

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XXVII

REGISTRATION PACKET (PRP)

PLAZA HOTEL AND CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

24 - 28 SEPTEMBER 2003



"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"

NOTICE TO SOA MEMBERSHIP

“The opinions expressed by the writers and editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the Special Operations Association with the exception of the actual SOAR XXVI AAR. Advertisements for products or services do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Special Operations Association.”



SOAR XXVII

INFORMATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

TO: All SOA Members

FROM: Executive Director, SOA

SUBJECT: Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) SOAR XXVII

This envelope contains your SOAR XXVII PRP with the following items incorporated into the packet:

1. PRP:
 - a. Schedule of Events
 - b. SOA Fact Sheet
 - c. SOA Board of Officers
 - d. Informational Letter from the President
 - e. Analysis of the SOA IRC Non-Profit Status
 - f. Proposed Amendments to the 2001 By-Laws
 - g. Pre-Reunion Information
 - h. SOA Candidates for 2003 – 2004 Board of Officers
 - i. SOA Election Ballot
 - j. SOA Facts and Figures
 - k. "Return to Vietnam" Cliff Newman
 - l. Request for Zip Code Information
 - m. Request for Information
 - n. SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fact Sheet
 - o. "An Elite Athlete" Tom Demerly
 - p. Las Vegas Quick Draw
 - q. SOA Membership Application
 - r. 1st Special Forces Group Veterans Reunion Registration Form
 - s. Memorabilia Sales Form (SOAMS)
 - t. SOAMS Close Outs
 - u. Special Operations Association Ring
 - v. Proposed Commemorative History of SOA
 - w. Advertisement by Jason M. Hardy
 - x. 5th Special Forces Group Reunion Information
 - y. "What's so Special about Special Forces" CSM Bill Edge
2. SOAR Advance Registration Form
3. SOAR Advance Discount Registration envelope
4. SOA Election Ballot envelopes, two (2)
5. Ten (10) George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Raffle Tickets
6. Pocket Calendar for 2003
7. Addendum Sheet to Survivor's & Executors Handbook

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XXVII SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

22 SEP – 28 SEP 2003

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

0900 – 1700

-SOA BOD Meeting

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

0900 – 1700

-SOA BOD Meeting

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200

-Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800

-Late Registration

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200

-Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800

-Late Registration

1230 – 1430

-MIA/POW Issues

1500 – 1600

-South African Special Forces Briefing

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200

-Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800

-Late Registration

1000 – 1200

-Recovery of MIA Remains- Cliff Newman

1200 – 1330

-Lunch Hosted by SOA

1330 – 1700

-SOA General Membership Meeting

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

0700 – 1300

-Range Firing

1000 – 1700

-Hospitality Room

1000 – 1400

-Late Registration

1700 – 1820

-Cocktails – Cash Bar – Derby Terrace

1830 – 1845

-Posting of the Colors

1845 – 1850

-Toasts

1850 – 1900

-Introduction of VIP's and Guests

1900 –

-Cash Bar Reopens

1900 – 1915

-Presentation of 25 Year Pins

1915 – 2030

-Banquet Dinner

2030 – 2055

-Guest Speaker Remarks

2055 – 2100

-Special Award Ceremony

2100 – 2115

-Retirement of Colors

2115 – 2130

-Break

2130 – 2215

-SOA Raffle

2215 – NLT 0200

-Hospitality Room Bar Open

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

0800 – 1200

-Hospitality Room

1200 – NLT

-Hospitality Room is Closed

1200 – NLT

-Hotel Check Out



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

5130 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 5-583F
Las Vegas, Nevada 89142-1003

FACT SHEET

The Special Operations Association (SOA), founded in 1977, is a 2,000 member fraternal organization of American and foreign citizens who took part, or are now taking part in missions deep within hostile territory. Its members include World War II and Korean War Veterans as well as those from the more recent conflicts in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, and into the 21st Century.

Our Association is composed primarily of US Army Special Forces personnel, but also includes Air Commandos, Navy SEALs, Marine Force Recon, veterans of other elite organizations, both military and civilian, who took part in special operations, and members currently on active duty who are conducting or supporting special operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the Special Operations Association are:

1. To unite fraternally all war veterans who either are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" in hostile enemy territory, or have been assigned to United States or foreign military units which conducted such operations; and
2. To perpetuate the Special Operations *esprit de corps*; and
3. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW / MIA; and
4. To perpetuate the memory of Colonel George C. Morton through the management of the Association's Scholarship Fund. Since 1983, over \$330,000 have been awarded or committed to many deserving young scholars.

Annual membership dues are \$30.00 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$300.00 U.S.

Our correspondence consists of the Spring Newsletter when appropriate, the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP), and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report (AAR).

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit [501(c)(19)] veteran's organization operating on tax deductible donations.

The SOA will hold its twenty-seventh annual reunion (SOAR XXVII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 24 - 28 September 2003. We anticipate in excess of 800 members and guests. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-634-6575.

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
Officers and Directors
2003

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Special Operations Association

965 N. Grandview Road

Paulden, AZ 86334

June 15, 2003

To: The Members of the Special Operations Association

Subject: SOA update and preparation for SOAR XXVII

It seems that SOAR is always right around the corner and the Board of Directors and Staff are trying to get it together so it all goes smooth. This year certainly is no exception and having the mid-year Board meeting in May instead of April has cut our time down a little. The present Board has and is working well together and even though there are some distractions, they excel at getting things done. I offer my thanks to them for their hard work and their ability to accomplish all that comes before them in an outstanding manner.

We held the mid-year in Tampa, Florida this year and were privileged to visit the Special Operations Memorial at Mc Dill AFB and to attend the Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Award Banquet. Special Operations Command presents the Arthur D. "Bull" Simons Award to a person who has distinguished himself within the Special Operations Community. This year's recipient is BG Harvey "Heinie" Aderholt, SOA # 900 GL, who is considered the Father of U.S. Air Force Special Operations and was instrumental in forming and leading the air assets that supported the CIA Secret Wars in Laos, developing and commanding Air America as well as the Bright Light program in which MACVSOG elements participated. "Heinie" had a remarkable career and we congratulate him on his selection as the 2003 Col. Arthur D. "Bull Simons" Award winner.

We also had the opportunity to visit the Special Operations Memorial While we were there. There were many familiar names on those walls. The state flags the SOA provided funding for were not posted at the Memorial and as we discovered, they will not be purchased until the next phase of construction of the Memorial site. The Memorial is in front of the Special Operations Command Headquarters and we were escorted to the Headquarters where we saw some familiar faces. It was good to be where they are still engaged in Special Operations

Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting: The Board of Directors did conduct two days of business while we were there. There are a number of issues that were discussed. We have some serious problems and some not so serious issues as stated below:

1. **SOA Income:**

SOA income dropped over \$50,000 last year and expenses remained the same as the year before. It's easy to figure out that if it continues, we will be bankrupt soon. I could try to sugar coat the whole issue, but we're all intelligent and mature enough to understand that the SOA is a quality operation, but it won't function as a quality organization without adequate funds. And we all know that sugar coating won't eliminate or solve the problem. Raffle ticket sales and donations were down as was

SOAR income. These are our sources of income and with donations and raffle income down and SOAR attendance down, we had the shortfall. SOAR attendance was not sole issue with SOAR. The registration fee had an impact also. At Soar XXV we had more than 800 attendees at \$80.00 per person and the hotel costs were \$45,000.00. SOAR XXVI we had 200 attendees fewer and the hotel costs were the same, \$45,000.00. That translates to \$80.00 multiplied by 200 or a short fall of \$16,000.00 due to lower attendance while the hotel expense increased by 20 percent. Also, the 2002 membership dues were \$5000.00 less than the 2001. Raffle income was down almost \$14000.00. Other contributions in general were down almost \$15,000.00 and when you put all of it together with a few other not so significant areas of income, it added up to over \$50,000.00 or better.

Obviously, we have to change something and the first thing is our primary source of income, the SOAR registration fee. The Board elected to increase the registration fee to \$110.00. Even though it has increased by \$30.00, it is still the biggest bang for the buck, as far as I know, of any of the conventions or reunions that we are welcome to attend. But, the bottom line is that if this doesn't increase income enough to cover SOA expenses, we may need to raise it again. The importance of raffle and donation support cannot be over stated. Income derived from Scholarship donations must go to the scholarship fund and rightfully so. That money is now kept in a separate fully funded Scholarship Account and is not included in our general income or funds available for SOA expenses.

The board is currently establishing budget to enable us to forecast costs to determine the amount of income required to continue to operate as usual. It also will help to determine where costs can be cut. Our Executive Director has developed a source to publish our PRP and AAR documents which saved almost \$5000.00 on the SOAR XXVI AAR alone. In the long run, we hope to save \$10,000.00 a year in printing and other costs affiliated with these two documents and other printing costs.

2. James E. Butler Founders Award 2003

There were no nominees for the James E. Butler Founder's award for 2003. The award is presented to those who have contributed extraordinary, selfless, service to the SOA. If you feel there is a member that meets this standard and deserves to be considered for this award, please write to the Board and recommend him for consideration and cite the justification for your recommendation.

3. Fund Raising

Fund raising continues to be discussed and we continue to move toward a video game and licensing contract. It looks very promising and recent developments are encouraging. We hope to have it finalized soon so we can announce it at the SOAR XXVII General Membership Meeting. There also have been several proposals by other entities that could be promising. America Remembers who developed the commemorative MACVSOG Cal. 45 Pistol is looking at other commemorative projects relating to the SOA. A beverage company will make a proposal at the SOAR XXVII Board meeting and will provide their product for sampling at Soar XXVII. We are not

looking for corporate sponsorship or any agreements that commit the SOA to the desires of any organization.

4. Volunteers

For an organization of volunteers, we have precious few to assist in the work of the SOA. We need volunteers to run for the Board of Directors every year and we need Committee Chairmen and Members. You need not be a General Member to Chair or be a member of a committee and the Chair and any Members of a committee have the right to vote on that committees business, regardless of his type of membership. The volunteers make our organization go and when there are no longer volunteers, the SOA will cease to operate. We have several new candidates for the Board in this the 2003 election. Thanks for stepping forward guys.

Tyler Furbish has just stepped forward to become the Chairman of the Membership Committee. The Board thanks Ty for his unselfishness and we have the utmost confidence in his ability to do a great job. "Welcome aboard and Thanks, Ty". Ty was with the 195 AHC at CCS.

5. Chaplain, SOA

It gives the Board great pleasure to announce the appointment of Charles E. Luczynski to the SOA Staff as the Chaplain, SOA. Chuck has nearly completed a three and a half year course of study to be ordained as permanent Deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Upon reading of the adding of the Chaplain position to the SOA Staff, he promptly volunteered for the job.

Chuck also flew for the 195th AHC at CCS and later was a LRP team member with F Co., LRP, 51st (Abn) at II Field Force. He was also a LRRP ATL in O Co., Ranger, 75th Inf. (Abn), attached to the 3rd Bde, 82nd Abn. Div. Chuck also completed the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang with a Recondo number 1810. "Welcome aboard, Chuck and thanks for stepping forward to serve".

6. Scholarship

There were a maximum of three scholarships awards approved for 2003. If there are three qualified candidates recommended to the Board by the Scholarship Committee, they will be approved by the board at their SOAR XXVII meeting. There is currently \$43,500.00 in the Scholarship Fund Account, funding all of the Scholarship Awarded to date including the awards for 2003.

7. Membership

There were three applicants for memberships who did not meet the SOA requirements and who were inadvertently approved for membership in the SOA. They have been removed from the rolls and two additional applications were rejected for the same reason. Any misunderstanding of the SOA membership requirements has been clarified and the issue resolved.

Mr. O.H. Ashley III, SOA # 583 resigned from membership in the SOA.

8. SOA Bylaws – Recommended Changes

There are recommended changes to the bylaws included in this PRP. They will be placed before the Membership at the SOAR XXVII General Membership Meeting (GMM) to be approved or disapproved as the Membership sees fit. Except for a few minor changes, the BOD at the mid-year conference approved these changes. To avoid unnecessary confusion and delay, please read and be familiar with them before the meeting. They are closely linked to the IRS Codes in the next topic.

9. IRS Code for Non-Profit Organizations

There are still questions regarding the IRS codes for non-profit organizations. Although the Bylaws Committee has been discharged, the Board continues to seek clarification of the codes. An analysis is included with this letter so that you can better understand the requirements we face and the alternatives to be considered, if we want to remain in compliance with IRS Codes. The Membership, at the GMM, is asked to look at realities of these requirements and be prepared to deal with them and make decisions regarding the issues. We will be required to revisit the Membership make up of our Association or attempt to change our IRS category. As unpopular as this may be, it is important to get it right and get it done so we can be sure we are operating within the parameters of our IRS category. It is the only way to insure that we are not jeopardizing the future of the SOA.

10. Memorabilia Sales

SOAMS had increased expenses in 2002 and profit was not as high as expected. Shipping inventory and expenses for operating at the Special Forces 50th Anniversary contributed to the reduced profit margin. SOAMS profit was at \$7500.00. We are eliminating the short sleeve blue denim and dark green golf shirts. The prices of the remaining stock of these items will be reduced in order to help eliminate them from inventory. There are MACVSOG shirts in various colors and sizes also available. You will find a flyer in the PRP listing the items reduced or available for closeout. By calling the phone number listed in the flyer you can check availability of the items and sizes still available. We will take your order over the phone. That will decrease inventory value. We are attempting to reducing inventory to approximately \$16,000.00 and we will reduce it further, if possible. There are new items being added to the inventory. There are license plate frames and front plates that will be available ay SOAR XXVII as well as the new ring. We're waiting for the final prototype and we hope to have picture of it out on the SOA net by mid July. Unfortunately, the beer stein proved too difficult a task and too expensive to bring into the inventory, but we're still working on it.

11. REMINDERS!

One of the most difficult tasks the Secretary, Executive Director, and Membership Chairman have is to maintain an up to date SOA roster. Many of us have just neglected to pass on changes of home and email addresses, area code and phone numbers, and

some drop out of sight and become lost souls. We don't want to infringe on your privacy, but we become concerned when we can't make contact with you to pass on information, send the PRP, or send an AAR to you. We generally realize there is an error when we get the PRP or AAR returned to us and then the search begins. The Executive Director calls a number of members who are your friends or live in your area to see what they know or can find out. The point is that it causes a lot of unnecessary effort by a lot of people to follow it up. Plus, it costs us monetarily for additional postage when we must send mailings twice. If you don't want to be in touch any more, please let the Executive Director know and we will be silent until you change your status back to communicative (big word) again. Please don't keep us in the dark and treat us like mushrooms. Help us keep the roster up to date so you will get all your publications in a timely manner. Thanks.

SOAR XXVII – Reunion 2003: There is a great deal of effort going into SOAR XXVII to make it the best ever. We are attempting to locate surviving King Bee pilots of the 219th Avn Sqn, VNAF that we might honor them this year at SOAR. There are many of the SOG Recon Teams that owe their survival to these pilots and they risked and sacrificed much to take care of us.

MG Eldon Bargewell, although recently reassigned to the European Theatre, has confirmed that he will be our guest speaker this year. In 1970, General Bargewell, then a SSG, was a MACVSOG Recon Team Leader at CCN in Da Nang, RVN. He is SOA Member # 1474G and has had years of Special Operations experience. We look forward to sharing old times and new with him at SOAR.

There will be others visiting with us this year too. Dennis Thompson member # 2069G, a survivor of the battle of Lang Vei and a POW for Five years, is mustering the Lang Vei

survivors for a get together at SOAR this year. They, like us, had some extraordinary experiences. They are a mixed group of Special Forces A Team, Mike Force, and Air Force personnel of whom three were captured and spent five years interned in North Vietnam. As Dennis likes to say, "We didn't ride to the north like the rest of those pussies, we walked". These are the survivors of the 1968 Lang Vei NVA tank assault. Dennis Thompson and I walked all over Lang Vei several years ago and stood by the PT 76 that is on the NVA monument there. Some of the MACVSOG members assigned to the Khe Sahn Combat Base at the time remember the incident well. They mounted the reaction/rescue operation that went in and pulled out the survivors. Well, most of them!

