wilda Thibodeaux; sons, Ralph Ihli of Seymor, TN, Sam Ihli and Toby Ihli of Lake Charles, LA; daughter Johanna Ihli of Houston, TX; brothers, Les Ihli of LaGrande, OR, Ben Ihli of Ephrata, WA, and Vincent Ihli of Las Vegas, NV; sisters, Merce Laporte of La Habra, CA, Millie Rova of Yakima, WA, and Marie Rush of Ephrata, WA. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

**ARTHUR CHILDS SOA # 1252-GA,** passed away at North Bay Medical Center in Fairfield, California on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2002 after fighting several illnesses. Arthur entered the U.S. Army in 1946 and retired in 1966. He served in Airborne and Special Forces Units. He was an original member of the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group serving in that unit from 1953 to 1957 at Fort Bragg and Bad Tolz, Germany. His other Special Forces assignments were with the 77<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Detachment "A", Berlin, Germany; 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, Republic of Vietnam. He also was a member of the 187<sup>th</sup> Airborne RCT during the Korean War. Upon his retirement he worked as traffic manager for Air America in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife Rosa Childs of Fairfield, California; sons and daughter in laws, Chris and Carmela Childs of Vallejo, California, Patrick and Vicki Childs of San Leandro, California, and Michael Childs of Martinez, California; sisters Sandra Gail, Diane Cowart and Mary Ellen of Michigan; brother, Douglas Childs of Michigan; and grandsons, Brian Childs of San Leandro and Eric Childs of Alameda.

#### **THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED:**

**CHARLIE CRAIG:** Charlie Craig served with 8<sup>th</sup> Airborne Ranger Co and the 187<sup>th</sup> Abn. RCT during the Korean War and with the 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. He will always be remembered for his tenure at Jump School where friend and foe alike referred him to as "Charming Charlie". He was also known as the "pushup king" which he proved many times. Memorial Service was held at the Soldiers and Airman's Home in Washington, DC. Those in attendance included **Charlie Norton, Clyde Sincere, Reuben Mooradian, Tom Zagner, and Bobby Evans.** Reception was hosted by **Charlie Norton.**

**LARRY L. STEARNS:** Colonel Larry Stearns passed away on December the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at a local nursing home. Larry was the Commanding Officer of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group from 1976 to 1977. He also served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his 32 years of military service, which started in 1945 as member of the Coast Guard, he was awarded numerous awards, and decorations, which included the Combat Medical Badge for service in Korea, and the Combat Infantry Badge for service in Vietnam. He was interned at Barancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, Florida. Chapter 44, Special Forces Association assisted in the ceremonies. Allan Hawkins and Jake Jacobson were in attendance.

**LEON WIT:** Leon died of a stroke at Kirkland, Washington on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December 2001. Leon was a Sedang Montagnard Warrior who served on RT California, CCC, MACV-SOG. It was Leon's wish to be cremated and placed next to his father's grave in Dak To.

**MARION C WINDLEY JR:** It was reported that Marion C "Bucky" passed away on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in a Portsmouth, Virginia Hospital. He was a member of the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group serving at the SOG launch site at Kham Duc where he was awarded the Silver Star. Bucky served three tours in Vietnam being wounded three times and subsequently was medically retired as a result of those wounds after 24 years of service.

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

**SICK CALL:** The following SOA members have been reported to ill, some severely, or recovering from medical operations:

Jan Roush SOA # 742-GA  
Bob Saltzman SOA # 2019-GA  
Scott Lyon SOA # 704-GL  
Tasmania Samuela SOA # 1226-GL  
Lou Woelfel SOA # 233-GA  
Rudi Cooper SOA # 506-GA

Request you dispatch to our fellow members who are down a "get well" card, an e mail message, or a phone call. Do something. We wish them a speedy recovery. 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 of Officers, preferably Jake Jacobson, Executive Director.

**RT PENNSYLVANIA- MACV- SOG OP 35 MEMORIAL SERVICE:** On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2001, a group Funeral/Memorial Service was conducted at the Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia for members of RT Pennsylvania and Bikini Red Three. Family members of both the aircraft crew and RT Pennsylvania participated in the service. A number of SOA and SFA members were present. The remains of all the crew and team members were recovered:

Michael D O'Donnell	Major	Aircraft Commander 170 <sup>th</sup> AHC
John C Hosken	CWO-3	Pilot 170 <sup>th</sup> AHC
Jerry L Pool	CPT	1-0
John A Boronski	SFC	1-1
Gary A Harned	SFC	1-2
Berman Ganoe Jr	SSG	Door Gunner 170 <sup>th</sup> AHC
Rudy M Becerra	SSG	Crew Chief 170 <sup>th</sup> AHC



**SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY:** During the Banquet, Medals for Valor and a Special Award were presented:

<b>Jesse J Campbell</b>	Silver Star	Awarded in Absentia
<b>Keith A Larson</b>	Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor	
<b>Charles L McDowell</b>	Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor	

**Jim Butler, Larry Manes, and Don "Sluggo" Murphy** were instrumental in making this Award happen.

**Mrs. Dorothy Shriver**, mother of Jerry "Mad Dog" was presented a bouquet of Red Roses on behalf of the Special Operations Association.

**SPECIAL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS:** There were 851 special folks in attendance which included:

**Col. Lew Millett MOH**  
**Drew Dix MOH and his wife Patricia**  
**Chuck Petry**  
**MG Jack Singlaub and his wife Joan**  
**Col. "Skip" Sadler and his wife "Murph"**  
**Wayne Lawley, President, Special Forces Association**  
**Jimmy Dean, Secretary, Special Forces Association**  
**Howard "Zipper" Allen, Chairman, 50<sup>th</sup> SFA Convention**  
**Mike Benges, former POW**  
**Mr and Mrs Paul Utell representing the Plaza Hotel**  
**Mrs Toby Thomas and her son Andrew, widow of SOA member John Thomas**  
**Mrs Barbara Birchim, widow of Recon member KIA, Jim Birchim**  
**Mrs Elta Hiner, widow of SOA member, Chuck Hiner**  
**Mrs Dot Seyer, widow of Joe Seyer, former member of the 8240<sup>th</sup> in Korea**  
**Ms Karen and Pam Dehnke, sisters of Recon member KIA, Dale Dehnke**  
**Mrs Dorothy Shriver, mother of Recon member KIA, Jerry Shriver**  
**Mrs Colleen Shriver sister of Recon member KIA Jerry Shriver and widow of SOA member, Harve Saal**  
**Mrs Marge Nelson, widow of Mike Nelson, member of Special Forces**  
**Mr Jim Hollingsworth, son of Recon member KIA, Gary Hollingsworth**  
**Mrs Vicky Laney-Workman, daughter of Recon member KIA, Billy Laney**  
**Mrs Toshie Meehan, widow of SOA member Bernard "Mick" Meehan**  
**Mrs Evelyn Gray, widow of SOA member Wiley Gray**  
**Jack Bonner**

**SPECIAL UNITS REPRESENTED AT SOAR XXV:** SOA was honored to have members and non-members from the 281<sup>st</sup> AHC, 195<sup>TH</sup> AHC, DELTA Project, and 8240<sup>th</sup> AU in attendance.

**NATIONAL LAO-HMONG RECOGNITION DAY:** The U.S. Senate has approved and

sent to the President the proposal to name the date of 22 July as National Lao-Hmong Recognition Day. It is awaiting President Bush's signature.

**SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS, 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 elect members in 2002 to fill the specific vacant SOA Board of Officers and Director positions as reflected below. Those newly elected members will serve their term of office with a few of the current Board members on the recent newly approved "staggered" SOA Board concept commencing on 29 September 2002. 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 XXIII, XXIV or XXV to be eligible to "run" under the SOA Constitution and By-Laws. If you are at all interested in serving, contact the SOA Nomination Committee, c/o Executive Director, and inform them of your desire to participate as a candidate for the SOA Board of Officers and Directors for the term commencing 29 September 2002 by "running" for either PRESIDENT or VICE PRESIDENT. 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 SOA Board members and discuss with them how you might serve the entire SOA membership. Interested SOA members are further advised to contact the SOA Nomination Committee by letter NLT Saturday, 1 June 2002. An "Official SOA Ballot" will be included in the SOAR XXVI PRP reflecting those SOA members "running" for the aforementioned SOA Board of Officers and Director "open" positions.