Another we hope to see is Col. Joe Kittinger SOA # 775HL. We saw Joe at the Col. Bull Simons Award Dinner and he said he was coming. Joe, besides being an old Air Force Special Ops guy, made the longest free fall ever. The Guinness Book of Records has it at 84,700 feet. That's 4 minutes and 37 seconds of free fall. He broke the sound barrier too.

Members Cliff Newman SOA # 006 GL, Charles "Wes" Wesley SOA # 1643 GA, and Lemuel "Mac" Mc Glothren # 443 GL made a trek back to the Ashau Valley this year when they accompanied the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting Team to search for a lost SOG Recon Team. MR. Dickie Hites, a member of the recovery team will attend SOAR and he, Cliff, Wes, and Mac will share their experience during a presentation Friday, September 26. Dick may

Have some insight into the recovery missions to share with us also. We hope so. Cliff Newman's article about their experience is a part of the PRP. Other pertinent SOAR XXVII topics are listed below:

1. Range Firing

We will again attempt to institute Range Firing this year. We have secured the NRA approved Boulder Pistol and Rifle Club Range in Boulder City, NV for Saturday morning September 27th. We will have two bermed in areas for pistol and automatic weapons fire, and a 300-meter range for shooting at greater distances. If we are going to conduct range firing, it must pay for itself and to do that there must be a minimum number of participants. We look for a minimum of 40 people to fire on the range. A fee of \$50.00 will be the tax-deductible donation required for participants. The fee must be paid along with registration fees and if 40 members and guests do not wish to participate, the fee will be returned at SOAR. However, if there are 40 who wish to participate and you fail to show up at departure time, your fee will not be refunded, as the expenses will have already been incurred for this exercise. Buses will be provided for transportation to the range and back. If you have questions concerning range firing call Jim Hetrick at (928) 636-4121.

2. Reunion Dates

The dates for the 2004 and 2005 SOARS have been set back a week to the end of September and the beginning of October. This has been done for two reasons. It will add an additional week in between the 5th SFG (Abn) reunion and SOAR. It gives those who wish to attend both reunions a little more time to get from one to the other. Additionally, it makes it financially a little easier for those on fixed income whose checks arrive on the first of the month. SOAR XXVIII is scheduled for September 29 to October 3, 2004 and SOAR XXIX is scheduled for September 28 to October 2, 2005.

3. Silent Auction

A silent auction will be used for some of the prizes offered at SOAR this year. The items offered by silent auction will have a sheet of paper on which you will place your name and the amount you wish to bid. If there is a previous bid on the sheet, you will decide how much over the previous bid you wish to bid. Some of the rooms comped by the Plaza Hotel will be silent auction items. If you stay 5 nights at the hotel and your room will cost \$235.00 and if you win with a bid of \$185.00, you will still save \$50.00. It is unknown how many rooms or other items will be auctioned in this manner.

4. Hospitality Room

The BOD voted to not have banners etc, other than the SOA flag, on the Hospitality Room walls. If you have questions, please consult the Reunion Chairman concerning attaching any banners or other items to the walls of the hospitality room. And please observe the no smoking signs and refrain from smoking in those areas. Some of our members have difficulty breathing and cigarette smoke adds to their discomfort and breathing difficulty.

In Closing: The Board of directors has made a great effort to not only to prepare for SOAR, but to look at the future of our Association. Many of the seemingly minor problems are not minor or simple matters at all and have serious implications for the SOA. The solutions are also not simple. There are decisions to be made and the solutions in some cases may be difficult and painful to accept. It is time to stop ignoring the problems and resolve them so we can move forward without the nagging roadblocks and extra baggage that surface every Board and General Membership Meeting.

The Board of Directors and Special Staff have again excelled in their efforts to do the Association's business. They have worked well for us that we may come to a first class reunion and be a part of a first class organization. Again, I personally thank each one of you for a job well done.

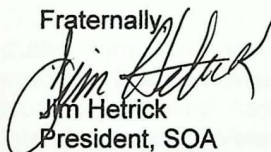
Again, we remind you that **we need volunteers to chair and be members of our committees**. Admittedly, it is hard work and requires a lot of time and dedication to participate in one of the committees that function year after year, day in and day out. Sometimes it seems to be at least a part time job and sometimes full time. If you have the time, please consider taking on one of the volunteer positions. It is those that are in for the

long haul that insure the SOA's future. Contact any Board Member to indicate your willingness to serve. **Also, if your address, phone number, email address change, please let your Executive Director know.**

And.... dues go up on January 1, 2004 to Annual \$30.00 and Life \$300.00.

"Hope to see you at SOAR XXVII."

Faternally,



Jim Hetrick
President, SOA



ANALYSIS OF THE SOA IRC NON-PROFIT STATUS

The current effort to reanalyze the SOA IRS code status has prompted a closer look at the IRC 501 (c)(4), (c)(7), and (c)(19) categories. We have again undertaken this task to determine in what IRC (Internal Revenue Code) category our Association belongs and to make the necessary changes to insure that the SOA is in compliance with the code. All of these categories, under IRC 170 (c)(3) are eligible for Veteran exemption status if they maintain the following required membership requirements:

1. The membership must be made up of at least 75% veterans
2. Substantially all other members must be cadets, spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans or cadets. (Substantially all means that of the 25%, 90% must be cadets, spouses, etc.)
3. Only 2.5% of the organizations total membership may consist of individuals who are not veterans, cadets, spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans or cadets.

Note: 2.5% Of a membership of 1700 members in good standing is equal to 42 individuals who do not fall into the above population. The SOA exceeds that by a margin of 59 members in good standing distributed among the Honorary, General, Associate, and Operational Associate classes of membership.

Additionally, donations are deductible by the donors on their federal income tax, if the organization is made up of at least 90% veterans. And, has submitted to and been approved for the exemption by the IRS. The SOA meets this requirement.

The test as to what category we fall into is the purpose for which we are organized and are as follows:

501 (c) (19) Veterans Organization

This organization is organized in the United States or any of its' possessions and comply with the membership requirements stated above and must be operated exclusively for one or more of the following purposes:

1. To promote the social welfare of the community (that is to promote in some way the common good and general welfare of the people of the community)
2. To carry on programs to perpetuate the memory of deceased veterans and members of the Armed forces and to comfort their survivors.
3. To conduct programs for educational purposes.
4. To sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature.
5. To provide social and recreational activities for its' members.

Note: We meet all of the above requirements at least to some degree.

501 (c) (4) Social Welfare Organizations (Civic Leagues and Social Welfare Organizations)

1. Operated exclusively for social welfare purposes. (The community is not defined as the SOA membership)
2. The primary activities must promote the common good and general welfare of the people of the community. Social welfare activities do not include social, political, or business activities.

Note: The SOA does not presently meet these requirements.

501 (c) (7) Social Clubs

The club's charter, bylaws, or other governing instrument must not include purposes that are not directed toward pleasure and recreation. In keeping with this purpose, nonmember income from all sources is limited and taxed as unrelated business income.

Note: The SOA does not presently meet this requirement.

Note: The IRS uses the Organizations records to focus on its' primary purpose. That is, it determines it through the expenditure of funds and man-hours devoted to the respective areas of endeavor of the organization. That makes the determination of our purpose and where we fit into the codes a relatively simple matter. Our primary endeavor is SOAR. If we are concerned about paying taxes on unrelated income, desire to continue with our Scholarship Program, and wish to solicit donations from sources outside of our membership, we must remain an IRC 501 (c) (19) Fraternal veterans Organization. That is the only way it works.

Rationale:

In the past, the SOA Membership voted to remain an IRC 501 (c) (19) Veterans Organization. The (c) (19) permits a broader range of activity than the other categories and when considering the Memorabilia and Scholarship Programs, we need to stay a 501 (c) (19) organization. When we look at the other categories we have greater concerns with income generated from related and unrelated business activities and the income derived from members, bonafide guests (Those SOA invited guests whose expenses are paid by the SOA), and paying guests that attend SOAR, purchase Memorabilia items, make donations, and participate in our fund raising activities.

Our concern is still the participation of our Allies who fought side by side with us, especially during the Vietnam War. The inclusion of our allies threatens our non-profit status. We can include a few, but we can't include them all under the present circumstances. We have Honorary, General, Associate, and Operational Associate Members that we cannot retain if we intend to remain a Veterans organization as we are, with the benefits we derive from our status.

What is the best solution? We can give up our veteran status and attempt to change our IRC status if we can reorient our purpose to fit another category. If we do, it will change our Association and our tax benefits. A possible solution is to remain a 501 (c) (19). The bottom line is that we can't just jump from one IRC category to another. There are disadvantages incurred by making a change, one of which is a possible consequence of IRS penalties.

Board of Directors Recommendation:

1. Take the necessary action to insure the SOA is in compliance with the 2.5% rule.
 - a. Eliminate the Operational Associate category of membership.
 - b. Remove the non-U.S. Veteran Honorary Members.
 - c. Remove the General and Associate members who do not meet the veteran requirement under IRC 501 (c) (19).

A copy of proposed changes to the bylaws to accomplish a. above is included in the PRP.

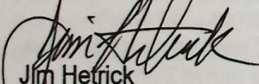
Comment: It is understood that this is a painful process and these changes certainly are not measures we want to take. But, the task has not changed and the "don't ask and don't tell and hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil" approach we have undertaken may in the final analysis, be the downfall of the SOA.

2. The solution is to find a way that satisfies the IRS requirements and fulfills our goal of including our allies in the brotherhood and camaraderie of the SOA. If we look at STMP, they are a tax-exempt organization and we can share with them on that basis by inviting them to attend SOAR as paying guests. In this way, we include our Montagnards brothers in the SOA. We can also issue a courtesy card to the members of this group with whom we fought side by side, acknowledging our Comrade in Arms relationship.
3. The SOA assist the STD and 219th Avn. Squadron, VNAF to become a 501 (c) (7) Social Club that can be affiliated with the SOA in the same way as STMP. The same courtesy card of acknowledging the Comrades in Arms relationship can be issued to members of this group on the basis of our relationships in the Vietnam War.

Comment: The advantage the allied community enjoys is two fold. They would be included in SOAR and they would not be required to pay SOA dues. The advantage for the SOA is the maintenance of 501 (c) (19) status, while recognizing the contribution of our allies in our joint Special Operations. Restitution for those who paid for Life membership is also a consideration and whether it is in total, prorated, or not at all will be the decision of the membership. You will make the decision as to how we approach this whole matter

I can only tell you that we have consulted at least three IRS agents, CPA's, and bookkeepers and the best solution, based on the advice received, is what is outlined above. Please consider the recommendations carefully, as you will be asked to consider this recommendation for approval or provide a solution that will not place the future of the SOA in jeopardy.

For the Board of Directors, SOA


Jim Hetrick
President, SOA

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 2001

BY-LAWS

(*Italics*) = delete

Bold = add or replaced

These suggested amendments are recommended by the Board of Directors. The bulk of the suggestions were prepared by the membership by laws committee and approved/modified by the BOD. However, due to problem of maintaining our IRC 501 (c)(19) status the BOD has determined that they should recommend some additional changes. The changes concerning our allied brethren are made with deep regret. However, as more discussed elsewhere in the the PRP the BOD considers them necessary for the overall good and future of the SOA.

Article II A. 1, 2.& 4.

1. To perpetuate the esprit de corps of the Special Operations community (*esprit-de-corps*); and
4. To promote patriotism throughout the communities of the country, and

Current par 4 , 5, 6 & 7 be renumbered to 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Rationale: To emphasize the community and promotion of patriotism in our objectives.

Article IV A 1

A. Definitions:

1. Special Operations Unit(s)
 - a. The unit/project/**operational team** must be or have been composed of U.S. **Armed Forces** military (~~/paramilitary~~) personnel with a mission to conduct Special Operations as defined by this Association; or
 - (b. ~~With the mission to conduct counter-terrorist operations as its primary function; or~~)
 - (c) b. In a ROUTINE basis to provide DIRECT combat support as **part of the Operational Team performing Special Operations missions.** (~~(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 the interpretation of "Special Operations" and the~~

above guidelines may be relative to each applicant, the final definition shall rest with this Association.))

Rationale: Par a. To clarify that personnel from all services serving on a joint team special operations operation, while not a unit per se, might be considered as members.

Par ~~(c)~~ b. While this may be a bit redundant considering par a, it reinforces the authenticity of non Special Operations units like the 195th who, although not a special operations unit, became part of the Operational Team conducting Special Operations Missions being on the approved units list. The deletion can be made because individual qualifications are covered in IV E.

Article IV A 2 a & b

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)~~ and as specified for IRS code 501(c)(19) organizations. ~~(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.)~~ The grandfather clause in the 2002 version of the by laws is rescinded.

b. Associate Member:

A person who meets the requirements of this Association as required in Par IV E 2 below and 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 AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND MAY NOT DO SO. However, they may be chairmen and/or members of committees and do have a right to vote on committee matters in committee meetings. ~~(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.)~~ The grandfather clause in the 2002 version of the by laws is rescinded.

Rationale for proposed amendments in par a & b above

In 2001 when at the last moment the by laws committee realized that the general and associate members who would otherwise have to be reclassified to a status of operational associate had not been grand fathered. The committee hurriedly drew up a grand father clause, presented it to the BOD who approved it and then to the general membership who approved it. Unfortunately, in the hurry we all left a loop hole that grand fathered not only those who would have otherwise been reclassified to operational associate, but, as written, grand fathered all general and

associate members. This was not the intention of the by laws committee, the BOD or the general membership. The amendments offered in paragraphs a & b above corrects the mistake made in 2001. Further as the Operational Associate status is being eliminated to come into compliance with IRC 501(c)(19) the grand fathering is no longer needed.

In Par b above it was considered that it should be clarified that although Associate Members may not vote in our meetings they may take full part in our committees if they so desire. This includes chairing a committee.

Article IV B 1

B. Special Operations Units list.

1. The Membership Committee shall prepare, for the approval or disapproval 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 units in this list will each be given starting and closing dates of eligibility. Units currently conducting operations will be so identified and given a closing date at the appropriate time.** The Membership Committee will, as necessary, recommend changes to the list of units to the Board of Directors for approval or disapproval.

Rationale: In the past we have had personnel accepted as members who had served in a unit on our list whose time of service was after the unit no longer was performing a Special Operations mission. This amendment should cure this problem.

Article IV C

- 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~~) **detrimental** 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.

Rationale: This change is recommended for clarity. The term detrimental is better understood by most people than the word inimical.

- D. (~~Application~~) Has been moved and re-lettered as Par. F.

Rationale. To place all qualification paragraphs together and all administrative paragraphs together. Approval of this change will require the reference to Par IV F in IV A 2 c to Par IV E and the relettering of par F to par E.

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

1. General Member – General 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. 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) during that unit's period of eligibility and the fact that he was placed in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire. If adequate documentation is not available** one General Member in good standing must verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment. **In those cases where a General Member is not available to vouch for the applicant, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, the BOD based upon the documentation available, on a case by case basis, may grant general membership to the applicant.** Further, General members must meet the requirements of membership as specified in IRS code 501(c)(19). **Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the BOD on a case by case basis based upon policies established by the General Membership at a regular or specially called meeting.**

Rationale for amendment: To clarify that a candidate for membership MUST prove that he served in a Special Operations unit at the time the unit was in an operational mode and that he in fact was placed in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire during that time. The exception clause is for those rare occasions where a subjective decision must be made based upon circumstantial evidence. Further, a method of allowing selected allied personnel that would have to be counted within the 2 ½ % group to be accepted as members is provided.

2. Associate Member – Associate membership is granted to any person applying for Associate Membership and approved by the Membership Committee. Applicant must 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 **direct support** role. The Associate Member's routine or normal duty did not involve direct threat or exposure to hostile fire. The applicant must also supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by the Association **during that unit's period of eligibility,** 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. **In those cases where a General Member is not available to vouch for the applicant, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, the BOD based upon the documentation available, on a case by case basis, may grant associate membership to the applicant.** Further, Associate members must meet the requirements of membership specified in IRS code 501(c)(19). **Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the BOD on a case by case basis based upon policies established by the General Membership at a regular or specially called meeting.**

Rationale: Same as for Par 1

3. Honorary Member - Honorary membership status may be granted upon approval of the Board of Directors to a person who has contributed significantly to U.S. armed Forces 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 of two-thirds of the (~~entire~~) Board, the Membership, **at a general meeting, (~~shall~~) may** 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). However, Honorary Memberships may not be given, if in so doing, the IRC 501 (c)(19) two and one half percent rule is violated.

Rationale: To clarify that the General Membership has the final say on who can be a Honorary member. The way it was written the BOD was telling the membership to confer Honorary membership status on an individual. This appears to be putting the cart before the horse. The membership tells the BOD what they want done. Further, the fact that some people being considered for Honorary membership might fall under the two and one half percent rule must be taken into consideration during the deliberations on their acceptance.

Article IV F.

F. **This paragraph not used.** (~~*Operational Associate* — The Operational Associate is a **DISTINCTION** conferred on members of foreign military units and para-military personnel who served with U.S. Armed Forces 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.) The term Operational Associate will be struck from all sections of these by laws except in IV J 8 where needed.~~

Rationale: To clean up the by laws by deleting a term no longer used because in order to come into compliance with IRC 501 (c)(19) all of the Operational Associates will have to be terminated.

Article IV I.

I. Transfer of Membership (—)

1. 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~~).
2. The special designation of Warriors Widow may be bestowed upon the widowed spouse

of all deceased members. Each year (unless she states in writing that she no longer desires to receive it) a registration form for that year's SOAR will be sent to her in order that she may register and attend the SOAR, at her own expense, if she so desires. A Warrior's Widow has no membership status. However, she will be identified with a WW prefix to her deceased member spouse's membership number.

3. It is acknowledged that from time to time the parents, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters, of a deceased member may have a desire to speak to, and gain additional information on the activities of their beloved one from those that served with him. Therefore, these immediate family members, and others that may have a legitimate reason approved by the BOD, may apply for a registration form and upon recommendation by the Membership Committee and approval by the BOD, attend a SOAR at their own expense.. These relatives and others will NOT be recognized with any prefix or other symbol connected to the membership number of the deceased member.

Rationale: To clarify that the association, while giving widowed spouses special recognition and privilege, does not recognize them as members of the association. Further, while giving a special privilege to immediate family members they do not receive a special recognition.

IV J 8

8. All memberships, general, associate and Honorary, as well as those individuals in an Operation a status who are not United States Armed Forces Veterans are hereby terminated. Exceptions on a case by case basis may be granted by the Board of Directors based upon policies set by the General membership at an annual or special meeting of the membership so long as the IRC 501 (c)(19) two and one half percent rule is not violated.

Rationale: To provide for the Association to come into compliance with IRC 501 (c)(19) rules concerning non veteran membership and to provide for a manner for the membership to provide guidance on the acceptance of individuals into the 2 ½ % category.

Article V. E. Election(s)

1. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for their respective Board of Directors Office, or position of Placed Director, are elected. A tie vote (~~is~~) **shall** be resolved by a majority of the Board of Directors voting for one of the candidates.
2. No person may run, or be a nominee for two different Offices, or Placed Director (within the Office of Placed Director) in the same election. (Note this means that one must pick which one of the two Placed Director positions open for election for which he desires to run.)
3. If an incumbent is elected to a different office, his currently held office is declared vacant, and filled according to these bylaws.

Rationale: To clarify election procedures and to preclude a person from running for more than one

office at time and to preclude a person holding more than one office at a time

Article VIII A

~~(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:-)~~

A. Membership Committee

1. **The Board of Directors shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of a minimum of seven members and such additional members as may be designated by the Board. The Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force will each be represented by at least one member who has served in their respective service if such member is available. The BOD will review the membership of the committee at least annually and make any changes in the committee it deems necessary.**
2. **Duties:**
 - a. **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.**
 - b. **The membership committee will receive all membership applications, vet the applicants, and determine which applicants are qualified and will be accepted as members and in which category of membership. Each member of the committee will vote on the back of the application and sign his name together with any comments he desires to make on the rationale for his vote. The committee chairman will be the last one to vote. A positive vote of a majority of the committee will be required to accept any applicant as a member in any category unless the BOD, at its discretion, allows the chairman to assign applications to a three man sub committee for determination of eligibility for membership under the following conditions.**
 - (1). **One member of the sub committee must be from the applicant's branch of service.**
 - (2). **The vote for acceptance must be unanimous. If the vote of the sub committee is not unanimous for acceptance the applicant's file will be referred to the entire committee for final determination as to whether the applicant will be accepted for membership and category of membership.**
 - c. **The membership committee shall, as a whole, make recommendations to the BOD as to which units should be added or deleted from the Units List. Each member WILL be required to make and sign a statement as to his rationale for voting for**

or against the addition or deletion of any unit from the Units List. The information so gathered will be included in the packet of recommendation forwarded to the BOD for its final approval.

- d. 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.**
- 3. The Chairman of the committee will insure that all committee members are well versed in, and understand, all aspects of the by laws that pertain to membership as well as all instructions in membership matters that come from the BOD. He will insure that his committee complies with these by-laws, instructions of the BOD and the provisions of IRC 501(c)(19).**

Rationale: To insure that the duties and responsibilities of the membership committee are well defined, that accountability is established and that procedures are put in place to insure that the BOD actually controls the Membership Committee.



SOAR XXVII

24 – 28 September 2003

PRE-REUNION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION DATA:

It appeared that last year some members did not know where, or when the Special Operations Association was holding its annual reunion or who to contact for hotel reservations. Well, here's the poop:

WHAT: SOAR XXVII (Special Operations Association Reunion)

WHEN: 24 – 28 September 2003

**WHERE: Plaza Hotel and Casino
One Main Street
Las Vegas, Nevada
TEL: (800) 634-8575**

Rooms at the Plaza Hotel/Casino are guaranteed to be available at a \$42.00 daily rate until 23 August, 2003. After that date, rates will be the same, but availability is not guaranteed. When making your reservation, inform the reservation clerk that you are attending the SOA Reunion.

Deadline for SOAR registration of \$110.00 is 13 September 2003. Late registration is \$140.00. Registration form with a self addressed envelope for mailing is in this packet.

REGISTRATION AREA AND HOSPITALITY SUITE:

The SOAR XXVII Registration Area and Hospitality Suite are located on the third floor of the Plaza Hotel/Casino. You will experience no difficulties in locating both areas.

Guests of members are welcome. However, guests will not be permitted to attend the reunion without the attendance of the sponsoring SOA member. There have been a few instances in the past where a guest arrived and their SOA sponsor did not show. Embarrassing to all concerned! Be advised that all attendees, members and guests alike, must wear their SOA Reunion ID Badge to all SOAR XXVII activities.

All SOAR XXVII activities will cease as of 1200, Sunday, 28 September 2003. FYI, the Hospitality Suite and Registration Area revert to the Plaza Hotel/Casino for their use at 1200, 28 September 2003. Members must ensure that no personal belongings are left in the Hospitality Suite after 1200.

GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE:

Enclosed within this PRP are ten (10) tickets, costing \$5.00 each for the George C Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. As in past years, the SOA will be raffling three (3) U.S. "EE" Savings Bonds valued at \$2,000, \$1,000, and \$500 respectively. The raffle will be conducted following the banquet on Saturday evening, 27 September. Everyone is requested to support this all important scholarship program – buy, sell as many tickets as you can. If you require additional tickets, please see Clyde Sincere. Additional tickets for the scholarship fund will also be available at almost anytime at the registration area and at the banquet just prior to the announcement of the three (3) lucky winners. Ticket sales are not restricted to SOA members. Ticket stubs, along with your check for tickets sold (made payable to SOA) should be returned to the SOA Treasurer, Rick Grabianowski, P.O. Box 20279, Reno, NV 89515-0279 NLT 13 September 2003, or turned in at SOAR XXVII prior to the raffle announcement at the banquet. A self-addressed envelope is provided for the mailing of the SOAR Registration Form, raffle stubs, unused raffle tickets and check or money order for all items to include dues.

SOAR XXVII SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Each year it is an honor and privilege for the President of SOA to select two 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 of 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 of its members, chosen annually for their volunteer efforts during the past reunions. Again, as in past years, the SOA is fortunate to have many individuals who 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 members selected represent all of you. Final selection of the two SOAR XXVII Sergeant at Arms will be determined upon the close of advance registration on 13 September 2003.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS:

If you have items you wish to donate to SOAR XXVII for the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, and you will be attending the reunion, please bring the items with you and provide them to Clyde Sincere as early as possible for display. Members can purchase raffle tickets for as many different raffle items as they choose. If you cannot attend SOAR XXVII and you wish to donate either door prizes or raffle items, you are requested to mail the items NLT 22 September 2003, directly to:

**Plaza Hotel & Casino
c/o Convention Manager
ATTN: Patrick Hephner SOAR XXVII
Number One Main Street
Las Vegas, NV 89125-0760**

Again, if timing becomes a problem, contact Clyde Sincere. He will ensure that your gift gets to the reunion. Donation of raffle/door prize items are tax deductible.

SOA 2003 BOARD OF OFFICERS BALLOT:

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE

The position of Secretary and two Director positions are up for elective renewal. There are two candidates for the position of Secretary, and four candidates for the two Director positions. The SOA Official Ballot is enclosed in this PRP. Take the enclosed ballot, vote for Secretary and two Board Members reflected on the ballot or place a write-in on the ballot for the next term of office. Place the ballot in the small envelope marked "Ballot Only". Seal it, print your name, and sign it with your signature and membership number. Place this envelope in the larger envelope addressed to: "TALLY COMMITTEE", c/o William Lueders, place a 37 cent stamp on it, and mail it today. The deadline is 30 August 2003. Your letter to the TALLY COMMITTEE must be postmarked on or before that date.

SOAR XXVII VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE:

As in the past, volunteers are required to assist in the conduct of the reunion. Specifically assistance is required in bar operations in the hospitality suite, VIP escort duties, Memorabilia Sales and on a "as needed basis". Can you assist for a shift or two? Request you indicate your availability on the Advance (Discount) Registration Form. Your assistance is appreciated.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

Any SOA member desiring to add an item to the agenda for the General Membership Meeting must submit a written request, by U.S. mail, to arrive not later than 26 August 2003. Mail request to:

**SOA Executive Director,
P.O. Box 34500,
Pensacola, FL. 32507-4500**

YOUR RESIDENCE ADDRESS – PHONE NUMBER – EMAIL ADDRESS:

Each Member of the SOA is requested to ensure that his current personal data is provided to the SOA as it relates to residence, phone number, and Email address. It is also very important to provide a complete nine-digit zip code. By doing so, the SOA can use bulk mail at a great savings. You can acquire the additional four- (4) numbers by checking with your Post Office or by just checking some of your official incoming mail. Bulk mailing is not forwarded, so please ensure your address is correct.

Carefully check the current SOA Membership Directory, which was issued at SOAR XXVI to those attending, or mailed to those not attending. If you spot an error please inform Ray Chambers, Chairman, SOA Membership Committee at 437 North 110th Street, Apache Junction, AZ 85220-2216, Tel: (480) 986-2541 or commosgm@earthlink.net

As you check in at the Registration Area for SOAR XXVII, one of your first actions will be to check the Membership File. Please review the information about you and make corrections as required. We are requesting that you help us help you.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

2003 CANDIDATE BIO'S FOR SOA BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

FOR SECRETARY:



CHARLES L. BERG, SOA # 031-GL

I WANT TO BE YOUR SECRETARY ON THE BOD

I served the SOA as VP (Twice), Special Staff and as a Director starting back in the early days of SOAR II. (When things were relaxed).

In the last ten years the only criteria for me has been: "WHAT WAS RIGHT, NOT WHO WAS RIGHT".

As your Secretary, I will represent the membership. This includes insuring that the BOD fully follows the By-Laws in the Membership Qualifications, Parliamentary Rules and Financial Reporting areas.

It has been my privilege to serve on and fully participated in the By-Laws Committee, Scholarship Committee and I produced the first Budget & Planning Committee report, (See AAR-SOAR XXVI-Page 49-53). Co-Authored the first SOA "SURVIVORS & EXECUTOR'S GUIDE". I will not Support any BOD action that is not open and transparent to the membership.

When you elect me as Secretary, the General Membership have the opportunity to nominate and select from the floor a qualified General Member to serve the remaining one-year term on my Director position (In accordance with Roberts Rules).

I know that my time working with Clyde Sincere as Vice-President and on Special Staff in a wide range of areas prepared me to serve the SOA as the most qualified Secretary. The duties of the Secretary have been expanded and I am qualified to perform all of these duties.

DAVID C. SMITH, SOA # 1242-GL

I have been a Life member of the SOA for nine years and have attended every SOAR since becoming a member. Presently I am serving as the Secretary of the SOA. I truly believe in this organization.

This office is an important part of keeping the history, as well as recording for the future of the SOA promoting its growth. Duties of this office include keeping all permanent contracts and official correspondence of the organization as well as supervision of the Executive Director who is responsible for keeping the membership aware of the progress and the events of the SOA by reports and mailings.

I am a Lifetime member of the Special Forces Association, Chapter LVII. For the past three years I have served as the President of the Khe Sanh Veterans Association. After two terms as President, Save the Montagnard People (STMP) I currently serve on their Board of Directors. STMP has assisted in re-settling over 1200 "Yard" refugees in the past 18 months. On behalf of the STMP I wish to express my deepest appreciation to the SOA for its assistance in this endeavor. I also serve as a member of the Cedar Point Foundation. In the past we have assisted the BRU Montagnard tribes in-country Vietnam. Since 1994 I have made ten trips to Vietnam to assist the BRU in constructing a school, digging wells, purchasing cattle, farm equipment, tea and coffee plants, educational materials, basic food items, clothing and other creature comforts.

FOR DIRECTOR:

CHESTER HOWARD, SOA # 1609-GL

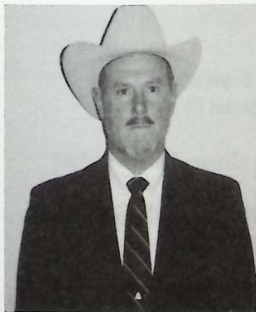
Biographical Summary:

Military: U.S. Army Special Forces, Ranger School, MACV RECONDO School, Project Delta, (1969-1970).

Civilian: Education/Professional: BA, Texas A&M, 1972. 31 year career in Real Estate Appraisal. MAI Designation from the Appraisal Institute.

Qualifications and Purpose:

While with Project Delta, I was privileged to serve with, and be mentored by some of the true icons of Special Operations.



CHESTER HOWARD, SOA # 1609-GL (Continued):

Men such as "Doc" Simpson, Joe Alderman, "Moose" Monroe, Andre St. Laurent, Jay Graves, Sammy Hernandez, Art Garcia, Bobby Pruitt, Don Devere and many others. They taught me by example to be disciplined, resourceful and decisive as a team member and as a leader. I adopted the work ethic and values of the organization and learned the real meaning of accountability.

Since attending my first SOAR, I have felt strongly that the core constituency of SOA, the Recon and other ground operations warriors, needs a more powerful voice in governing the Association. I do not favor growth for growth's sake alone. I do favor a membership policy that distinguishes the core constituency from all other member classifications. I know I share these convictions with many members. I want to assist SOA in providing a viable base for its perpetuation within the Special Operations Community.

I have demonstrated leadership ability throughout my life and in my career. I welcome the opportunity to demonstrate it as a Director of the SOA.

ROBERT L. JACK, SOA # 414-GL

I am a current member of the Special Operations Association Board of Directors and I am seeking a second term of office as a Director working for you by continuing to serve. I have been a member of the SOA since 1982.

I am a Life Member of the Special Operations Association, the Special Forces Association, the Disabled American Veterans and the Police Marksmanship Association.

My particulars:

U.S. Army: September 1967 - September 1973.
Staff Sergeant, United States Army Special Forces,
11B4S, Medically Retired.