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION 2002:** Enclosed in this AAR is the necessary information to register and make reservations for attendance at 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary SFA Convention at Fayetteville, North Carolina.

**1<sup>ST</sup> SPECIAL FORCES GROUP REUNION 2002:** Again there is enclosed in this AAR the necessary information to register and make reservations for this reunion in San Diego, California.

**RECOGNITION OF THE SOA 25 YEAR PIN MEMBERS:** President Jim Hetrick requested the following named members, having achieved 25 Year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 25-Year SOA Pins. All members who attended SOAR I at Caesar's Palace in December 1977 were eligible:

Jim Butler	SOA # 001-GL	Don Cobb	SOA# 012-GA
Les Chapman*	SOA # 002-G	Chuck Darnell	SOA # 013-GL
"Rock" Myers	SOA # 003-GL	Larry Kimmel*	SOA # 014-GL
Billy Waugh	SOA # 005-GL	David Gordon	SOA # 020-GL
Cliff Newman	SOA # 006-GL	Adam Husar	SOA # 022-GL
John Fryer	SOA # 007-GL	Jim Martin	SOA # 023-GL
Ben Lyons	SOA # 008-GL	Merle Eckles	SOA # 024-GL
John Duffy*	SOA # 009-GL	Jim Monaghan*	SOA # 027-GL
Clyde Sincere	SOA # 010-GL	Jim Kennedy	SOA # 037-GL
Larry Manes	SOA # 064-GL	Mike Taylor	SOA # 698-GL
Bill Shelton*	SOA # 890-GL		



\*NOTE: These recipients had their pins mailed to them.

**RECOGNITION OF THE SOA 20-YEAR PIN MEMBERS:** This award was conducted during the General Membership Meeting and is covered in the minutes.

**AWARD OF RAFFLE PRIZES AND DOOR PRIZES:** Due to time constraints these awards were conducted after the SOAR XXV Banquet activities.

<b>Raffle Prizes:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Prize: \$500 Savings Bond</b>	<b>Windfel Ticket # 12944</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Prize: \$1000 Savings Bond</b>	<b>Bruton Ticket # 13492</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Prize: \$2000 Savings Bond</b>	<b>Brown Ticket # 06481</b>

Mr. Clyde Sincere on behalf of the entire SOA wishes to publicly thank all that contributed to this years raffle and door prizes. Again as in the past, he reiterated the fact that he hoped he did not miss recognizing a donor. If per chance you donated an item and he neglected to recognize you, please accept his profound apology. He promises to do better next year. The following list reflects those individuals who contributed door and raffle prize items to SOAR XXV:

<b>Paul Duffy</b>	<b>Rick Grabianowski</b>	<b>Ray Chambers</b>
<b>Pat Hephner</b>	<b>Jake Jacobson</b>	<b>John Plaster</b>
<b>Ben Baker</b>	<b>Larry Baca</b>	<b>Mark Kinsler</b>
<b>Ralph Edens</b>	<b>David Gollem</b>	<b>Delta Recon</b>
<b>Robert Florez</b>	<b>Chapter IV-XXIV SFA</b>	<b>Chester Howard</b>
<b>Doc Padgett</b>	<b>Colleen Shriver-Saal</b>	<b>Don Haase</b>
<b>Jason Hardy</b>	<b>Robert "Spider" Sparks</b>	<b>Clarence Page</b>
<b>The Rudy Cooper</b>	<b>Jimmy Tong Nguyen</b>	<b>Frank Allen</b>
<b>William Lewis</b>	<b>Bill Sylvester</b>	<b>Larry O'Daniel</b>

The Las Vegas Quick Draw also was a total success with all 100 tickets being sold. **Dan "Rock" Myers and Roy Bahr** split the \$1000 big prize.

One of the SOAR XXV Commemorative Reunion Coins that was presented to all SOA members attending SOAR XXV was donated by **Robert "Spider" Parks**. Thank you "Spider". The other SOAR XXV Commemorative Reunion Coin was presented to all SOA members also attending SOAR XXV by the SOA.

**Billy Waugh** donated \$1,000 to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund IMO of Wiley Gray and "Rocky" Neesom.

**Pat Mitchell** donated \$1,000 to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund IMO David "Lurch" Mixer.

**Tony Herrell** donated \$200 to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**Ron Mullins** donated \$100 to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund.

**Ben Baker** on behalf of the entire SOA collected \$1,332 to be added to the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship fund from participant donations as part of the SOA Range Firing event.

A special thanks to Mark Kinsler for his donation of all the weapons and ammunition utilized in the SOA Range Firing event.

**RANGE 37, FORT BRAGG, DEDICATION CEREMONY IN HONOR OF CSM FRANKLIN DOUGLAS MILLER ON 5 JANUARY 2002:** See enclosed article.

**SOAR XXV PHOTOS:** We wish to thank **Ben Baker, Don Jutz, Leaf Keaton, Larry Sellers, and the Heritage Wedding Chapel** of Las Vegas for the many super photos, most of which are included in this SOAR XXV AAR. Please be advised that photos must be identified to be used.



# RANGE 37 DEDICATION CEREMONY

IN HONOR OF

CSM FRANKLIN DOUGLAS MILLER

5 JANUARY 2002



## HISTORY OF COMPANY "D"

### RANGE 37

Company "D" can trace its origin to "Blue Light" at Mott Lake, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "Blue Light" composed of 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group (Airborne) personnel, was an interim Special Forces contingency force that existed from October 1977 through July 1978. Once the contingency force was no longer required, the decision was made to continue this type of training. Training became the responsibility of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Groups and was named Special Forces Training (SOT). The SOT Course was a live fire close combat course designed to develop precision marksmanship for use in urban environment.

In 1986, the requirement for an advanced SOT arose to support the operational requirements for designated Special Forces units. After one year, an eight-week course developed to meet the advanced training requirement. The course was named the Special Forces Advanced Reconnaissance, Target Analysis, and Exploitation Techniques Course (SFARTAETC). The first SFARTAETC was conducted in October 1987.

The first six-week Special Operations Target Interdiction Course (SOTIC) was conducted in March 1986 to train special operations snipers. The course was part of the Target Interdiction Branch, the element of the Advanced Skills Department that later became 2d Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne).

Company D, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne) was formed in June 1989. In the spring of 1992, Company D moved to its current location at the MacRidge Triangle Compound. This compound contains classrooms, instruction and work areas, an arms room, an ammunition storage point, and student barracks. Range 37, the company's exclusive training area, covers over 100 acres and is equipped with live-fire training facilities for advanced marksmanship; explosive, ballistic and mechanical breaching; and rappelling. Company D instructors train over 300 Special Operations soldiers annually.

This memorable event was hosted by MG William G Boykin, Commanding General, U.S. Army John F Kennedy Special Warfare and School.

Special Operations Association was represented by MG Kenneth Bowra who traveled from Brussels, Netherlands. Also among those in attendance were Charlie Norton, Clyde Sincere, Alan Keller, Jesse Simmons, Jake Jacobson, Jimmy Dean and Hank Luthy.





## SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

### 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 2001, 106 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:

Alan N. Keller  
Chairman, SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Committee  
4401 Park Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22312-1430  
(703) 941-3963

# CEDAR POINT FOUNDATION

I leave on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2001 for Viet Nam. This will be my 12<sup>th</sup> humanitarian trip to assist the Bru montagnard tribe, which helped us so much during the war.

Our goals for this trip are as follows:

- ❖ Deliver more medical supplies to the Huong Hoa Health Center (Khe Sanh hospital).
- ❖ Continue funding new equipment for the hospital.
- ❖ Continue with aiding the Bru village of Lang Vay and other villages in the Khe Sanh area.
- ❖ Check status of our aid request for the Bru whom have settled in Dak Lac Province (Ban Me Thuot).
- ❖ Assist in any way we feel appropriate.

## WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

*NO DONATED MONEY IS SUPPORTING  
THE MEMBERS TRAVEL EXPENSES DURING THIS TRIP*

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

*Thank You*



## **Burial & Memorial Benefits**

### **Military Funeral Honors**

### **Military Funeral Honors “Honoring Those Who Served”**

The Department of Defense (DOD) is responsible for providing military funeral honors. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration cemetery staff assist with military funeral honors at VA national cemeteries.

On January 1, 2000, the Department of Defense began the implementation plan for providing military funeral honors for eligible veterans as enacted in Section 578 of Public Law 106-65 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000.