1968 - Special Forces Training Group, Company "A"
(Weapons).

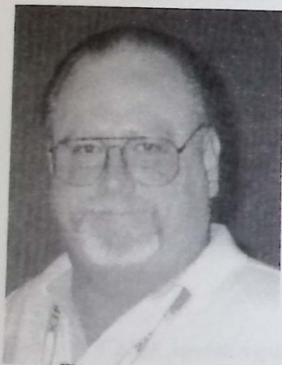
1968 - 1969 - "A" and "D" Company, 7th SFGp (Abn).

1969 - 1970 - 5th SFGp (Abn), SOA Recon Company,
CCN, MACVSOG, Da Nang.

May 1970 - January 1972 - Walter Reed Army
Hospital, Washington, D.C.

January 1972 - September 1973 - United States
Military Academy, West Point, New York.

September 1973, Medical Retired.



WILLIAM D. "BILLY" WAUGH, SOA #005-GL

I accept the challenge to participate in the forthcoming SOA election process by "running" for the position of Director, SOA.

As an original member of the SOA and having been an active member of the SOA since its founding, I am deeply and sincerely concerned for the welfare and future of our organization. I am committed to working diligently to ensure this wonderful organization continues its goals of providing member camaraderie; member assistance; member offspring scholastic assistance and, immediate contact with the family of those SOA members who passed from life to death.

The SOA was created primarily as a vehicle to afford a mutual convergence of men from the Recon and Hatchet forces of SOG and supporting personnel. It grew dramatically as it offered and encouraged membership to those who served as members of other Special Operations forces of the United States.

As our leaders in Washington realize, Special Operations forces are the very heart of modern warfare. Our fine SOF personnel have proven they are indeed an outstanding clandestine force which can assist in destroying entire armies and nations who have the destruction of the United States of America as their goal.

I believe totally that those men who have fought the enemies of the United States, on the battlefield especially during these most recent years to include Iraq and those men who might engage the enemies of America in clandestine combat, regardless of the location of the combat should be offered a General Membership into our SOA. I do believe that applicants for membership should have their credentials examined thoroughly – on a case by case basis and not accepted just to increase the size of the SOA. But, accepted because the candidate did engage in clandestine combat against a legitimate and recognized enemy of the USA. I would (as did the original membership of the SOA) include members of the CIA's clandestine force, who previously served in the Armed Forces of the United States and who have fought in combat with Special Operations forces.



ROBERT L. JACK, SOA # 414-GL, (Continued):

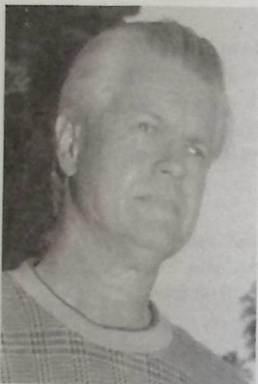
Attended Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.
National Service Officer, Disabled American
Veterans.

Corporate Security Officer, Busch Entertainment,
Williamsburg, Virginia

DOD Police, Yorktown Naval Weapons Station,
Yorktown, Virginia.

Local Law Enforcement Departments, Staff
Instructor, Police Academy.

JOHN S. MEYER, SOA # 492-GA



Thank you for the opportunity to compete as a candidate for
Director.

Twenty-one years ago my first "One-Zero" Robert "Spider"
Parks called me and informed me that I should join this
thing called the "Special Operations Association". He
suggested that I ignore any politics surrounding the
organization and simply focus on the unique individuals who
qualified for membership in this elite fraternity. Last year
I received my 20-Year SOA Pin and truly value it as a prized
possession.

When I reported to FOB-1, Phu Bai, in May 1968, one of the
very first individuals I met was Clyde Sincere. He was the
FOB XO. Subsequently, I was assigned to ST Idaho with
"Spider" and eventually became its "One-Zero", thus
qualifying me for membership in this esteemed organization.
Over these past years I've had little opportunity to really get
involved in the "inner-workings" of our organization. About
all I accomplished in the past was to recruit anyone I
happened to run across from my days in SOG and urge them
to join up and meet in Vegas annually with some of the finest
men I have ever had the pleasure of serving with in my life. I
wish to do more to enhance our organization. I can do that
by serving as a Director on the SOA Board of Directors.

This year I'm attempting to get as many living "Kingbee"
pilots who flew for the 219th VNAF Squadron in support of
SOG to SOAR XXVII. Additionally, as the United States
Library of Congress moves forward with its living history
project the SOA should record as much information as
possible from our membership to add to that history
especially now while they're alive and above ground. I am
prepared to actively support this project, but require your
assistance. Thank you again for considering my candidacy.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICIAL SOA BALLOT

2003

SECRETARY: CANDIDATES/SOA # (SELECT ONLY ONE)

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

() DAVID C. "Bulldog" SMITH*, SOA # 1242-GL

() _____ (Write In)

DIRECTOR: (SELECT ONLY TWO)

() CHESTER B. HOWARD, SOA # 1609-GL

() ROBERT JACK*, SOA # 414-GL

() JOHN S. "Tilt" Meyer, SOA # 492-GA

() WILLIAM D. "Billy" WAUGH, SOA # 005-GL

() _____ (Write In)

() _____ (Write In)

1 - * SOA Member currently serving on the SOA Board of Officers and Directors.

2 - Ballot must be mailed (Postmarked) to the Chairman, SOA Tally Committee, NLT 30 August 2003.

In the early 1950's he assumed Command of 77th Special Forces Group and the Psychological Warfare Center. During this time he was a proponent of Special Forces wearing Green Berets as an official part of the uniform. Col. Raff was born in New York City on November 15, 1907 and graduated from West Point in 1933. His awards include the Legion of Merit, Silver Star and several Bronze Stars. He retired in 1958 and settled in Bora Bora where he spent much of his time flying until age 82. He is survived by his wife, Alomah Make of Bora Bora; a son James, of Greenville, South Carolina; a daughter, Leila Boyer, of Harrisburg, Virginia; a brother, Herbert, of New York City, New York; 10 grandchildren; and several great grandchildren.

ALBERT SERVIE JR SGM, retired, died on March 26th 2003 at the Rex County Hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina. SGM Servie was born in Clinton, Indiana. He was a veteran of World War II, Korea and three tours in Vietnam. He retired with 27 years service, which included duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Special Forces Group, 3rd Special Forces Group, and MACV-SOG. Among his many awards and decorations are the Silver Star, 3 Bronze Stars, 4 Air Medals, Purple Heart, CIB 2nd Award and Master Parachutist Badge. After retiring from the U.S. Army he became a ROTC Instructor at Lee County High School, Sanford, North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Anna H. Servie; daughter, Martha Servie Capps of Dunn, North Carolina; son David Michael Servie of Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina; six grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

THERESE BROCK beloved wife of Joe Brock SOA # 1996-GL, passed away on January 27th, 2003.

GERALD K. GRIFFIN JR, son of Gerald K. Griffin SOA # 1003-GL, died on April 25th, 2003 from vehicular related injuries received on April 17th 2003, while performing duties as a San Diego police officer. He is survived by his father; mother, Patricia; and sister's Stacy and Leslie.

MICKI CURRIER beloved wife of Ed Currier SOA # 2075-GA, passed away on June 4th, 2003

"CHARLIE" Y'DIAM HMOK passed away on June 18th, 2003 at the Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro, North Carolina. Charlie fought with the French at Dien Bien Phu. He also served ten years with 5th Special Forces Group (Abn). Charlie will be remembered by his Mike Force Veterans.

"MIKE" MCGILLICUDDY passed away on June 18th, 2003 at St Anthony's Hospital in Tampa, Florida. Mike served with the 77th, 1st, 5th, and 7th Special Forces Groups. He was a member of the Korean Resident Team and served on "White Star". Mike was a veteran of the Korean War having served with the 187th Pathfinder Team. He was the recipient of numerous awards and decorations to include the Bronze Star for Valor, 2nd Award of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Pathfinder Torch. Mike retired on Okinawa in 1968 and was employed by the Army and Airforce Exchange System for 20 years. He just returned to the United States last year. We shall miss you Mike.

OBIT

LARRY A. THORNE

28 May 1919 – 18 October 1965

Larry Thorne was born in Vyborg, Finland on 28 May 1919. On 3 September 1938 he commenced his military career which would continue for the next 27 years almost without a pause. Larry participated in both the Winter and Continuation Wars against the Soviet Union as a Non-Commissioned Officer and subsequently as an Officer. On 13 July 1944 as a First Lieutenant, Larry was awarded the Mannerheim Cross on behalf of the Finnish government by Major General Uno Fagernas for his outstanding leadership and personal bravery against Soviet forces as the commander of a Light Infantry Company. In accepting Finland's highest medal for bravery, Larry became only the 144th recipient of the Knight of the Mannerheim Cross. The Mannerheim Cross is Finland's equivalency to the U.S. Medal of Honor.

Larry began his military career in the United States Armed Forces as a Private at Fort Dix, New Jersey in January 1954. Late in 1954 following Airborne Training he was assigned to the 77th SFGp (Abn) as a NCO. In 1956 he received a direct commission as a First Lieutenant, Signal Corps and was subsequently assigned to the 11th Airborne Division in Germany. He succeeded in transferring to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Bad Toelz (Bavaria) Germany in 1958 with some able assistance from then Major (the late-Colonel) Aito Keravuori. In 1962 while a member of the 10th SFGp (Abn), Larry successfully led his team members to the top of the Zagros mountains in Iran to recover a number of classified documents and the bodies of American personnel that had crashed in an US Army aircraft at the 14,921 foot level. Larry was subsequently transferred to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1963 to attend the Infantry Officers Advanced Course. Following his Infantry Course schooling he was assigned again to Special Forces in Vietnam, this time in January 1964 to the 5th Special Forces Group as Commanding Officer, A-734 at Chau Lang/Tien Binh. Larry returned to Vietnam for a second tour in early 1965 and eventually was assigned to MACVSOG. On 18 October 1965 while conducting a C&C mission in support of the very first OP-35 reconnaissance mission operating out of Kham Duc (led by Charles "Slats" Petry and members of RT Iowa), Larry's aircraft was reported overdue and Larry and the three Vietnamese crewman from the 219th VNAF Squadron perished as a result of their KINGBEE helicopter crashing into the side of a mountain near the border of Laos. At the time of the death Larry was still a Captain, however, shortly thereafter he was promoted to the rank of Major posthumously. In 1999 a combined Vietnamese/US Joint Task Force/Full Accounting recovered remains and miscellaneous equipment to include a Swedish "K" SMG from the crash site. Based on that limited evidence coupled with a series of forensic and DNA tests it has taken the USG till now to arrive at a conclusive decision that this was in fact Larry's ill-fated aircraft. Larry was interred at Arlington National Cemetery on 26 June 2003. Larry's nephew Juha Rajala, representing Larry's only surviving sister Salme received the National colors following the interment service.

SICK CALL The following SOA members have been reported as being ill, some severely, or are recovering from surgery:

William G. Ignatz	SOA # 2008-GA
Donald Snowwhite	SOA # 764-GL
Ed Clough	SOA # 43-GL
Conrad "Ben" Baker	SOA # 897-AL

Request you send a "get well" card, an e-mail, or make a telephone call to our members who are down. Do something. We wish them all well and a speedy recovery. If anyone is aware of another member who is ill, involved in a serious accident, or recovering from an operation, or have passed away, please advise a member of the SOA Board, preferably Jake Jacobson.

O.H. "Bane" Ashley III SOA # 583-GL has submitted a letter of resignation from Special Operations Association dated April 23rd, 2003. His resignation was accepted May 2nd, 2003. On May 24th O.H. Ashley's son, Matt Ashley, voluntarily withdrew from the SOA Scholarship Program.

MG ELDON A. BARGEWELL SOA # 1474-GA currently Director of the Center for Operations, Plans and Policy, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida has been assigned as the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training, Regional Headquarters North Europe, NATO, as well as the Senior U.S. Military Representative to the Netherlands. Congratulations. However, we hope that some how you can make SOAR XXVII.

And guess who MG Bargewell is replacing:

MG KENNETH R. BOWRA SOA # 1058-GL will be leaving his position with NATO to return to Fort Bragg, North Carolina to process for retirement 1 October 2003. MG Bargewell and MG Bowra were One-Zero's together at CCN. MG Bowra is planning a Retirement BBQ at Special Forces Association Memorial Building & Grounds, Fayetteville, North Carolina instead of a formal retirement ceremony sometime in late August or early September.

PETE LAURENCE SOA # 456-GA was elected Mayor of Clayton, California. Clayton is an inland suburb near Concord. Congratulations Pete.

RECOGNITION OF 20 AND 25 YEAR SOA PIN AWARDEES:

20-YEAR PIN AWARDEES:

At SOAR XXVII General Membership Meeting on Friday 26 September 2003, all members who attended SOAR I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and/or VIII (1977-1984) will be eligible to receive their 20-Year SOA Pin. If their number falls anywhere between 001 and 599 and they have not been presented with their 20-Year SOA Pin, they are eligible to receive this award.

25-YEAR PIN AWARDEES:

At SOAR XXVII Banquet on Saturday evening 27 September 2003, all members who attended SOAR I, II, III, and whose membership number falls anywhere between 001 and 099 will be eligible to receive their 25-Year SOA Pin if it has not been previously awarded. Specifically those SOAR III attendees who attended their first reunion held at the Landmark Hotel/Casino in 1979 and whose membership numbers are: 060, 067, 069, 070, 073, 075, 076, 080, 082, 085, 091, 096, and 099. The first two SOAR's were held at Caesar's Palace. FYI, any SOA member who either joined SOA or who attended SOAR I, II, and/or III, for all intents and purposes is considered "CHARTER MEMBERS" of SOA.

REUNIONS:

The 1st Special Forces Group Veterans, will be hosting a Reunion September 2-7, 2003 in San Antonio, Texas (See enclosed registration form).

The 5th Special Forces Group Reunion, hosted by Chapter 38, Special Forces Association, will be held September 17-23, 2003 in Oak Grove and Fort Campbell, Kentucky (See enclosed registration form).

"River Rats" Canadian Joint Air Training Centre, Rivers, Manitoba, will be holding a Reunion and Airborne Remembrance Day Sunday, November 2nd 2003 in the Town of Wasaga Beach, Ontario.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

On May 10, Mike Linnane presented a Chapter 57 check for \$2,066 to the Mbioi Montagnard family with a "Special" child named Lo Wih. This youngster is blind and severely disabled. The funds will be used to provide extra care and items for the kid. This presentation was made possible by the generosity of Special Forces Association and Special Operations Association.

SPECIAL REUNION ATTENDEE:

Karla Lutz Bowling, daughter of MG Joe Lutz, SOA Member # 743 will be attending SOAR XXVII with her husband. Karla is presently working on a book about her father. She would like to interview any of the attendees at SOAR XXVII who knew her father and can offer Karla any information. Arrangements are being made for a room where Karla can hold the interviews.

SPECIAL THANK:

I just want to thank a member who resides in the Perdido Key area who has contributed a great deal of time and assistance to me in accomplishing SOA business. Needless to say this member would get hostile if I mentioned his name. He would have me 86th from the Oyster Bar if I did. Anyway, Thank you.

RETURN TO VIET NAM

By

Clifford M. Newman

On 18 February 1971 a Special Forces reconnaissance team, RT Intruder, assigned to the Military Advisory Command Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), Command and Control North (CCN), was being exfiltrated under intense hostile fire from a hillside overlooking the infamous A Shau Valley on the Laotian border in what was then the northern part of South Vietnam. The terrain was very steep rising to over 5,000 feet with double canopy jungle in places. This was the second helicopter to lift off from the area. It consisted of a crew of 4 plus 3 Special Forces soldiers on "strings." This was a harness device known as a STABO rig that enabled small teams to be lifted out of a hostile area and literally dangle under the helicopter until it could find a safe and suitable place to land. As the helicopter cleared the jungle canopy it was shot down. One of the ropes broke miraculously and one of the three soldiers fell back to earth and was saved. The other two plus the helicopter crew all perished in the crash.

When such an incident occurred, and unfortunately it happened all too often, a recovery, or "bright light," team was sent in to render what assistance it could. I was with the bright light team, RT Habu, on this particular mission. The reason I ended up on this bright light was that the soldier who survived the incident was a good friend of mine, Sammy Hernandez. Sammy and I were together, along with Mel Hill, on the first credited combat HALO insertion about 5 months earlier. We were inserted without incident on the Laotian side of the ridgeline and located the crash within hours. We salvaged what we could and placed the remains in body bags. It was not a pretty sight. Because of the elevation the cloud cover came in rapidly and we had to remain overnight. We set up our site on a slope and planned for a long night. At first light we were assaulted from above by what we estimated to be a platoon size force, or about 50 enemy soldiers. There were 12 of us. They were firing and throwing grenades at us from above and our flanks and we had to make a hasty withdrawal down the steep hill. We set up a defensive position and held them off until we could be extracted ourselves. Unfortunately we were not able to recover the bodies from the previous crash.

About a year after this incident I returned to Vietnam, was seriously wounded and medically retired from the Army. Not a day has passed since without me thinking about that event and those bodies left behind. Then about 6 years ago a representative from the DPMO (Department of POW/MIA Office) contacted me. A Mr. Dave Demsey, who's brother, Walt Demsey, was one of the crew members killed in the crash, had researched the incident and requested to contact some of us who were involved. Through the Freedom of Information Act he was able to access old records and AAR's (after action reports). I was more than willing to speak with him and we have maintained contact to date regarding the event. About 4 years ago I was interviewed by Mr. Demsey and representatives from the DPMO while I was visiting the Special Warfare Center at Ft. Bragg, NC. I learned that the Joint Task Force – Full Accountability (JTF-FA), with headquarters in Hawaii, had investigated this case several times, but due to the very difficult terrain, limited equipment and lack of readily available aircraft could not accurately locate the site, now called Case 1706. It was determined that if one or more of the original team members could go back into this area the possibilities of locating the site would be greatly increased.

Then 3 years ago, myself along with two other remaining team members, Charles "Wes" Wesley from North Carolina and Lemuel "Mac" McGlothren from Alabama, got the nod to return to Vietnam with a team from the JTF-FA. Needless to say we were all very excited about this possibility. This would be Wes's third trip to this area. He was with the original team, then volunteered to return with the Bright Light. Then, tragically, a Russian MI-17 helicopter the JTF-FA was using crashed in Vietnam killing all aboard. That put our planned operation on hold. Last year we got the go ahead again and started getting ready. We went to the unit's headquarters in Hawaii for preliminary briefings and processing. Then on the day of our scheduled departure word came from Vietnam that our particular mission was canceled for various reasons. So we returned home very disappointed. The rumor was that we may try again this year. After the previous disappointments I tried not to allow myself to get too excited. But when I actually received my travel orders I couldn't think of much else and started preparing physically and mentally.

On 7 February 2003 our team of 3 veterans, later dubbed "The Three Amigos," arrived in Hawaii to begin processing for our trip to Vietnam. Our schedule included preliminary meetings with the entire team we would be traveling with, intelligence briefings, medical briefings, physical examinations, physical training and a rucksack march. We departed Hickam Air Force Base on 16 February with a refueling stop in Guam destined for Da Nang, Peoples Republic of Vietnam. I must admit that I was a little apprehensive returning to Vietnam after 31 years and to be entering a communist country. But our arrival went smoothly. We stayed in Da Nang for two days at the Furama Resort Hotel. A 5 star hotel operated by Germans located right on the South China Sea. It was probably the most picturesque hotel I've ever stayed in with all the modern amenities. The entire staff, including housekeepers, kitchen help, etc. had to have been at least high school graduates with a high degree of English language knowledge. Many spoke several languages. Vietnam had sure changed. My base camp from 1969 to 1971 was near Da Nang, but there were no traces of its existence. A few things became very noticeable to me shortly after arriving. Way back when there was always an odor in the air. A combination of Nuc Mam (a very pungent fish sauce used in most all Vietnamese cooking) and poor septic facilities. This odor was noticeably missing. I discovered that with an improving economy there was commercially manufactured Nuc Mam available and people could afford to buy it instead of brewing it at home. Also, the septic conditions had greatly improved. Another thing that surprised me was I did not see any armed soldiers in my travels. I had anticipated armed soldiers on every street corner but that was not the case. The number of motor scooters and bicycles had multiplied by the thousands, however. It appeared that navigating the streets would be quite a challenge.

We departed Da Nang in a 5 vehicle convoy headed to Hue, the ancient capital city on the famed Perfume River about 80 kilometers to the north. We were accompanied by the ever present VNO (Vietnamese Officials). I thought these guys were strictly government watchdogs, but they turned out to be very helpful, friendly and supportive of our cause. Ironically many were veterans also, but we got along fine with mutual respect. The trip north required crossing the Hai Van Pass on a perilous two-lane road over a mountain range with a beautiful view of the South China Sea and the surrounding countryside. We stopped for a pre-planned lunch at a small fishing village known for their shrimp. The shrimp were huge and freshly caught and boiled. We learned how to pop their heads, pull off the tails, peel and eat. They were delicious. As it was advised not to drink the water an abundance of local beer was brought out. It also was quite good. Then bottles of Johnny Walker appeared and the toasting began. Our adventure was off to

a good start. I was extremely and pleasantly surprised to learn that the Vietnamese paid for this lunch as a welcoming back gesture for us. We continued north and I couldn't help but notice that the countryside, with the exception of power lines and an occasional TV antenna, probably had not changed in hundreds of years. The rice paddies were lush and the coastal waters were blue and green. We arrived in Hue, which was a burning rubble the last time I saw it. It was now a fairly modern metropolis with new hotels, schools and a noticeable abundance of tourists. One of our first tasks was to learn to cross the street without getting run down by a motor scooter or bicycle.

From Hue we drove a short distance to the small city of Phu Bai. The unit I worked for from 1969 through 1971 operated a "launch site" at Phu Bai. From here we helicoptered into Laos for the reconnaissance missions I used to run. Again, there were no reminders of any former military sites at Phu Bai. We boarded a Russian MI-17 helicopter for the journey to the site we were looking for. This flight was the scariest part of the entire trip. We flew a visual reconnaissance and I recognized the ominous location we were seeking. The Vietnamese were contracted to construct a landing zone (LZ) as close to the site as possible. For various bureaucratic reasons this was not accomplished. We had to land in a cleared area at the base of the mountains. We were in the An Loi Valley at the southern tip of the A Shau Valley. This was at one time the most hostile area in all of South Vietnam. This was the main infiltration route from the infamous Ho Chi Minh Trail into the south. My job used to be to gather intelligence all along these routes in Laos and what was then the DMZ (the one-mile wide strip between North and South Vietnam). As we flew over the A Shau I couldn't help notice how green everything was. There were a few bomb craters still in evidence, but they were being used as irrigation ponds for the inland rice paddies and watering troughs for water buffalo, still the main work tool in that area. We unloaded our gear and prepared for what looked to be a very arduous climb up the mountains. We were surrounded by local Montagnard people from the Bru tribe. The ones I saw looked to be healthy, well dressed and as hard working as always. It took some effort to approach the children, as many probably had never seen Westerners. But they soon warmed to our presence. Things were beginning not to look too promising. We had anticipated spending the night to allow as much search time as possible. But our counterparts nixed that idea citing safety reasons. There were supposedly Lao bandits roaming the hills not to mention wild bears and tigers plus insects that can carry off small game. Actually I just think the Vietnamese didn't want to stay out there and the helicopter crew did not want to come back to get us. So, our time was restricted to just one day. We did start up the hill which was probably the hardest physical undertaking I have attempted in my adult life. It was practically straight up in often double canopy jungle with very slick footing caused by moisture. I was at the head of the party with the team leader, a guide (the local Montagnard Village Chief), and the main counterpart, a Mr. Dien. Also at the head was a US Army SSG who was born in Vietnam and was our main escort. Mr. Dien, it turned out, was a Colonel in the PAVN (Peoples Army of Vietnam). After about 1/3 of the way we determined that it would be impossible to reach the site in the time allowed so the team leader aborted the mission. The decent was as difficult as the climb magnified by the fact I wear a prosthesis but I managed to make it with limited scraps and bruises. We had crossed a pristine stream that I promptly fell into trying to cross it coming back down. One positive aspect was that we discovered our guide had been to the site about 10 years previously and described it exactly as I remembered it. After much further interrogation it was proven that a site did exist and there was sufficient information to warrant further investigation. Therefore our mission was deemed a success and Case 1706 remains open for at least another year.

We returned to Phu Bai and Hue on another perilous flight in the Russian Helicopter. We cleaned our gear, scrubbed down and rested. That evening we had a team dinner at a local great restaurant eating Vietnamese style by sampling everything that is put in the center of the table. Mr. Dien, the PAVN Colonel came by, a bottle of rum appeared and the toasts began. Mr. Dien presented each of us with a well-used Montagnard machete, which is their universal tool and a traditional symbol. The JTF-FA team presented us with a team picture they managed to get framed in a short period of time. We were escorted back to Da Nang the next morning while the JTF-FA team prepared to venture out on another of the 19 cases they were tasked to investigate. We departed the next morning for home via Hanoi, Bangkok and Tokyo.

It is not often that a person has an opportunity to re-live an experience from their past. It was very gratifying to me to be able to return to Vietnam, especially for such a worth while endeavor. As I told Col. Dien at our dinner in Hue, I was honored to be a part of this venture and that I always considered Vietnam a beautiful country with beautiful people. I was delighted to see that it still was.



Cliff Newman # 6, Joe Swartz, MD # 2001, Charles Wesley # 1643, Lemuel McGlothorn # 443

I.E Team 1, 72d JFA, An Loi Valley 21 February 2003



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, Junior College, Community College, Four-year college or university which will lead to 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 and must be a son, daughter or grandchild, natural or adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit and is a member in good standing of the SOA.

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 15 May 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 2002, 113 young men and women will have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the program in 1983.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE WRITE:

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

Revised: 01 June 2003

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The purpose of the SOA scholarship(s) is to perpetuate the memory of those personnel who served in a Special Operations Unit during the Vietnam War, and who were prisoners of war or missing in action (POW/MIA) and are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia ... and, to honor the late Colonel George C. Morton, an original Commander and innovator of special operations in Southeast Asia. Toward this end, the Special Operations Association annually awards a scholarship grant to the applicant(s) that most nearly meet the established criteria for the furtherance of their formal education in an accredited institution of higher learning. Maximum educational attainment under this program is that of an Undergraduate Degree (Bachelor's).

As such, the Special Operations Association will maintain a permanent fund within its treasury with ample monetary reserves to honor each and every scholarship obligation as approved by its members.

The scholarship grant(s) awarded by the Special Operations Association towards a Bachelor's Degree shall be not less than \$500.00 nor more than \$1,000 per year (maximum 4 years) as recommended by the SOA Scholarship Committee and approved by the membership at their annual reunion (SOAR).

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT CRITERIA

1. A high school graduate or a high school student anticipating graduation during the year of application, unmarried and under the age of 21 years at the time of application.

Applicants over the age of 21 years who have attended an accredited institution of higher learning will receive credit for each year of successful attendance thereby increasing the age limitation. Only a maximum of four years will be allowed as credit to satisfy this age requirement.

2. Applicants must be able to prove academic ability, interest in scholarship and leadership in relation to school and community affairs.
3. At least three (3) Teacher Evaluation forms from faculty members of the school that the applicant is presently enrolled in are required.
4. By submitting a formal application for this scholarship, the applicant or in the case of minors, the applicant's parents or legal guardian, agree with the following conditions:
 - a. All documents submitted, as part of the scholarship application or directly concerning any part of the scholarship offered is the sole property of the Special Operations Association.
 - b. The use of all awardees names, pictures and other personal information for the purpose of promotion, advertising, and news releases is granted to the Special Operations Association without any promise of favor or remuneration.

In this regard, all such names, pictures and personal information shall be used only for the betterment of this scholarship grant or for the recognition of the awardees. All releases shall be in good taste without maliciousness that will mar the Special Operations Memorial Scholarship Grant or any of the awardees.

- c. The choice of the recipient or recipients for this grant rests solely with the Special Operations Association. This choice shall be final and binding and all efforts to contest this choice shall be mute.

5. In the event that two or more applicants most nearly meet the established criteria, preference will be given according to the listed order:

A son, daughter or grandchild, natural or adopted, of an individual who served in a Special Operations Unit, and who is currently a member of the Special Operations Association in good standing, and who meets the scholarship grant criteria indicated above. A priority exception will be given to the sons and daughters of those Special Operations individuals who were KIA/POW/MIA and are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Annually, the Scholarship Committee with the approval of the Association membership will insure the adequate announcement of the availability for this scholarship grant through the various educational institutions, news media and other mass communications systems as required.

This announcement shall not be made earlier than 15 January or later than 15 May of the year that the award is intended to be granted. All announcements shall be documented and included in the Awards and Scholarship file, which will be maintained by the Association's Secretary upon the completion of the project.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS

The deadline for all informal inquiries and application requests is 15 March of the year in which the grant is to be awarded.

The deadline for the submission of all formal applications is 15 May of the year that the grant is to be awarded. After review, the Scholarship Committee will recommend the list of recipients to the SOA Board of Officers for approval no later than 15 June will.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT RECIPIENT NOTIFICATION

Approximately 1 July, Scholarship Recipients will be notified via mail of their award. Acceptance of this award by the recipient must be acknowledged in writing and return mail within thirty (30) days of notification.

Notification of all other applicants who were not selected shall be made within ten days after the recipient is selected informing them of their non-selection and thanking them for their participation.

Should the recipient decline the award for whatever reason, then the first alternate shall be notified as being selected for the award without delay.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT PRESENTATION

The awarding of this scholarship grant must be performed in a manner that honor and dignity the award. The award shall take place as soon as possible after acceptance by the recipient.

If possible, the presentation should be made at a formal occasion such as a class graduation or school assembly to insure proper recognition for the recipient. If this is not possible, The Scholarship Committee shall arrange a ceremony.

SCHOLARSHIP GRANT ADMINISTRATION

An account known as the Special Operations Association Memorial Scholarship Fund shall be maintained in a federally insured financial institution and will not be co-mingled with the funds of the general treasury of the Special Operations Association.

This scholarship fund will accumulate monies earned, donated, bequeathed or raised for that specific purpose. The Treasurer of the Special Operations Association shall be the trustee of this fund according to the By Laws as set forth by the Board of Directors, Officers and General Membership of the Special Operations Association.

Request your assistance in this matter, if you have any knowledge of the whereabouts of the 3 guys mentioned, please contact Pete direct. His email address is EPJDDS@aol.com

From: EPJDDS

I was contacted yesterday by JFFA J-32 Bill Forsyth who is reviewing the MIA loss of Lt Bruce C. Bessor (SPAF-2) and SF SFC Mike J. Scott both from CCC on 13MAY69 over the northern part of our AO in Laos west of Kham Duc (north of Dak Pek)

SOA member list doesn't include **Lt Clinton R. Davis, SFC Carlos D. Caro, and Sgt Ronald H. Bozikis**. I'm in contact with Frank Belletire so that one's not a problem but I sure could use some help finding the other three. All of these guys made statements in the original MIA report. It would be great if we could at long last account for these brothers in arms. Please include this in the newsletter and let's see if we can roust 'em out.

Thanx

Pete Johnston **EPJDDS@aol.com**

SPAF-4

SOA GL1586

13 May 69- **Bruce Carleton Bessor**, 1LT 02, of Fairfax, VA, USA Aviation Pilot FAC of the 219th Aviation Company, Ops 32 and **Mike John Scott** SFC E-7 of Newark, NJ, USASF, Covey Rider FAC, CCN, Da Nang, Ops 35 MIA-Presumptive finding of death. In a O-1G aircraft flying (FAC) radio relay for a recon team in the Vietnam/Laos border west of Kham Duc. The team had radio contact with the aircraft and could hear 15 rounds of 37mm anti-aircraft fire from their position and the sputtering of the engine then all contact with the aircraft was lost. When a search aircraft attempted to enter the suspected crash area, they had to retreat due heavy enemy fire. An aerial search conducted on the 18th failed to reveal anything.