“Honoring Those Who Served” is the title of the DOD program for providing dignified military funeral honors to veterans who have defended our Nation. While military funeral honors are a long-standing tradition within the Armed Forces, this DOD program is in response to the new law governing funeral honors for eligible veterans.

Upon the family's request, the law requires that every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the playing of Taps. The law defines a military funeral honors detail as consisting of two or more uniformed military persons with at least one a member of the veteran's parent service of the Armed Forces. The DOD program calls for funeral home directors to request military funeral honors on behalf of the veterans' family. Veterans' organizations may assist in the provision of military funeral honors. When military funeral honors at a national cemetery are desired, they are arranged prior to the committal service by the funeral home.

Questions or comments concerning the DOD military funeral honors program may be sent to the address listed below. A military funeral honors web site is located at: [www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil](http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil).

Military Funeral Honors  
9504 IH-35 North, Suite 320  
San Antonio, TX 78233-6635

**To arrange military funeral honors, contact your local funeral home.**

## **Burial & Memorial Procedures**

As outlined in the preceding page, certain honors will be provided by Public Law as enacted by National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000. This honor starts with the participation of two or more uniformed military personnel, and can be expanded according to location of the Burial, and Memorial.

Prior planning will certainly enhance the ceremony, and provide the Funeral Director with the necessary information to conduct the proper burial, and memorial. Things to consider by the next of kin or spouse:

Cremation or internment.

Location of Internment and Ceremony.

Honors requested by the deceased.

Once these desires are made known to the Funeral Director, he can start to coordinate the support needed. This support will be dictated by the location of the burial and/or ceremony. If the location is in a remote area, the support will be the mandatory two uniformed military personnel who will fold, and present the flag, and the playing of taps on a portable cassette player.

This support can be expanded if the following organizations are in the proximity of the burial and/or ceremony:

Veteran Organizations such as the VFW or American Legion. They may be able to furnish a firing squad, pall bearers, and possibly a live bugler. Any expense incurred by these organizations is reimbursable by DOD. The Funeral Director will know what's available.

Local National Guard or Reserve Units in the area to include Special Forces National Guard. Again the Funeral Director should know what's available.

Special Forces Association Chapters in the area will assist with whatever assets they have. For example Chapter 49 in Little Rock, Arkansas has been furnishing a firing squad to burials for many years to all veteran burials.

Military Installations can provide firing squads, pall bearers, Chaplain, and maybe a bugler. They are limited in some cases the distance they can travel. Each Installation has their own SOP but in most cases will bend the rules in distance.

**To arrange military funeral honors, contact your local funeral home.**





1 January, 2002

**SUBJECT: A Timely "2002 Dues Reminder"**

**TO: SOA Annual Members**

Dear SOA Annual Members:

If you are an Annual Member, and haven't renewed your membership, either at SOAR XXV, or by mailing in your renewal Check, your membership has lapsed as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2001. In order for your membership to be reinstated, you are requested to submit a check in the amount of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) made payable to the SOA, and mailed to the Treasurer at the following address:

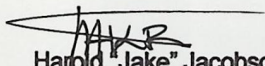
Rick Grabianowski  
P.O. Box 20279  
Reno, NV 89515-0279

I am confident that you do not wish to see your membership lapse. You would not receive the spring, and Fall Newsletters, the SOAR Pre-Registration Packet (PRP), the SOAR AAR, and most important, no participation in the Annual Reunion in Las Vegas on the 25<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2002.

Can I depend on you to submit your reinstatement dues ASAP? The amount of \$25.00 will be your dues for the year 2002 through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2002. Your SOA Membership number will remain the same. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact either the undersigned, or Ray Chambers, Membership Committee Chairman, at: (480) 986-2542 or via the Internet at: [commosgm@earthlink.net](mailto:commosgm@earthlink.net)

In advance, thank you for reinstating.

Fraternally:

  
Harold "Jake" Jacobson  
Executive Director  
Post Office Box 34500  
Pensacola, FL 32507-4500  
(850) 492-4533  
[jakesoa@aol.com](mailto:jakesoa@aol.com)

" 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."

# 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



ModifiedSet \$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



# LÔI-HỔ NHA-KỸ-THUẬT



STD LOI-HO COMMANDOS (Strategic Technical Directorate)

Chiến Đoàn 1, 2, 3 Xung Kích/SLL/NKT - CCN, CCC, CCS / MACV-SOG

P.O B0x 1275 , Westminster, CA 92684 - Phone (714) 839 3659 - E-Mail : [stdcomfa@vinet.com](mailto:stdcomfa@vinet.com)



## Thank- You Letter

Thank Giving 11/22/01

TO. - Mr. Jim Hetrick  
SOA President,  
- SOA Directors , Committee Chairmen, and Members

Dear Ladies and Gentleman,

I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to the President of SOA, General John Singlaub, Board Directors & Committee Chairmen of SOA and members of SOA as well as members of STD who participated, and the entire guest that attended the Recognition Night for the Fallen Special Soldiers. Your presences were overwhelming by the number that we could never imagine. The ceremony with the help of STD and SOA was a great success to honor American as well as Vietnamese Commandos who were sacrificed in the underground activities during Vietnam War. The ceremony was held on Friday night of September 28, 2001, in the SOAR XXV in Las Vegas.

Since this is the first ceremony to honor both American and Vietnamese commandos together after many decades of war, and a differences of culture between American and Vietnamese; therefore, we encountered a few obstacles and forgotten details that could not have been avoided in the ceremony. For example, one of the obstacles was the reschedule of the ceremony from three hours to one hour suddenly happened in the last day for the convenience of the CBS channel to record the ceremony. Instead of the plan three hours, many of the programs were shortened or cancel without prior notice. If the Board had enough time, we would have introduced every guest present and had registered to attend with high spirit. Thank you for the help of Mr. Robert Noe who expanded our invitation to SOA members through the Internet. Thank you "Bull Dog" Smith, Rick Grabianowski and other our Golden-heart Friends for your support in order for us to have a successful ceremony, and we deeply regret not having the time to have Mr. Greg Stock present his speech on the crisis of Montagnards who live in the Highland of Central Vietnam.

We wish that future activities in the SOA reunions become new and better than the year before, and as well as more meaningful such as the Recognition Night that was proudly held. We would like to welcome all new ideas and suggestion. You may contact me at the address or Email listed above. Thank you for everything you have done, and we will meet again in the next SOAR XXVI.

Chieu N. Lam (Ex-Lt. One Zero/CCC 1969-1972)  
STD Commando  
SOA # 947 GL

"Mặc dù bước vào thung lũng trong bóng tối tử thần, nhưng ta không sợ gì cả vì ta xem như là kẻ tàn tạ nhất và đã quên mình cho người ."





STD Ladies Chorus



Cowboy Doan Khanh, Jim Hetrick

### STD CEREMONY



Hang "Pocohantis", Pappy Reed

### THE BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
**5130 Charleston Boulevard**  
**Suite 5-583F**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89122-1003**

Mr. Chieu N. Lam  
STD Commando Family  
10772 Los Alomitos Blvd.  
Los Alomitos, CA, 90720

Subject: Letter of Appreciation

January 12, 2002

It has been our good pleasure to be a part of the continued camaraderie within the STD/SOG Community. Many years have passed since the STD and Special Forces soldiers fought side by side in the MACV Studies and Observations Group. Even so, the memories are still vivid and the bonds of friendship forged remain.

The ceremony sponsored by the STD Community was both fitting and long over due. It was an emotional evening as we remembered those of our brotherhood who had fallen. It also afforded us the opportunity to rekindle the friendships forged during those the SOG years. Although there may always be those who have mixed emotions about the Vietnam War, it does not change the sacrifice and valiant efforts of those who served, and we will never forget those who fell and those with whom we served. We have the right to be proud of the SOG Warrior heritage and the brotherhood of those who were a part of it.

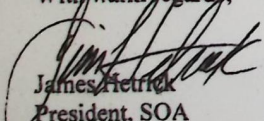
The Ceremony was a tribute to all that the SOG Brotherhood represents. It spoke not just to those who perished, but also to all those who joined together for that hour we spent remembering. We didn't just mourn, but we also celebrated. We celebrated the dedication, tenacity, and courage of all those who were a part of a unit that has earned its special place in history.

We will continue to remember and we will continue to celebrate life today and in the future. It is good to do so. It is good to join together and renew the joy of friendships old and new. It is appropriate reach out to one another and share in the camaraderie that endures to this day.