An Elite Athlete

By Tom Demerly

It is dark and Mike Smith's clothing is wet.

Mike Smith is an athlete, an elite athlete in fact. He is a triathlete, has done Ironman several times, a couple adventure races and even run the Marathon Des Sables in Morocco -- a 152-mile running race through the Sahara done in stages.

Mike has some college, is gifted in foreign languages, reads a lot and has an amazing memory for details. He enjoys travel. He is a quiet guy but a very good athlete. Mike's friends say he has a natural toughness. He can't spend as much time training for triathlons, as he'd like to because his job keeps him busy. Especially now. This is Mike's busy season. But he still seems very fit. Even without much training Mike has managed some impressive performances in endurance events.

It's a big night for Mike. He's at work tonight. As I mentioned his clothing is wet, partially from dew, partially from perspiration. He and his four coworkers, Dan, Larry, Pete and Maurice are working on a rooftop at the corner of Jamia St. and Khulafa St. across from Omar Bin Yasir.

Mike is looking through the viewfinder of a British made Pilkington LF25 laser designator. The crosshairs are centered on a ventilation shaft. The shaft is on the roof of The Republican Guard Palace in downtown Baghdad across the Tigris River

Saddam Hussein is inside, seven floors below, three floors below ground level, attending a crisis meeting. Mike's coworker Pete (also an Ironman finisher, Lake Placid, 2000) keys some information into a small laptop computer and hits "burst transmit." The DMDG (Digital Message Device Group) uplinks data to another of Mike's coworkers (this time a man he's never met, but they both work for their Uncle, "Sam") and a fellow athlete, at 21,500 feet above Iraq, 15 miles from downtown Baghdad. This man's office is the cockpit of an F-117 stealth fighter. When Mike and Pete's signal is received the man in the airplane leaves his orbit outside Baghdad, turns left, and heads downtown.

Mike has 40 seconds to complete his work for tonight, and then he can go for a run.

Mike squeezes the trigger of his LF25 and a dot appears on the ventilator shaft five city blocks and across the river away from him and his coworkers. Mike speaks softly into his microphone; "Target illuminated. Danger close. Danger Close. Danger close. Over."

Seconds later two GBU-24B two thousand pound laser guided, hardened case, delayed fuse "bunker buster" bombs fall free from the F-117. The bombs enter "the funnel" and begin finding their way to the tiny dot projected by Mike's LF25. They glide approximately three miles across the ground and fall four miles on the way to the spot marked by Mike and his friends.

When they reach the ventilator shaft marked by Mike and his friends the two bunker busters enter the roof in a puff of dust and debris. They plow through the first four floors of the building like a two-ton steel telephone pole traveling over 400 M.P.H., tossing desks, ceiling tiles, computers and chairs out the shattering windows. Then they hit the six-foot thick reinforced concrete roof of the bunker. They burrow four more feet and detonate.

The shock wave is transparent but reverberates through the ground to the river where a Doppler wave appears on the surface of the Tigris. When the seismic shock reaches the building Mike is on he levitates an inch off the roof from the concussion.

Then the sound hits. The two explosions are like a simultaneous crack of thunder as the building's walls seem to swell momentarily, then burst apart on an expanding fireball that slowly, eerily, boils above Baghdad casting rotating shadows as the fire climbs into the night. Debris begins to rain; structural steel, chunks of concrete, shards of glass, flaming fabrics and papers.

On the tail of the two laser guided bombs a procession of BGM-109G/TLAM Block IV Enhanced Tomahawks begin their terminal plunge. The laser-guided bombs performed the incision; the GPS and computer guided TLAM Tomahawks complete the operation. In rapid-fire succession the missiles find their mark and riddle the Palace with massive explosions, finishing the job. The earth heaves in a final death convulsion.

Mike's job is done for tonight. Now all he has to do is get home.

Mike and his friends drive an old Mercedes through the streets of Baghdad as the sirens start. They take Jamia to Al Kut, cross Al Kut and go right (South) on the Expressway out of town. An unsuspecting remote CNN camera mounted on the balcony of the Al Rashid Hotel picks up their vehicle headed out of town. Viewers at home wonder what a car is doing on the street during the beginning of a war. They don't know it is packed with five members of the U.S. Army's SFOD-D, Special Forces Operational Detachment Delta.

Six miles out of town they park their Mercedes on the shoulder, pull their gear out of the trunk and begin to run into the desert night. The moon is nearly full. Instinctively they fan out, on line, in a "lazy 'W' ." They run five miles at a brisk pace, good training for this evening, especially with 27 lb. packs on their back. Behind them there is fire on the horizon. Mike and his fellow athletes have a meeting to catch, and they can't be late.

Twenty-seven miles out a huge gray 92 foot long insect hurtles 40 feet above the desert at 140 mph The MH-53J Pave Low III is piloted by another athlete, also a triathlete, named Jim, from Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He is flying to meet Mike.

After running five miles into the desert Mike uses his GPS to confirm his position. He is in the right place at the right time. He removes an infrared strobe light from his pack and pushes the red button on the bottom of it. It blinks invisibly in the dark. He and his friends form a wide 360 degree circle while waiting for their ride home.

Two miles out Jim in the Pave Low sees Mike's strobe through his night vision goggles. He gently moves the control stick and pulls back on the collective to line up on Mike's infrared strobe. Mike's ride home is here.

The big Pave Low helicopter flares for landing over the desert and quickly touches down in a swirling tempest of dust. Mike and his friends run up the ramp after their identity is confirmed. Mike counts them up the ramp of the helicopter over the scream of the engines. When he shows the crew chief five fingers the helicopter lifts off and the ramp comes up. The dark gray Pave Low spins in its own length and picks up speed going back the way it came, changing course slightly to avoid detection.

The men and women in our armed forces, especially Special Operations, are often well trained, gifted athletes. All of them, including Mike, would rather be sleeping the night away in anticipation of a long training ride rather than laying on a damp roof in an unfriendly neighborhood guiding bombs to their mark or doing other things we'll never hear about. Regardless of your opinions about the war, the sacrifices these people are making and the risks they are taking are extraordinary. They believe they are making them on our behalf. Their skills, daring and accomplishments almost always go unspoken. They are truly Elite Athletes.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Application for Membership



1. Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____
Print or Type: LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI MM/DD/YYYY
2. Address: _____ Apt. # _____
3. City: _____ State: ____ Zip: ____ + ____ Phone: () ____ - ____
4. Social Security Number : _____ Service Number (prior to 1969): _____
5. E-Mail: _____ @ _____
6. Application Type: General Member _____ Associate Member _____ (see types and requirements on page 3)
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. References (only a **General Member** with *personal knowledge of the above* may 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 my check or money order for \$35.00 (USD), payable to the Special Operations Association. A \$5.00 (USD) one-time filing fee is required with initial application (i.e., \$35.00 for initial application). Annual dues of \$30.00 (USD) are due thereafter by December 31 of each year. A \$5.00 (USD) re-application fee will be required after 31 January if dues are paid late. Initial Lifetime Membership is available to qualified applicants at a cost of \$305.00 (USD).

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 true, correct, and voluntarily given

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail Completed Application To:
Special Operations Association
ATTN: Tyler Furbish
Membership Chairman
P.O. Box 237961
Cocoa, FL 32923-7961

Applicant's Name: _____

Committee Member Name (typed or printed)	Signature	Check One			Justification
		Approved General	Approved Associate	Approved Operational Associate	

Final action by committee: _____ Name of committee chairman: _____

Date: _____ Signature of committee chairman: _____

Membership Criteria

The SOA is a fraternal organization made up of U.S. and allied participants in Special Military Operations conducted in combat areas during WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and others.

Types and requirements of membership

General Member

This is a **Voting Membership**. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually.
A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

Requirements

1. The applicant must have been assigned to one of the units recognized by this Association
2. The ROUTINE and REGULAR (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 qualifying assignment(s). This information may be crosschecked 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 for documentation *may* be waived if the application includes the name of at least one General Member who, from personal first-hand knowledge, can verify the applicant's qualifications.

Associate Member

This is a **Non-Voting Membership**. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually.
A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

Requirements

Government documentation assigning you to one of the units recognized by this association. If your ROUTINE and REGULAR (normal) duties at the assignment DID NOT place you in DIRECT THREAT/EXPOSURE to hostile fire, you *may* qualify for an associate membership.

Operational Associate

This is a **Non-Voting** status that may be awarded to certain non-US military and paramilitary personnel who were in combat with and under the direct control of US Armed Forces personnel. If such persons were members of the US military, they would qualify for General Membership. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually. A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

LIFE STATUS

A one-time charge of \$300.00 (USD) for General and Associate members. Members must be in good standing.

GUIDELINES

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 a SPECIAL (routine and regular) function, within hostile territory and forward of the area of influence of conventional ground combat units;

Or

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

Or

ROUTINE and REGULAR 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 directly crewed these land, sea, or air weapons or vehicles.

CAUTION: NO INTERPRETATION OF "SPECIAL OPERATIONS" AND THE ABOVE GUIDELINES MAY BE APPLIED TO EACH APPLICANT, THE FINAL DEFINITIONS SHALL REST WITH THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

"LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW"

ONLY 100 TICKETS @ \$25.00 EACH WILL BE SOLD DURING SOAR XXVII

The drawing will take place immediately following the banquet on Saturday evening 27 September 2003. Only those individuals taking part in the "DRAW" need to remain in the Banquet Hall. Your name and SOA number have already been placed on the back of each purchased ticket stub. You need not be present to win. If you are one 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 1st, 5th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 55th, 60th, 65th, 75th, 90th, and 95th numbers drawn.

There will be FIVE winners of \$50 each: the 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 80th numbers drawn.

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

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

After the 94th 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 98th number has been drawn, the remaining two ticket holders have a 50-50 chance of winning the \$1000. 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 XXVII, LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW, see Clyde Sincere for tickets at anytime during the course of SOAR XXVII.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION MEMORABILIA SALES (SOAMS)

965 No. Grandview Rd.

ifhetrick@msn.com

www.specialoperations.org/

PRICES AS OF JUNE 1, 2003

	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
RING, SOA Crest (Size _____) NEW DESIGN COMING FOR SOAR XXVII			
BAG, SOA, SHAVING / UTILITY W/ Embroidered SOA Logo	\$14.00	_____	_____
BAG, SOA (Western Pack) W/ Embroidered SOA Logo	\$20.00	_____	_____
BELT BUCKLE, SOA - Brass, w/ "SOA Logo"	\$20.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOA, Nickel Plate with Satin Finish (1 3/4" Dia.)	\$10.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOA, Sterling Silver (Old Design)	\$18.00	_____	_____
COIN, SOG PUC - COMMEMORATIVE	\$10.00	_____	_____
CERTIFICATES, SOG PUC - Set of two	\$10.00	_____	_____
DECAL, SOA CREST (Specify: Inside _____ / Outside _____)	\$ 3.00	_____	_____
DECAL, SOA CREST, SMALL (2 x 27/8 In.) Outside Only	\$ 2.00	_____	_____
DENIM SHIRT, Blue, Long Sleeve, W/SOA Logo (Specify: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____)	\$36.00	_____	_____
GOLF SHIRT, Embroidered w/ SOA Logo (Specify : S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____) (Specify : Black _____ White _____)	\$27.00	_____	_____
HAT, BASEBALL, BLACK- Direct Embroidered SOA Logo on front and Prairie Fire Wings on Back.	\$12.00	_____	_____
HAT, BOONY, COTTON, Embroidered with SOA or SOG logo-Size SM or L/XL Limited Quantities <u>Black, Brown, or Khaki</u> (Circle Size, Color, and Logo)	\$15.00	_____	_____
JACKET, SOA - MEMBER'S ONLY BRAND, Black w/ SOA Logo (Specify S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____)	\$37.00	_____	_____
MUG, COFFEE - <u>BLACK or WHITE</u> - (11 oz) with SOA Red Shield Crest- State Color _____	\$10.00	_____	_____
MOUSE PAD, SOA Logo	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
PATCH, BLAZER - Bullion, SOA Crest, 2 3/4"X 4"	\$21.00	_____	_____
PATCH, SOA - Embroidered with Red Shield Logo	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
PATCH, SOA LOGO - on Black Background	\$ 7.00	_____	_____
PATCH, PRAIRIE FIRE, Gold Embroidery on Black Background	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
PIN, HAT - SOA CREST, Red Background 1 1/2 Inch	\$ 5.00	_____	_____
PIN, LAPEL - Round Pewter, " Life Member "	\$ 3.00	_____	_____



PIN, LAPEL - Round, Gold Plate, " Life Member "	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
PLAQUE, SOA - Walnut, Laser Engraved	\$27.00	_____	_____
TIE, SOA - by Ties of Honor, Regular or Long Length with Heritage Label (Circle Length)	\$27.00	_____	_____
TIE BAR, SOA - Crest, Enamel w/ Red Background	\$ 4.00	_____	_____
T-SHIRT, SOA - Black (Specify : S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___)	\$11.00	_____	_____
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	_____	_____
BOOK, " AID and COMFORT ", Jane Fonda in North Vietnam-by Henry and Erika Holzer	\$22.00	_____	_____

SUB TOTAL _____

SHIPPING AND INSURANCE:	UNDER \$100.00	\$ 9.00	SHIPPING	_____
	OVER \$100.00	\$12.00	TOTAL	_____

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 _____ DISCOVER _____ AMERICAN EXPRESS _____ (Check One)

CREDIT CARD # : _____ Expiration Date: Month/Year _____

Signature (Name as shown on card) _____

SEND ORDER TO SOAMS ADDRESS AT TOP OF ORDER FORM



Special Operations Association

965 N. Grandview Road

Paulden, AZ 86334

June 30, 2003

Close Outs

SOA Shirts (with SOA Logo)

For Availability call (928) 636-4121 or email jfhetrick@msn.com

Denim Shirt, Short Sleeve \$27.00 each

Small	19
Medium	5
Large	4
X-Large	1
2X-Large	5
2X-Large	7

Golf shirt, Black Forest \$21.00 each

Small	6
Medium	1
Large	0 (None)
X-Large	0 (None)
2X-Large	8
3X-Large	0 (None)

Over Run / Close Out

Denim Shirt, MACVSOG PUC Commemorative (with MACVSOG Logo)