The Ceremony enriched our reunion and in many ways the lives of all those who were in attendance. It gave us cause for reflection on our purpose at a time when the SOA was experiencing difficulties. The Ceremony helped bring us back to the reality of why the SOA exists.

Please accept the thanks of the Officers, Board of Directors, and the Membership for a job well done. Those in attendance were not only appreciative, but were also impressed by the warmth and thoughtfulness of the STD Community. Thank you for a very personally rewarding experience.

With warm regards,

  
James Hendrix  
President, SOA

"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"



**SOA XXV 2001**

**POW/MIA AFTER ACTION REPORT**

The scheduled speaker for the POW/MIA session at SOAR XXV, Mr. James Veith, could not attend due to unforeseen and difficult circumstances.

Fortunately, two friends, who had been guest speakers for me at previous POW/MIA Forums were in attendance and agreed to fill in.

Former POW Michael Bengé, and Patty Hopper, President of Project OMEGA, an organization that has fought for our country's POW/MIAs for many, many years, did a tremendous job on updating those in attendance on what our government is doing and is not doing, for our missing soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilian citizens.

There were approximately 87 personnel in attendance and I only heard good comments about the conduct of the forum and about the information that was put out.

This was the first two hour POW/MIA forum and there was time for questions and answers. I do know that Mr. Bengé and Mrs. Hopper willingly engaged in conversations, after the forum, with those who either never had the opportunity to attend or who thought of new questions.

I thank Mr. Michael Bengé and Patty Hopper for making my day, and I thank all of you who did attend the forum. That proves to me that there are others out there who still have hope and faith that one day, in some way, some of those listed as POW/MIA will come home.

**GBU & GBA**

**Norm Doney, 665GL**



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION  
MEMORABILIA SALES (SOAMS)  
965 N. GRANDVIEW RD.  
PAULDEN, AZ 86334**

To the Membership:

January 1, 2002

Special Operations Association Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS) had an extraordinary year in 2001. It was a peculiar year with activities that provided opportunities for increased sales. The total sales were at \$49,000.00, which still seems almost unbelievable to me. It is a pleasant turn of event though. There have been many comments some favorable, some not, but all welcome. It is the primary means to determine whether the Membership is satisfied with the Memorabilia items offered by SOAMS.

The other means is sales, which as you can see were good. The PUC Ceremony at Fort Bragg in April of last year was one of those activities that provided the opportunity for Members to purchase items from Memorabilia Sales. Operating out of our hotel room we moved about \$6,500.00 worth of what we brought to Bragg in five boxes and bags. I took home one small box and it was much easier.

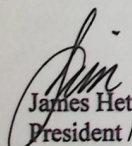
With SOAR XXV attendance so high this year, we also sold a record amount of goods there. We moved almost \$20,000.00 worth during the few days of SOAR XXV. Thanks to Donna Hephner, wife of our Reunion Chairman Patrick Hephner, the SOAMS operation was well organized and ran smoothly. Of course, it took a lot of volunteers to help out. I would like to acknowledge and pass on my thanks to Annette Davis, Dee Chambers, Laf Keaton (year after year), Tom Tatten, Steve Goth, and Al Keller. Your time and effort is very much appreciated. We hope you'll lend a hand again next year. Without you it just couldn't happen. **"Thank you all very much."**

Looking ahead, there are a number of things to consider. We're out of coffee cups and beer steins. I plan to go to a little larger coffee cup with the SOA logo, Prairie Fire Wings and SOA saying on it. I have looked at frosted glass steins with the idea of the SOA logo and gold trim. I will announce when they become available. Also under consideration are mouse pads, license plate shields, and a new SOG knife.

The SOAR XXV registration award is another item to be chosen. We have time to work on this. What would be good for this year? Let me know what you think would be appropriate. Don't wait too long though. We have plenty of time at this point, but time passes by rapidly and the Board will select the item in April so if you have a suggestion let us know right away.

I have not mentioned profit and scholarship with respect to SOAMS. The SOA Treasurer and Book Keeper figure out the profit based on where expenses, etc are placed within the accounting system. The Board of Directors then determines how much of the profit goes where.

Again, suggestions are always welcome. There are a lot of items out there that may stimulate interest. Memorabilia Sales belongs to the Membership and if there are items you would like made available, the Board will take it under advisement.

  
James Hetrick  
President / SOAMS Custodian






# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION MEMORABILIA SALES (SOAMS)

965 No. Grandview  
Paulden, AZ 86334  
[jfhetrick@msn.com](mailto:jfhetrick@msn.com)

PRICES AS OF - January 15, 2002

		PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
RING, SOA Crest (Size _____)				
	• Sterling Silver	\$175.00	_____	_____
	• 10 Carat gold	\$375.00	_____	_____
	• 10 Carat Gold w/ .04 Carat Diamond Embellishment around SOA Crest.	\$700.00	_____	_____
	<u>Limited to 20 characters of engraving inside ring</u>			
Name _____ SOA # _____				
ADD \$ 10.00 FOR SHIPPING AND INSURANCE!		\$ 10.00	_____	_____
BLACK SOA HAT # 2 Embroidered with "SOA Logo" on front.		\$12.00	_____	_____
BLACK SOA HAT # 3 Direct Embroidered SOA Logo on front and Prairie Fire Wings on Back.		\$12.00	_____	_____
BLACK SOA BOONY HAT # 4 Micro-Fiber with SOA Logo Embroidered on Front.		\$14.00	_____	_____
DECAL, SOA CREST (Specify: Inside _____ / Outside _____)		\$ 3.00	_____	_____
DECAL, SOA CREST, Small, 2 x 27/8 In. (Outside Only)		\$ 2.00	_____	_____
SOA BLAZER PATCH, Bullion, SOA Crest (2 3/4" X 4")		\$21.00	_____	_____
SOA PATCH, SOA (SOG) Crest, Embroidered (2 3/4" X 4 1/4")		\$ 8.00	_____	_____
SOA PATCH, SOA Logo, Embroidered (3 1/4" X 3 1/4")		\$ 7.00	_____	_____
PATCH, PRAIRIE FIRE, Gold Embroidery on Black Background		\$ 5.00	_____	_____
BAG, CANVAS, Black, Zippered Pockets, W/ Embroidered SOA Logo		\$20.00	_____	_____
TIE, SOA by Ties of Honor (Long)		\$28.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOG PUC COMMEMORATIVE		\$10.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOA, with Satin Finish (New Design)		\$10.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOA, Sterling Silver (Old Design)		\$19.00	_____	_____
HAT PIN, SOA Crest, Shield with SOG Crest, Red Background 1 1/4 Inch		\$ 4.00	_____	_____
LAPEL PIN, Round, Pewter, "Life Member"		\$ 3.00	_____	_____
LAPEL PIN, Round, Gold Plate, "Life Member"		\$ 4.00	_____	_____

LAPEL PIN, The SOA Original, w/ Prairie fire "SKULL and DAGGER WINGS" Emblem, Gold Plate	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
LAPEL /TIE PIN, SOA Crest, Gold Plate w/ Black Background	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
TIE TACK, SOA Crest, Enamel W / Red Background	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
TIE BAR, SOA Crest, Enamel W / Red Background	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
PLAQUE, SOA, Walnut Wood, Laser Engraved	\$27.00	_____	_____
JACKET 2, MEMBER'S ONLY, Black W/ SOA Logo (Specify S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___)	\$36.00	_____	_____
T-SHIRT, SOA Black (Specify: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___)	\$11.00	_____	_____
GOLF SHIRT 2, Embroidered W / SOA Logo (Specify: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___) (Specify: Black ___ White ___)	\$25.00	_____	_____
GOLF SHIRT 3, Outer Banks, Black Forest w/SOA Logo (Specify: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___)	\$24.00	_____	_____
SHIRT, DENIM, Blue, SHORT Sleeve, W/ SOA Logo (Specify: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___)	\$33.00	_____	_____
SHIRT, DENIM, Blue, LONG Sleeve, W/SOA Logo (Specify: S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___)	\$36.00	_____	_____
BELT BUCKLE, SOA, Brass, w / Prairie Fire "SKULL and DAGGER WINGS" Emblem	\$20.00	_____	_____
BELT BUCKLE, SOA, Brass, W / "SOA Logo"	\$20.00	_____	_____
BOOK, "MEMORIES OF MAGGIE" by Noonie Fortin	\$16.00	_____	_____
BOOK, "THE GREEN BERETS" by Robin Moore	\$11.00	_____	_____
BOOK, "REFLECTIONS OF A WARRIOR" by Franklin D. Miller	\$28.00	_____	_____

SHIPPING AND INSURANCE:	UNDER \$50.00	\$ 7.00	SUB TOTAL	_____
	\$51.00 to \$100.00	\$ 9.00	SHIP/INS.	_____
	OVER \$100.00	\$12.00	TOTAL AMT.	_____

### ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS

#### PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SOA# \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT: CHECK/ MONEY ORDER/ CREDIT CARD ( US CURRENCY ONLY) PAYABLE TO: SOAMS )

#### CREDIT CARD SALES INFORMATION :

Mastercard \_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ ( Check One ) Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit card Number : \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature ( Name as shown on card ) \_\_\_\_\_

SEND TO SOAMS ADDRESS AT TOP OF ORDER FORM





Jim Kennedy, Chuck Darnell, Jim Butler



SOA 25 Year Pin Recipients

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF 25 YEARS IN SOA



Larry Manes, Keith Larson



Larry Manes, Charles L. McDowell

RECEIVING BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR FOR ACTION ON 24 DECEMBER 1971

**EARLY WARNING ORDER**

**SOAR XXVI**

**IT APPEARED THAT LAST YEAR SOME MEMBERS DID NOT KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THE SPECIAL OPERATION ASSOCIATION REUNION (SOAR) WAS TO BE HELD OR WHO TO CONTACT FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS OR WHERE TO FIND THIS INFORMATION.**

**WELL HERE'S THE POOP.**

**WHAT: SOAR XXVI**

**WHEN: SEPTEMBER 25 – 29 SEPTEMBER 2002**

**WHERE: PLAZA HOTEL AND CASINO,  
ONE MAIN STREET, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA  
TEL: (800) 634-6575  
DEADLINE FOR SOAR ROOM RATE OF  
\$44.40 IS 24 AUGUST 2002**

**SOAR REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE IN THE PRE-REGISTRATION PACKET (PRP) WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN JULY.**



Hello World Travel  
906 Victorian Ave  
Sparks, NV 89431

775/359-2600

800/566-5224

[www.helloworld.com](http://www.helloworld.com)

[info@travelhelloworld.com](mailto:info@travelhelloworld.com)

Hello World Travel and SOA have joined forces to bring SOA members the best "TRAVEL CLUB" in the industry.

Here's how it works: Anytime you need to make travel arrangements, call Hello World Travel. We know how to find the lowest price available and we offer the best service! When you call, tell us you are associated with SOA and we'll donate a percentage of the commission from your travel arrangements to SOA. Call Diane or one of our other qualified agents at Hello World Travel and ask for a special "Travel Club" card to carry with you. It has all of the information you'll need to book your next vacation or business travel.

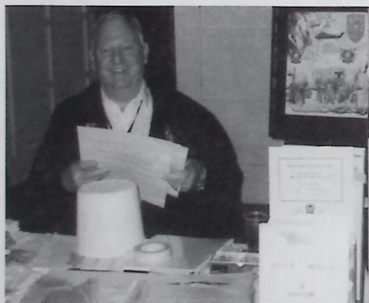
The code "SOA" identifies you as a member, family or friend and helps us track the commission. Ask about any special promotions just for SOA. Remember, support SOA and make all of your travel arrangements through Hello World Travel.



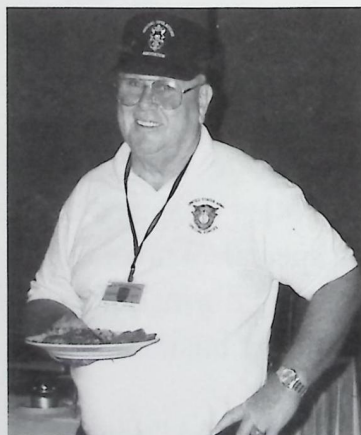
Jim Hetrick, Col. Lew Millet



Fred Platt, Jake Jacobson



Clyde Sincere



Bulldog Smith

**HARD AT WORK!**





# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

## Application for Membership



1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
4. E-Mail : \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Social Security \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Service Number (Prior to 1969): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Class of Membership: General \_\_\_\_, Associate \_\_\_\_\_. (see types and requirements on reverse of form)
7. If you have applied for a General Membership, but the listed duties do not meet the requirements for that class of membership, will you accept an Associate membership? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_.
8. Assignment to Military or Civilian organizations that qualify you for membership:

Unit or Project	Date(s) of Service	Duty	Location

9. Reference (only a General Member with personal knowledge of the above can be used as a Reference):

Name	Unit	Member #

10. I understand that SOA Membership entitles me to the rights and privileges specified in the SOA BY-LAWS. Enclosed is \$25.00, payable to the Special Operations Association, for the initiation fee and the first year's dues. To maintain membership, Annual dues of \$25.00, are due by December 31 of each year. Lifetime Membership is available to members in good standing at a cost of \$250.00

### Authority for release of information and records:

I hereby authorize release of information and records bearing on my military service to the Special Operations Association. I further affirm that the information submitted on this Special Operations Association membership application form is voluntary, as well as true and correct. *Signature of a witness is required.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witness \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form to:  
**Ray Chambers**  
SOA Membership Chairman  
437 North 110<sup>th</sup> Street  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220-2216

## Membership Criteria

The SOA is a fraternal organization made up of U.S. and allied participants in Special Military Operations conducted in combat area during WW II, the Korean War, the SE Asian conflict and other post Vietnam era conflicts.

### **Types and requirements of membership**

#### A. General Member

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

#### **Requirements**

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

#### B. Associate Member

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

#### **Requirements**

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

### **LIFE STATUS**

A one time charge of \$250.00 (US), for both General and Associate members.

### **GUIDELINES**

#### **Definitions of "SPECIAL OPERATIONS" type units.**

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

or

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

or

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

#### EXAMPLES OF UNITS RECOGNIZED:

**PRE-1954:** OSB; 8240<sup>TH</sup> A.U.; MERRILL'S MARAUDERS; USMC RAIDERS OR SPECIAL OPERATIONS UNITS OF WORLD WAR II OR THE KOREAN WAR.

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





**Special Forces Association Convention 2002**  
**"50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Special Forces"**  
**(Salute to Colonel Aaron Bank)**  
**Fayetteville, North Carolina**  
**17 June—23 June 2002**



## Registration

(Type or Print All Information Carefully)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ SFA Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name on ID Badge \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name on ID Badge(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration	Check #	# of Attendees		Cost		Total \$
1. Full Registration (Prior to 1 May 2002)			x	♣ \$135.00	=	\$
2. Hospitality Room Only			x	\$40.00	=	\$
3. Reception Only			x	\$40.00	=	\$
4. Picnic Only			x	\$25.00	=	\$
5. Banquet Only			x	\$45.00	=	\$
♣ After 1 May 2002, fee is \$145.00			x	\$145.00	=	\$

**Where:** The 2002 Convention is in Fayetteville/Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The CP is at the Four Points Sheraton, 1965 Cedar Creek Road. The Picnic will be at Paradise Acres (MREs furnished). The Banquet will be at the Charlie Rose Agri-Expo Center (MREs furnished).

**Who:** Past and present members of SF Groups, members of OSS, FSSF, MACVSOG, Detachment A, or other SF units, with Family Members and Guests, are invited.

**Times:** Early Birds: 0800L-2400L Monday, 17 July 2002  
All others: 0800L Tuesday, 18 June 2002—1200L Sunday, 23 June 2002  
Registration 0800L 18 June–1200L 23 June

**Equipment:** Special Gear to be carried by individual members to accomplish the mission: Challenge Coin, Beret, Credit Card and Golf Shirts as needed.

### Convention Polo Shirt Order

	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	XXX-Large	Total
Quantity							
◆ @ \$25.00 ea							\$

### Golf Tournament

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Golf Course: Pope AFB

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Time: 29 June 2002 0700L-1300L Price per golfer is \$60.00 Enclosed: \$

Mail all fees (Registration, Polo Shirts and Golf Tournament) to:  
SFA Chapter I-XVII, Convention 2002, PO Box 48556, Cumberland, NC 28331-8556

*Hosted by Chapter I-XVIII, Special Forces Association*



**Special Forces Association Convention 2002**  
**"50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Special Forces"**  
**(Salute to Colonel Aaron Bank)**  
**Fayetteville, North Carolina**  
**17 June—23 June 2002**



**Hotel Reservations**

Return Reservations Directly  
To Your Lodging Preference

Four Points Sheraton  
Convention CP

Affiliation  
Special Forces Association  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_  
SFA # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ Check Out: \_\_\_\_\_ 1200L Number of Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Room Accommodations: ☐ Double ☐ Single ☐ Smoking ☐ Non-Smoking Other Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Reservations are not held without guarantee—one night deposit or credit card number.

Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging Preference**

A. Four Points Sheraton	1965 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-8282	\$79.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention CP	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-992-0819	
B. Comfort Inn	1957 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-8333	\$60.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-621-6596	
C. Fairfield Inn	1925 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 433-2666	\$69.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-235-5363	
D. Sleep Inn	1915 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 433-9090	\$59.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-538-0015	
E. Super 8	1875 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-3826	\$80.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-800-8000	
F. Best Western	1902 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 438-0748	\$59.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-528-1234	
G. Hampton Inn	1922 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-0011	\$63.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-HAMPTON	
H. Holiday Inn	1944 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-1600	\$78.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-HOLIDAY	
I. Econo Lodge	1952 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 433-2100	\$52.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-446-0650	
J. Innkeeper	1725 Jim Johnson Road	(910) 485-6866	\$49.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-INNKEEP	
K. Days Inn	2065 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 483-6191	\$59.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-621-6594	
L. Quality Inn-East	2111 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 323-9850	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-228-5151	
M. Deluxe Inn	2123 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 484-2666	\$55.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301		
N. Motel 6	2076 Cedar Creek Road	(910) 485-8122	\$32.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-4MOTEL6	
O. Red Roof Inn	1569 Jim Johnson Road	(910) 321-1460	\$54.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fayetteville, NC 28301	1-800-733-7663	

**Hosted by Chapter I-XVIII, Special Forces Association**



1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)  
Reunion 2002 Sept 3 - 8, 2002  
San Diego, California

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Town & Country  
500 Hotel Circle North  
San Diego, CA 92108

RESERVATION & INFORMATION:

Rates: \$107.00 + 7.75% tax Dbl Occupancy

1-800-77-ATLAS(28527)

ht/www.towncountry.com

Contact: Rebecca Cranor (State 1st SFG Reunion)

REGISTRATION:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

SFA# \_\_\_\_\_ Nr. of Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Names as desired on ID Badges: \_\_\_\_\_

FULL REGISTRATION(All events:

Prior to July 3, 2002: Member + Guest(s) x \$110.00 (ea)

After July 3, 2002: Member + Guest(s) x \$130.00 (ea)

Registration Fees includes; Reception, Hospitality Room, Picnic & Banquet.

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Contact Ken Moyer at: (760) 630-6261 FEE: \$60.00

LIMITED ATTENDANCE:

Reception only:	Member + Guest(s) x \$60.00
Hospitality Room only:	Member + Guest(s) x \$60.00
Picnic only:	Member + Guest(s) x \$40.00
Banquet only:	Member + Guest(s) x \$60.00
Fishing Trip:	Member + Guest(s) x \$30.00
Harbor Excursion:	Member + Guest(s) x \$25.00

T- Shirt \$15.00 Nr. \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

1st SFG Reunion 2002, PO Box 232376, San Diego, CA. 92193-2376

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Ogo (858) 541-0282 E-mail Kawikasd@aol.com

Ken Moyer (760) 630-6261 E-mail Ken-moyerhome.com

## **Special Operations Memorial Foundation Update to SOA**

During the year 2000-2001 the Memorial Foundation has focused first on making the necessary preparations for the second (expansion) phase of the site. Although the Memorial in its current configuration is fully operational, our long-standing plans have always provided for a larger ultimate design. The original architect, at the request of the Foundation, has provided a schematic blueprint to expand both sides of the current Memorial into its final configuration. We are continuing fund raising efforts to realize this final phase, which is our next major objective. The entire board sincerely appreciates the contribution by SOA to fund the placement of State flags at the Memorial site. We have delayed locating their final placement until the expansion layout is approved.

In preparation for the next phase of the Memorial, following detailed discussions and deliberation, the engravings on the memorial wall have been relocated to provide a more aesthetic appearance while still conforming to our original charter. While retaining the purchased engravings in the same order and sequence as received, we inserted two blank columns between each three-columnar section. This presented eye-appeal and provided an orderly, more dignified, appearance that expanded the engravings to cover two-thirds of the walls on either side. As more engraving requests are received, we will simply "close ranks" and move the filled columns closer together until eventually they are once again side by side.

The engravings honoring the Special Operations recipients of the Medal of Honor and Victoria Cross remain untouched centered on the rear wall.

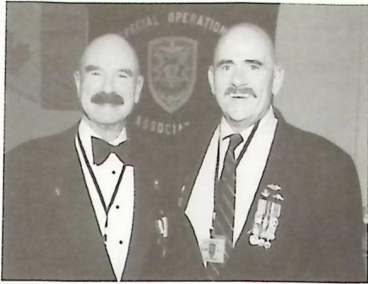
Our second main focus in the past year, that being a total revamping of our web site, has begun to pick up speed recently. We feel that the web site allows us to bring the Memorial to many more people than can actually visit the physical site, and, as such, becomes an electronic Memorial on a world-wide basis. Accordingly, we feel that it is vitally important that we upgrade our site as soon as possible. In that connection, we are interviewing professional web site designers and operators, and hope in the coming months to begin to introduce a new and more professional site.

Fund raising dropped during 2000, however we are pleased to report that continued engraving requests and corporate donations have raised our income during 2001 and we will return to our normal level.

As the nation mourns the losses of 11 September, we know that our gallant Special Operations Forces will again lead the way and losses will occur. As we pray that losses will be minimal, we are prepared to react in accordance with our charter and insure that those who depart our ranks will be fittingly honored and memorialized.

**SUBMITTED BY LEE C. DUNLAP**





J. Gordon Liddy, Bill Pelliter

**WHO GOT THE TONI?**



Bill Pelliter, J. Gordon Liddy, John Plaster, Jack Bonner

**BALD IS BEAUTIFUL !**



Ray Whittington and wife Dolly and  
step-daughter Karen



Col Lew Millett, Raff Flaherty

**YOU STAY HERE LEW, I'LL GET EM!**



Rat Wilson, Jesse Simmons, Ike Comacho

**HEAL BROTHER!**

OSASTO LAURI TÖRNI PERINNEKILTA RY

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Lohja, Finland  
September 20th 2001

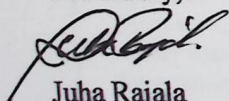
Gentlemen,

I have been told that most of you there knew my uncle Larry Thorne. I also know that Larry had a lot of good friends in the USA. I may add that all Larry's friends are our friends too.

Larry Thorne Memorial Foundation in Finland was founded for Larry's and his brothers in arms (Thorne's jaegers) memory. The association is not unlike SOA but much smaller. We have about 40 members including Thorne's jaegers who are still alive. All the members recall Larry as a good man and an exceptional soldier. We are sure that you have the same feelings.

On behalf of Larry's sister Mrs Salme Rajala, Larry Thorne Memorial Foundation in Finland, Thorne's jaegers in Finland and all his relatives and friends I have an honour to send you the best greetings and wish you a great time in your reunion.

Yours truly,



Juha Rajala  
Larry's nephew  
deputy chairman

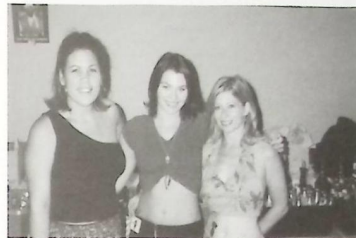
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OSASTO LAURI TÖRNI PERINNEKILTA RY / LARRY THORNE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION IN FINLAND  
Juha Rajala  
varapuheenjohtaja / deputy chairman  
Laiturikatu 12 B17  
08100 LOHJA  
FINLAND  
tel. +358-19-312399 / +358-19-2669315  
gsm +358-400-470519  
e-mail: [juha.rajala@mesvac.fi](mailto:juha.rajala@mesvac.fi)





Jill and Laurelei



Sara, Kelly and Laurelei

### OUR GALS!



Kelly, Laurelei and Jill

**THEY BRING GOOD THINGS TO LIFE!  
(AND POUR PRETTY GOOD TOO!)**

*Dora H. Layton*  
*4007 Dogberry Lane*  
*Fairfax, Virginia 22033*  
*Telephone: (703) 988-0607*  
*Fax: (703) 988-0609*

25 October 2001

**James F. Hetrick, President**  
**Special Operations Association**  
**5130 Charleston Boulevard**  
**Suite 5-583F**  
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89122-1003**

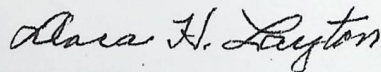
**Dear James Hetrick:**

Thank you so much for the warm greetings for my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is great to know that Gil (Col. Gilbert B. Layton) is still remembered for his love of and belief in the Special Forces and Special Operations. His first training program at Sand Hill, Ft. Bragg, was in 1950. He helped prove Special Forces capabilities many years later in Vietnam.