Short Sleeve \$32.00 each

<u>Color</u>	<u>Qty.</u>
--------------	-------------

Medium

Khaki	2
Blue	2

X-Large

Blue	1
------	---

OVER



Long Sleeve \$34.00 each

<u>Color</u>	<u>Qty.</u>
---------------------	--------------------

Small

Blue	2
Green	3

Medium

Blue	1
Green	1
Khaki	3
Natural	6

Large

Khaki	1
Natural	1

X-Large

Blue	5
------	---

2X-Large

Charcoal	5
----------	---

First come, first serve

Phone/email/credit card orders OK



ANNOUNCEMENT

Special Operations Association Ring - 2003

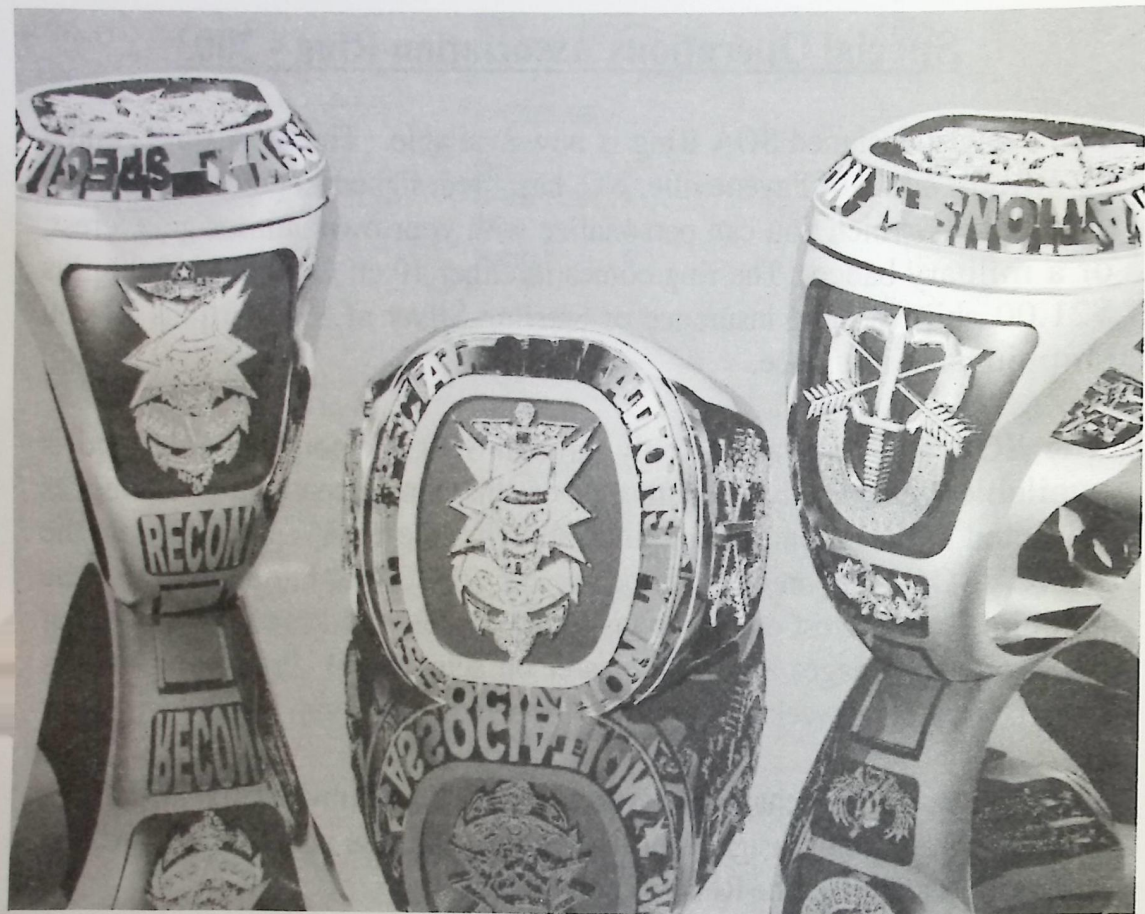
The Newly designed SOA Ring is now available. The SOA ring, crafted by Rhudy's Inc. of Fayetteville, NC, has a redesigned Logo on the top and side panels which you can personalize with your own unit insignia, crest, or a military badge. The ring comes in either 10 ct. Gold at \$550.00 plus \$21.00 shipping and insurance or Sterling Silver at \$325.00 plus \$21.00 shipping and insurance.

The SOA Ring is available only through SOA Memorabilia Sales and is available immediately upon receipt of this announcement. The ring as depicted in the accompanying illustration has the SOA logo on the top, the MACVSOG crest on one side panel with RECON at the bottom, and the Special Forces crest on the opposite side panel with Prairie Fire wings at the bottom. (Images are much clearer on actual ring) Production time is approximately 4 weeks and will be shipped directly from Rhudy's to you.

Engraving up to 7 characters is available and you must provide, in jpeg format, graphics of insignias or badges for your side panels if they are not already available in the Rhudy's graphics library.

Any questions concerning the ring or graphics should be addressed to the SOA Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS) custodian, Jim Hetrick.

Tel. (928) 636-4121
Email jfhetrick@msn.com





SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE

SUBJECT: Nine Digit ZIP CODE Number

TO: All SOA Members

Help us to help you. There is a requirement that "bulk mailing" requires the complete nine-digit zip code. As the After Action Report (AAR), Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and Newsletters are mailed via bulk mailing, it is imperative that we have the complete zip code. Bulk mailing is cost effective and saves the SOA a considerable amount of money.

We also need any change in your address as soon as you can get it to us. Bulk mailing is not forwardable.

We are requesting the following information:

NAME: _____ **SOA #** _____

ADDRESS: _____

NINE DIGIT ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E MAIL ADDRESS: _____

There are three ways to get your nine-digit zip code:

- 1st. Look at the address of any official mail that you have received.**
- 2nd. Go on line and enter USPS in the search/keyword block.**
- 3rd. Telephone: 1-800-275-8777.**

Attention SOA members:



Publishers of America's History

Turner Publishing Company, the leader in military, police, and fire commemorative histories; would like to join forces with the Special Operations Association to publish a library quality, hardbound book that will document the remarkable history and legacy of Special Operation to honor the men who have served in the Special Operations field.

A history of Special Operations, exciting personal experience stories, biographies of SOA members from all branches of service and photographs will be featured in a Commemorative History and Pictorial book of Spec Ops. The large 9x12 inch, coffee-table volume will also include a tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country and fellow soldiers.

This is a great opportunity to get the history of Special Operations documented and we invite and encourage you to be a part of this great legacy. It cannot be a complete history without your help. You are further invited to submit any action photographs that relate to Special Operations in general....historical or current.

To view all of titles that we have published you can reference our website at www.turnerpublishing.com. The production of this book will begin later this year and you will be instructed as to when and where to send your information at that time.

Sincerely,

**Gene Bedell
Turner Publishing Company
(615) 255-2665**

Special Operations Association Commemorative History and Pictorial Book

Production Guideline

(As of June 17, 2003)

Proposal: Publish a Commemorative History of Special Operations Association
Contents: Historical review of the SOA, with text and pictures
Personnel photographs/Pictorial Section
Bio's of the members and active duty personnel

I. Promotion

Key to the project is promoting the book within the association to request stories, photographs and information, generate excitement about the idea and solicit pre-sale book orders. This may be accomplished through promotional brochures, posters, intranet email announcements, pay stub announcements, etc. It may also be promoted during board meetings. This process typically takes approximately 6-8 mos. However, the publisher does not need a final order until the book design phase is initiated (see timeline).

II. Preparation

While the promotion is ongoing, work should begin to capture all data necessary to build the book. This includes history research for the publisher's writer to draft the history; gathering historical, candid and action photos to use throughout the book; and for various association details. The first step to this process is to determine content of the book, and make plans to make it happen.

The final step is to prepare all materials for the publisher. Any ideas the association board has should be documented. For example, in what order should the contents be designed? What photos go together and in what section? This information is key so that the publisher's staff team can effectively design the book to your specifications. The publisher's editor will help with this.

III. Production

Once all materials are in place, everything is turned over to the publisher, who will design the book. Once the book is designed a copy is printed for the committee to review, and make any changes or corrections. This proof will be returned to the publisher and changes made. About 3-4 weeks later a blueline proof will be issued to make sure all proof changes have been made. Finally, the books will be released about 3-4 weeks after return of the blueline.

1st S.F. Group Reunion 2003

Sept. 2 thru 7, 2003
San Antonio, TX
On the River Walk



Hilton

Palacio del Rio

200 South Alamo
San Antonio, TX. 78205
Tel: 210-222-1400
Fax: 210-270-0796

SUPPORTED BY CHAPTER XV THE ALAMO CHAPTER REGISTRATION

NAME: _____

Last First MI
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

GUESTS: _____

NAME(S) on ID BADGE(S) _____

- | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1. Full Registration (Prior to 1 Aug. 2003) | \$135.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 2. Hospitality Room Only: | \$ 40.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 3. Reception Only: | \$ 40.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 4. Picnic Only: | \$ 40.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 5. Banquet Only: | \$ 45.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| After 1 Aug. 2003 (All) | \$ 140.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 6. Golf Tournament: | \$ 60.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| 7. Golf Shirts: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ | \$ 20.00 X Nr. _____ | Total _____ |
| Total Amount Enclosed | \$ _____ | |

Hotel Rooms: Single/DbI \$112.00 River Side Single/DbI \$142.00 Prior to 4 Aug. 2003
Contact The Hilton At (210) 222-1400 or 1-800-HILTONS Request Rate for SFAC

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2003 1200 - 2200 Registration (In Hospitality Room)

1200 - 2400 Hospitality Room

Wednesday, Sept. 3

0900 - 1800 Registration

0900 - 1800 & 2100 - 2400 Hospitality Room

1900 - 2100 Reception (Cash Bar)

Thursday, Sept. 4

0900 - 1800 Registration

0900 - 2400 Hospitality Room

1200 - ? Golf Tournament Ft. Sam Houston. W/Lunch

Friday, Sept. 5

0900 - 1300 & 1700 - 2400 Hospitality Room

1400 - 1700 Picnic TEXAS WESTERN (on site)

Saturday, Sept. 6

0900 - 1700 & 2100 - 2400 Hospitality Room

1800 - 2100 Social Hour & Banquet Mexican Fiesta

Sunday, Sept. 7

0700 - 1100 Hospitality Room & Hotel Check out.

Mail to Vince Skeeba, 4710 Bohil, San Antonio, TX. Tel: 210-646-7151 Fax: 210-646-8463, Email skeeba@dav.net
or Ed Miller, 8523 Glen Echo Dr, San Antonio, TX, Tel 210-653-7615/Fax 650-0064, Email edsumil@aol.com



CHAPTER 38 SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 223
Fort Campbell, Kentucky 42223



24 April 2003

To: Chapter 38 Member and All SF'ers

SUBJECT: 5th Group Reunion

The 5th Group Reunion will be held on 17- 21 September 2003 located at the Holiday Inn Express in Oak Grove, Kentucky (about 3 miles from Fort Campbell) off of I24 (Exit 86) and Fort Campbell Boulevard (41A).

Hotel accommodations are at a special rate if you tell them you are Chapter 38, Special Forces Association and the 5th Group Reunion.

Presently the following VIPs have confirmed that they will attend:

MG Kenneth R. Bowra (Previous Group Commander)
Jake Jakovenko (Son Tay Raider)
Robin Moore (Author of The Green Berets and Hunt for Bin Laden)
Rich Liebe (Mayor of Hopkinsville)

Updates are continually posted at <http://www.sfa38.org>

If you want to get these updates then send an empty message to: reunion-subscribe@sfa38.org or this may be the last update that you receive via e-mail.

Respectfully,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Da Rock Sends.....

"It is the man that makes the Beret; not the Beret the man."- Da Rock, 1979

Stephen C. Stone
MAJ (RET), SF
Secretary, Chapter 38
Special Forces Association

Phone: (270) 881-4094 Extension 13
Cellular: (270) 881-2570

Email: secretary@sfa38.org
Website: www.sfa38.org

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What's so special about SPECIAL FORCES?



SPEAK OUT



William E. Edge

What's so special about Special Forces? I've heard that question 20 years, and answered it 13. To me, this is what's special about SF: it's the only combat unit in the US Army where enlisted men can and do command troops, in schools as teachers, in guerrilla bands as organizers, in foreign armies or in para-military units as advisors and leaders. Where else can staff sergeants be assigned as platoon leaders, sergeants first class as company commanders or master sergeants as battalion commanders?

You don't think three companies of 150 men each and a 40-man scout platoon is a battalion? Why? Because they were "Yards" or "Cambodes" or "Nungs?" Hogwash! Did you ever hear of the Mike Force? Delta, Sigma, Omega or CCN? Did you ever hear of the "Snake" teams or the "States" teams? All those were led by US Special Forces men and NOT by the bare-chested, snake-eating, guitar-playing, media-induced image of the "Green Berets" (How I hate that term applied to men, damn it. A green beret is a hat and nothing but a hat. Special Forces are SOLDIERS!).

The Special Forces I refer to are those who worked from Khe San, Ashau, Phubai, Kontum, Dak To, Lang Vei and a thousand other obscure places that were denied to the enemy because 6 or 12 SF soldiers lived there with their "Yards" and dared "Charlie" to come take it. And he did, and other SF soldiers and their "Yards," "Cambodes" and "Nungs" in the Mike Force fell on him and waged a fearsome gut-twisting war on him, no quarter asked, none given.

War waged at the bottom of the line, your guys vs his guys, no big 175s or 8 inches for cover. Air when you could get it, and we got plenty, usually called in by sergeants, those lovely big hobos, and the sleek fast movers, all bringing death from the sky to our common enemy. Special Forces' NCOs played such roles. Sixteen Medals of Honor and more than 80 DSCs, 50 per cent of them awarded posthumously, were a partial reward.

The heart of the SF group is the "A" detachment, 10 sergeants and 2 officers, a self-contained, do-anything group of men. And yet they are the first to tell you it cannot be done without the support from those unsung heroes who man the supply, commo, personnel, psy war, civic action and flight organizations farther back.

You see, it really is a team, and the "A" team is only part,

the blade of the ax. But it takes the whole ax to cut the trees, and that's the real SF: the whole ax. Officers, good men with blisters and cuts from stringing wire, sunburn and bug bites from filling sand bags, bruised shoulders from firing BARs and 1919 A6s (oldies but goodies), were in the mud and blood with their troops. These officers wore oak leaves and bars, but you couldn't tell because their shirts were hanging on a tree limb while they sweated with the troops.

Blue Max, Splash, Iron Mike, the Greek, Roger P. Bucky and a blue-eyed black captain with steel nerves were leaders you could respect and never forget. Hard-eyed majors who personally led a relief party to rescue a wounded sergeant first class, cut off, lost and pursued by the remnant of a NVA company, and brought him back, shot, but alive.

Lean and mean "slick" pilots who stood that groaning Huey on its tail to load wounded "Yards," or yanked you out on a McQuire rig for a ride you would not forget. And soft-voiced chaplains giving comfort to the dying in a bloody mortar pit, in the drenching rain, to a man whose god was probably a spirit. And the medics. Ah, those medics, the eighth wonder of the world. Their routine feats read too much like fiction, but they were more than that. They were also superb riflemen, scouts, killers as well as healers.

That was Special Forces. It wasn't all the sporting bar and Saigon. Rather, it was hard-eyed reality and too much death. We had our crooks, our drunks and our quitters, all to our shame. We also had our giants, and, by God, most were enlisted men, there because they wanted to be there.

Professionals, now semi-dormant, training as force multipliers, honing their skills. They are few in number, but strong in spirit and mind. They await the next call. Oh, how I will miss their friendship, their respect, their scorn and hate. It's all part of being "special."

Mr. Webster defines "special" as "distinguished by some uncommon quality, designed or selected for some particular purpose, having an individual character, noteworthy, unique."

And remember, go to any division in the US Army and count right shoulder patches, and you will see that Special Forces cadred out a lot of top notch talent to the rest of the Army. I'm sure you get the point, anyway. That's how I answer the question.



SOAR XXVII

24-28 SEPTEMBER 2003
PLAZA HOTEL & CASINO
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

AFTER ACTION REPORT



**"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."**

NOTICE TO SOA MEMBERSHIP

“The opinions expressed by the writers and editor are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression of the Special Operations Association with the exception of the actual SOAR XXVII AAR. Advertisements for products or services do not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Special Operations Association.”

Photo Front Cover

**Change of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training,
Regional Headquarters North Europe, NATO.**

Incoming

**MG Eldon A. Bargewell - MG Kenneth R. Bowra
One Zero RT Michigan One Zero RT Cobra**

Retiring



Special Operations Association (SOA)

5130 East Charleston Blvd.

Suite 5-583-F

Las Vegas, NV 89142

www.specialoperations.org

December 31, 2003

Subject: **SOAR XXVII AAR**

"SOAR XXVII, you had to be there."

SOAR XXVII was by most accounts a great experience and by some, "the best SOAR ever". You had to be there. The camaraderie was exceptional and we had a great time. There were approximately 300 members and their guests who enjoyed the good times and a great banquet. MG Eldon Bargewell, SOA # 1474GL, an old friend to many, was gracious enough to be our guest speaker and presented the SOA with the CCN Recon Company Guidon. It was truly a memorable moment and the Guidon, a piece of MACVSOG history, is certainly worthy of a place of prominence in any of the military museums.