We always looked forward to and enjoyed the reunions in Las Vegas. It was wonderful to visit with old friends. Vegas was his favorite recreation spot.

Thank you and the entire Special Operations Association membership again for your thoughtfulness. What an honor.

Sincerely,



**Dora H. Layton**

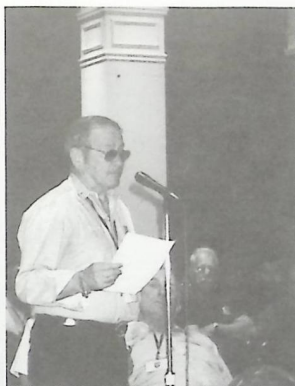




Charlie Berg, Rick Grabianowski



The Oregonians



Billy Waugh



John and Carolyn McClaskey with son Carey



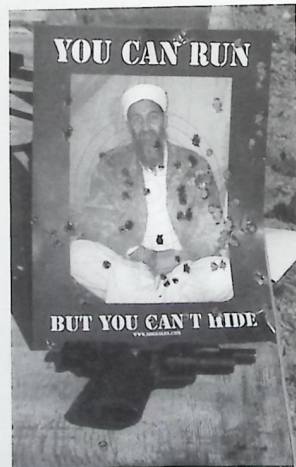
Harlow and Carol Stevens



**NEWLY WEDS BILL AND SUSAN PELLETIER**



The Bride



The Bride's shot-group, I'd be careful Bill!





Shanna, Charles, Kinuko, and Gary Stamm



Fish Smith, Rick Brokhausen, Rick Hendrick



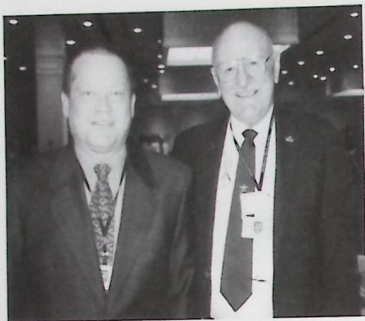
Charlie Berg, Jim Hetrick and Rick Grabianowski



Gen Singlaub, Sully deFontaine



Skip Ettinger presenting colors to Mrs Leon Witt  
at her husbands funeral.



Ilkka Nieminen, and ????



Jake and that same guy!



Now he's with John Plaster



281st AHC / Delta Ceremony



195th AHC





Gail Willman, Allen Bodkin, Bob Willman,  
and Bob Lewelling



Anna Potter, Gary Peisen, and Carol Wright



Dee and Ray Chambers



Bill Werther, and Larry Trimble



Ben and Shirley Baker and  
Drew and Patricia Dix



Lester Silvernail, Julius Farago



Jyri Latts, Billy Waugh, Larry Manes,  
and John Fryer



Mary Olga, and Robin Moore



The San Francisco Gang



Glen Uemura, Pat Barrett, and Eulis Presley

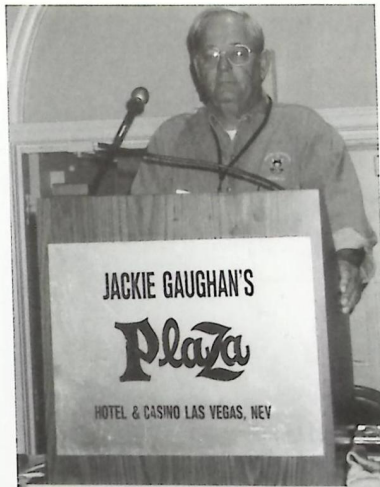




Bill Boggs, Lynn Thompson and Gil Woods



Fred Walz, Chester Howard



"The Prez" Jim Hetrick



CCC



Cowboy Khanh, and friends from STD



Toshi Meehan, Mr and Mrs Red Davis



Paul Duffy, Floyd Wiltgen, Lance Lollini  
and Larry Spitler



Col. Lew Millett



Ron Mullins, Don Haase, RJ Saterfield,  
and Keith Task

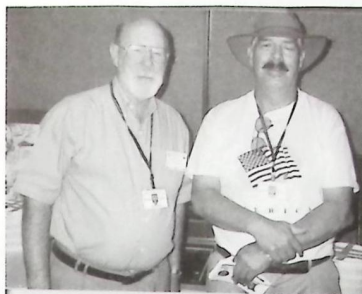


Mr and Mrs Radke's, Walter Boyling,  
Adam Husar





Jerry Montoya and Ed Duke



Jack Serig, and Jerry Montoya



Jerry Montoya and Don Jutz

**MOST PHOTOGRAPHED DUO AT SOAR XXV**



Duane Vierk, Ray Flaherty, and Clarence Page



Lloyd Lee, and Dale Bennett



Lark Elliot, Richard Conti



John Collier



Ben Baker

**THE GUNSHOOTER AND PHOTOGRAPHER  
EXTRODINAIRE !**



SOAR XXV Gun Molls



Mark's Marauders





Lou Smith, John Fryer, Bill Anthony, JC  
Anderson, and Leonard Mollica



Mark Kinsler, Richard McNatt,  
Carl Vencill and Steve Spoerry



Donna Hephner, and Laf Keaton  
manning the SOAMS table

**MUCH THANKS!!**



Norm Doney, Ed Lasson, Evelyn Gray,  
Bob Kline



Mr and Mrs Larry Trimble and Bill Garcia  
**Thank you Bill for all that you do!!**



Trubee Krothe, Allan Hawkins, Jake Jacobson,  
Wilbur "Bacsi" Donaldson, Pete Buscetto



Jake and Hawk present Honorary  
LCDR Joseph Swartz with his certificate



Col. Larry Stearns last outing with the SF community at Jake  
and Hawk's birthday party.

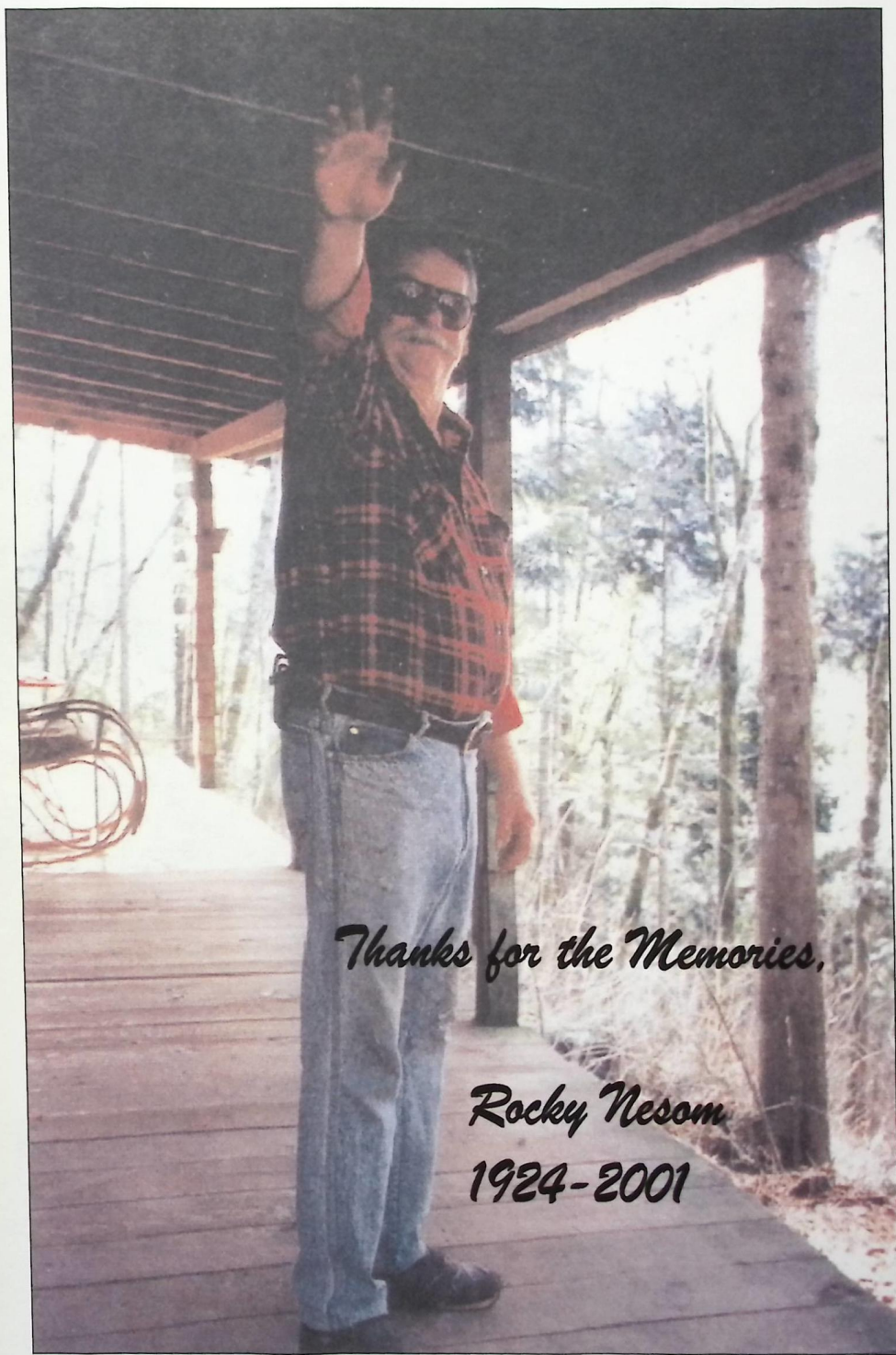


Mr and Mrs Richie and Mr and Mrs Don Cobb



The Irrepressible Jay Graves





*Thanks for the Memories,*

*Rocky Nesom*  
*1924-2001*







# SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

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

## **FALL NEWSLETTER**

### **Fellow Members,**

The Silver SOAR has come and gone and it was the biggest ever, an overwhelming success. We sat 851 at the banquet and although we didn't have a guest speaker, we were honored to see some of our own receive their long over due awards for valor. We extend our congratulations to the recipients. The banquet is the culmination of the reunion and is the result of a lot of work by the Board of Directors and a few hard working volunteers. The volunteers do a lot to make it happen. Our sincere thanks to those who gave of their time and effort to do the things, large and small, that most of us take for granted. We couldn't have done it nearly as well without you. "Hats off to you."

It wasn't all about the banquet though. The General Membership meeting was a long drawn out affair as it always is when we discuss the bylaws paragraph by paragraph, but we accomplished a lot this year. Mostly, we put a bad situation behind us. The membership brought it to an end. The truth is that there were no winners and the best face we can put on it is that the Association prevailed. There may be differences from time to time, but if we, the Members, remember that the Association is paramount, maybe we will take a better look at, and put more thought into, what we attempt to visit on our Association. We have become, for better or worse, a diverse organization of many elite units of all services that, in reality, has been built by a very few people who have spent years of hard work to bring us to the 2000 member organization we are today. "It's not about who's the most and who's the least, it's about what we shared as one of the many parts of a team, it's about **camaraderie**."

We also thank the STD Community for their presentation of the Ceremony to honor the soldiers of the MACVSOG program, Vietnamese and American, who sacrificed All during the Vietnam War. It was an emotional tribute in remembrance of those sacrifices shared by all those in attendance. It culminated on a happier note as we shared a meal of traditional Vietnamese cuisine and the camaraderie of past times. "Hats off to the STD Community".

Now we look forward to next year. We need candidates to run for office, especially for the office of President, SOA. The first question that comes to mind is who will step forward? This is another team effort and team players are requested to step forward to fill the need. If you are willing to work long hours at seemingly thankless work, please let any of the Board members know, and we'll be sure your name is on the ballot.

**"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 are other important considerations too. Scholarship applicants should have their applications to Alan Keller, the Scholarship Committee Chairman, by March of 2002. The scholarship fact sheet included with this newsletter provides the necessary information for those interested in a scholarship opportunity. And too, the Board of Directors is already in the process of answering the many questions and resolving the many issues brought before us by the Membership. There is much to do and the Board will undertake these issues and many more at our mid-year meeting in April 2002.

For those who missed SOAR XXV, you missed a great event. For those who were there, thanks for contributing to its success. For those who would like to be involved in some way next year, please let us know. We are anxious to get as many people as possible involved in the operation of the SOA. An involved Membership will make us a better Association.

The Board of Directors wishes everyone a great coming Holiday Season and Good Health in the coming year.

President, SOA



## ODDS AND ENDS

### IN MEMORY OF:

Since the publication of the PRP for SOAR XXV, we have learned of the death of Charles L. Feller, Jr SOA # 1563-GA. Chuck passed away peacefully on October 30, 2001 after a courageous battle with brain cancer.

Born in Keyser, West Virginia on December 28th, 1945 Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1962. He served in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces Group earning many medals for valor. Chuck was assigned to Fort Richardson, Alaska in 1977 where he served until his retirement in 1983. Chuck also served as a Reserve Alaska State Trooper.

Chuck is survived by his wife: Saundra (Sandi) Feller of Willow, AK; parents: Verna, and Charles Sr of Cumberland, MD; sons: Christopher of Oakland, MD, and Gary of Kinsman, OH; daughter: Tania Coddington of Oakland, MD; brothers: Robert of Rock Hill, SC, Rick and sister in law Cindy of Wasilla, AK, Rodney of Keyser, W. VA, and Daniel of Mt Savage, MD; sisters: Vickie Feller of Keyser, W. VA, and Cheryl Porter of Cumberland, MD. Also numerous grandchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

### SICK CALL:

We were informed that SOA Member Bob Willman, # 1855-GA, upon returning home from SOAR, was admitted to ICU at a hospital in Spokane Washington on 5 October after suffering a heart attack. Bob should be home by now, and can be contacted at: <bwillman@inwi.net>

### NON MEMBER DEATHS:

I would just like to mention the passing of two outstanding Special Forces Soldiers: Ben Dennis and Winsley Kamalu

### SOA 2002 DUES:

Just a reminder that annual dues for the year 2002 are due now, or before December 31st, 2001. After December 31st, your membership will fall into the "lapsed" category, and unfortunately, you will be removed from the mailing list. So if you are not a Life Member (yet) please mail your renewal dues of \$25.00 to:

Rick Grabianowski  
P.O. Box 20279  
Reno, NV 89515-0279

(NOTE: The check or Money Order must be made out to S.O.A. or to Special Operations Association).

**SOA MEMBERS CORRECT ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/E MAIL ADDRESS:**

Each SOA Member is requested to notify Ray Chambers, or Jake Jacobson of any changes. Our Newsletters, AAR, PRP, and any other correspondence are mailed via "bulk mailing". This is a great money saver, but unfortunately the Post Office will not forward this class of mail:

Ray Chambers  
437 N 110th St  
Apache Junction, AZ 85220-2542  
commosgm@earthlink.net

Jake Jacobson  
Post Office Box 34500  
Pensacola, FL 32507-4500  
Jakesoa@aol.com

**SOAR XXVI SEPTEMBER 25 - 29, 2002:**

It appears that with all the alert notices provided that some folks just don't get the word, so we are starting the notices early. The Hotel is the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-634-6575. Inform Reservations that you are attending SOAR XXVI. Room rates remain the same: \$40.00 plus tax. The SOA Registration Form will be included in the Pre Registration Packet (PRP) which will be mailed to the membership in mid July 2002.

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION CONVENTION 2002:**

The SFA will be holding their "50th Anniversary of Special Forces" and a salute to Colonel Aaron Bank in Fayetteville, North Carolina 17 June - 23 June, 2002. This event will be hosted by Chapter I-XVIII. For the latest information, please go to their web site at <sfa1-18.org> or call SFA Hqs at 1-910-485-5433.

**1ST SPECIAL FORCES GROUP REUNION:**

Personnel from 1st Special Forces Group will be holding their Reunion in San Diego, 3 Sep - 8 Sep 2002. Designated Hotel is Town & Country at 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego 92108. Reservations can be made by calling: 1-800-772-8527 Rates are: \$107.00 plus tax. Information can be had by calling David Ogo at (858) 541-0281, or Ken Moyer at (760) 630-6261.