We also recognized the 219th Special Operations Squadron, VNAF, "**King Bees**". There are 70 members of the King Bees in the United States and those who served with them in Vietnam know what a courageous and dedicated group of Aviators they are. Many members of the SOA can attest to how many times they disregarded their own personal safety and risked all to pull Reconnaissance Teams, evacuate wounded, or bring in the ammunition and supplies needed to survive. We honored nine members of the King bees at the ceremony where we presented them with a letter of appreciation extolling their courage and contributions to MACVSOG operations. We also presented an SOA coin with their names and "King Bee go down" engraved on it. All of the King Bees will receive a letter and coin so they will know that we hold them in high esteem and that we have not forgotten their valiant efforts during the time we served together during the Vietnam War. My personal thanks to Major Nguyen quy An for his invaluable assistance in organizing the salute to the King Bees.

We also raffled off an SOA commemorative pistol. It was a Browning "Capitan" model 9mm pistol with adjustable rear sight. The brochure on the pistol is included with this document and shows what a great work of art it is. I think it appropriate to recognize Don Benjamin, SOA # 899GL for being our project officer, working together with "America Remembers" President Paul Warden and Project Officer Jeff Belcher to carry out this project. "America Remembers" Donated pistol # 1 for the raffle and we have purchased pistols #'s 2 through 4 for the raffle at SOAR XXVIII through SOAR XXX. Hopefully, there will be other firearm projects with "America Remembers" in the not too distant future.

All in all, this years banquet was very special and it was the icing on the cake for SOAR XXVII, which was very special in it's self. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who attended for making it a great one. For those who were not able to attend, "You

had to be there", and we're sorry you missed it. We hope to see you next year for SOAR XXVIII. We'll try to make it even better.

Election Results

There were three members elected to the SOA Board of directors during the 2003 election. David "Bulldog" Smith SOA # 1242GL was reelected to the position of SOA Secretary and Billy Waugh, SOA # 005, and John "Tilt" Meyer, SOA # 492GL, were elected to the SOA Board as Directors for the first time. I believe that the election of Billy and John reflects the trend of more members stepping up with a willingness to take part in the governance of the SOA. It is healthy to have new faces and ideas on the Board and a part of the revitalizing process within Our Association. "Congratulations" to Bulldog, Billy, and John and welcome to the Board. I think you will find working in the governing process of the SOA both interesting and rewarding.

Scholarship

We awarded three Scholarships this year. Elizabeth Kennedy, daughter of Charles Kennedy III, SOA # 2186GA, Lisa Bennett, daughter of Dale Bennett, SOA # 910GL, and Stephanie Jalloway, daughter of Richard Jalloway, SOA # 679GA were awarded scholarships based on merit. Their scholastic records attest to the fact that they have prepared themselves well to continue their education. We are happy to support their efforts and wish them success in their endeavors.

Volunteers

There is a long list of folks to thank for their assistance at SOAR XXVII. There is always more than enough work to go around and as usual, there were many who stepped forward to pitch in and lend a hand. There were also many who volunteered their services that we weren't able to put to work. That was because it isn't just a matter of volunteering, but also of scheduling, training, and timing. When you volunteer after everything is operational, we are reluctant to interfere with the flow. Those involved already know the process and when registration grinds to a halt, pressure mounts, frustration surfaces, and tempers flare. In other words, someone goes off and then it becomes a matter of defusing the situation and dealing with the resulting hard feelings. We really do appreciate those who volunteer to help out and our task for next year is to mobilize those who volunteer in a manner that will enable us to better utilize the volunteer resources. So, don't stop volunteering, but remember to include your willingness to help by filling out the volunteer area on the registration form. That lets us know how you would like to help and we are committed to getting a better handle on this area for next year.

I would like to start by thanking Nick Godano, SOA # 872GL, and Bill Sylvester, SOA # 973GL, for their efforts as Sergeants-at-Arms for SOAR XXVII. They directed traffic and helped keep the General Membership meeting orderly. What, on the face of it, seems to be an insignificant detail really is not. To have Sergeants-at-Arms to call upon when things go awry can be a real lifesaver in the ensuing confusion. Thanks to Nick and Bill for stepping up.

Donna Hephner, wife of Reunion Chairman Patrick Hephner, along with Annette Davis, Laf Keaton, Betty Trabue, Karen Dehnke, and Sandy Hetrick made it happen for Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS). Since they took it over at SOAR, it has never been such a smooth operation. A special thanks to you for your dedicated assistance, you make a big difference.

We had a potential difficult situation arise when Bill Garcia and his son, Greg, were unable to attend SOAR this year. Bill and Greg normally run the bar operation and thanks to Steve Goth, Bob Golden, Alan Keller, and Joe Brock bar operations were absolutely flawless. We owe you guys a vote of thanks for stepping up. Bill, we hope you and your son are back with us again next year. We missed you.

Also, we would like to thank Mrs. Jim Day and J. D. Bath for their assistance during registration. Mrs. Day stood watch over registration while the General Membership Meeting was in progress and J.D. assisted Clyde Sincere and Alan Keller at the fund raising station where the donations were accepted and the beer mugs were presented to the attending members. A couple of extra hands make a big difference. Thanks for your help.

Range firing conducted at the Boulder Rifle and Pistol Club Range in Boulder City, NV was successful thanks to Mark Kinsler, John McClaskey and the volunteers who make it run smooth and safe. The Scholarship Fund realized some financial support from the range firing. We ran it differently this year and based it on a prepaid basis with a minimum of forty firers to be sure we didn't go in the hole. It worked well. Although I don't have the names of all those who volunteered to assist at the range, we want to thank you all for your help.

When it comes to volunteers, few do it better than the Board of Directors and Special staff. I am deeply indebted to them not only for their work at SOAR, but also for the time and effort they put in through out the year. They do yeoman's work whether it be on the email net dealing with situations and decisions that can't wait, the many projects that make the real difference in making the SOA the excellent organization that it is, and the effort and expense of coming to the mid-year planning conference and the early SOAR Board of Directors meeting. They give a lot of their personal time and resources to make the SOA not just a good organization, but an organization of excellence that proudly represents its members who have excelled in the field of Special Operations. I tip my beret to you, the Board and Special Staff.

If I have omitted anyone, I sincerely apologize for the oversight. The effort of every person who lends a hand in any way, large or small, contributes mightily to the success of SOAR. Your efforts and willingness to take part are deeply appreciated. Thanks to all who gave of themselves.

Board of Directors meeting-SOAR XXVII - 2003

The most pertinent topics of discussion are briefly summarized in the following paragraphs.

Treasurer – The Treasurer requested that all checks to the SOA, for whatever purpose, be made payable to the SOA and include the member's SOA number. This will facilitate processing and save considerable time for those dealing in the financial affairs of the SOA. Please remember to make those checks payable to the SOA and to include your SOA number.

Membership – The Board discussed the Units List and added current day units to the list. Most were units listed as current day Special Operations Units. The Units List reflects those units whose personnel are most likely to qualify for membership in the SOA. The bottom line is that any person applying for SOA membership, regardless of unit of assignment, must meet

the requirements as outlined in the SOA bylaws for General or Associate membership. The most significant units to be added were the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) and all of the Special Forces Groups.

Metal Life membership cards have been issued to all of the SOA Life Members except those who fail to keep their addresses current. It is an on going problem to keep addresses up to date and causes increased mailing fees and inconvenience. If you are a life member and haven't received your metal card, please contact the SOA Executive Director.

SOAR Dates – SOAR dates for the future were set back a week so that there would be an additional week between SOAR and the other reunions and conventions held every year in September. We hope it will ease the time crunch for those who attend the other functions too. SOAR XXVIII will be 29 September through and including 3 October 2004.

Dues – The Board approved the increase to \$30.00 Annual and \$300.00 Life dues. Additionally, the board elected to institute a \$5.00 administrative fee for renewal of lapsed dues. The Board declared an amnesty or moratorium on the administrative fee until January 31, 2004. Those renewing their membership prior to that date will not be assessed the fee. More significantly, the Board elected to stop all SOA mailings to delinquent members as a cost reduction measure. This will save the cost of printing and mailing to those whose membership is not current.

Web Page – It is anticipated that the SOA web page will be expanded to include a member's only area. There are portions of the web page under construction and the web page is and will continue to be a work in progress.

SOA Ring – The final prototype SOA Ring was approved for production and the rings are available through Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS). The ring can be viewed on the SOA web page.

Board Presentations – There were three presentations made to the BOD during this session.

1. John Giduck of "Archangel, Inc.", a tax-exempt anti-terrorist organization, and an attorney with considerable expertise in the area of tax-exempt organization membership, explained the membership requirements and how those requirements affected those members of our organization who are not U.S. Military Veterans. Under the guidelines, the state determines the criteria for membership and we, by declaring who is and who is not a member, influences greatly the status of membership of those in our Association. The right to vote is a large part of those criteria. As explained by John, we are not at this point, in violation of the IRS Codes and therefore only need to make minor changes in our bylaws and articles of incorporation to insure we stay that way

John also pointed out that the state of Nevada is the most corporate friendly state in the union. He pointed out the procedures for registering as a corporation and doing business in the state of Nevada. After some deliberation the Board approved the recommendation and directed that it be done as soon as reasonably possible. This action is linked with the membership determination process as noted in the previous paragraph and further solidifies our position on membership, as we will have greater latitude in the determination process.

2. Le Nature Water Products – George Marlin proposed to the Board that if the members of the SOA would assist Le Nature Products to gain entry into the Commissary system, Le Nature would donate a portion of revenue gained in those sales to the SOA.

Scholarship Fund. Le Nature provided a pallet and a half of their products for consumption at SOAR XXVII. The Board approved this venture. The greater the effort on our part, the better the opportunity to earn funds for the Scholarship Program.

Note: There has been feedback from the Commissary system that indicates we're having an impact. Based on that information, George Marlin has made a donation of \$250.00 to the SOA Scholarship Fund. Keep up the pressure.

3. Turner Publishing - Gene Bedell of Turner Publishing proposed a joint venture with the SOA to produce a commemorative history of the SOA. It would be similar to the books they have produced for many military units and would highlight the units that make up the SOA and the history of the SOA itself. The Board approved this project and appointed Director Gene McCarthy as the project officer to coordinate the project.

Note: In discussing the project with Gene, he is disappointed in the slow takeoff thus far. There is a flier with this after action report outlining what is going on and we are soliciting every member's cooperation in conjunction with this project. The book will be only as good as the effort the membership puts into it. Please respond to the requests Gene has generated in order to help flesh out the unit histories. We want this book to be a superb representation of the members, units, and the SOA as an organization.

General Membership Meeting – SOAR XXVII - 2003

This General Membership Meeting (GMM) was the easiest one I have chaired. The general spirit of cooperation and fraternity was evident and the meeting was smooth, except for the bylaws portion. It was also shorter than usual and that made everyone happy. Much of what was considered, discussed, and approved by the membership has been discussed in other parts of this letter and within other segments of the After Action Report (AAR). Below are the other topics that need to be reiterated to you, the membership.

SOA Bylaws

The latest changes to the bylaws were presented by Director Earl Trabue and approved by the membership. They were not the last of the changes, but there certainly will not be too many more. We are actively working on the final edition of the bylaws and with the help of volunteer attorney John Giduck; we are tidying up the SOA Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. They will be reviewed by the SOA Board of Directors and if approved will be announced in the SOAR XXVIII Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP) and presented to the membership at the SOAR XXVIII GMM. We sincerely hope that this will end the project and provide the SOA with an established set of Articles and Bylaws that will carry us far into the future without requiring further "tweaking" for quite some time. The bylaws procedure has been a grueling experience for all concerned.

SOA Financial Status

The short fall in SOA income for year 2002 sounded the alarm and prompted a review of the SOA income structure. Most of us have just taken for granted that the funds for to operate the SOA would just be there like always. With the wake up call of the income short fall we took a good look at what happened and took measures to shore up the SOA's fiscal health. The increase in SOA membership dues, the increase in SOAR registration fees, utilization of outside sources of income, and the possibility of making donations to the general operating fund were presented to those attending.

It is a fact that our primary source of income is the yearly SOAR registration fee and it is very likely that the Board of directors will elect to raise the registration fee to \$125.00 for SOAR XXVIII. After so many years with out raising registration fees, it was almost traumatic to think about increasing the SOAR registration fee. But, when you realize that the registration fee is the primary source of SOA income and that our reunion is one of the best of the reunions or conventions available to our members, it is still the best reunion value out there. On top of that, prices have gone up and we have no choice but to bring fees in line with costs.

Scholarship Fund

Scholarship income tumbled during 2002 also. Cash donations dropped as well as donations of items to be raffled off in support of the scholarship fund. A concerted effort was made to provide raffle prizes, solicit cash donations, and stimulate raffle ticket sales. If we are to maintain a viable scholarship program, the level of support must increase and be maintained. The practice of publishing of the Honor Roll of Donors, as it was done in the past, was recommended from the floor and approved by a vote of the membership in attendance. The Honor Roll of Donors recognizes those who make contributions to the scholarship program.

Memorabilia Sales

The future of Memorabilia Sales (SOAMS) came into question. It is time for a change of SOAMS custodian. The options are to provide SOAMS sales only at SOAR or for someone to volunteer to take over and continue the operations as they have been in the past. A change over is being contemplated and will hopefully take place in the first part of 2004.

Memorial Plaque

The SOA has for years provided cards and flowers for our deceased members. It has created logistical problems in finding someone who is in the area of the memorial service who can order flowers and represent the SOA at the service as well as trying to keep the costs at a reasonable level. The costs vary from area to area and it is extremely difficult to manage costs. The SOA Board approved a memorial plaque to be sent to the family of the passing member. SOA Chaplain Chuck Luczynski has undertaken this project and will send a card to the family and follow up with the SOA memorial plaque. The membership was informed of the program and there were no objections. The program is being implemented at this time.

In closing...

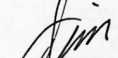
SOAR XXVII was a resounding success. I have credited the SOA Board, Special Staff, and volunteers for that success, but they are not the whole story. There was a different attitude this year and it prevailed.

In the past, I have often wondered if some of our members sit in the hospitality room and scrutinize those sitting at the tables around them, wondering if their membership was as equal as their own.

After having been a member of the SOA for more than ten years, I was once approached by a new member who demanded to know in what unit I had served. Upon explaining to him that I had served with MACVSOG, he commented skeptically that he had never seen me there. I thought that was presumptuous of him and it smacked of self-importance, arrogance, and ignorance. Since that time I have never concerned myself with the quality of membership of those members in good standing. I assume that they were vetted in the same manner that I was and that someone with whom they served, vouched for them. Admittedly, that may not be true in every instance, but we are tightening up the process because the membership is, rightfully so, concerned. However, I find it difficult to be overly concerned with everyone else when I barely have time to spend with those of my friends that I dearly love as brothers. It just isn't worth the time and I don't have the time to spare for it.

"The attitude you brought to SOAR this year made the difference. The brotherhood and camaraderie is back! If you weren't there, you missed something special."

Respectfully,



Jim Hetrick
President, SOA

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



1 January, 2004

SUBJECT: A "2004 Dues Reminder"

TO: SOA Annual Members

Dear SOA Annual Members (General, Associate & Operational Associates):

If you are an Annual Member, and haven't renewed your membership, either at SOAR XXVII or by mailing in a check to renew, your membership has lapsed as of January 1st 2004. In order for your membership to be reinstated, you are requested to submit a check in the amount of thirty dollars (\$30.00) made payable to the SOA, and mailed to the Treasurer at the following address:

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

In accordance with the SOA By-Laws, Article IV G 1, a member who has not renewed his membership by February 1st will be considered delinquent and will be assessed a \$5.00 fee to reinstate.

I am confident that you do not wish to see your membership terminated. You would not receive the SOAR AAR (After Action Report), the PRP (Pre-Reunion Packet), and you would be deleted from SOA Internet Mail List, and most important, no participation in the Annual Reunion in Las Vegas on the 29th of September through the 3rd of October 2004.

The amount of \$30.00 will be your dues for the year 2004 through December 31st 2004. Your SOA Membership card and number will remain the same. If you have questions regarding your membership status, please contact Ty Furbish, Membership Committee Chairman, at: (530) 706-9595 or via the Internet at: tyfurbish@earthlink.net.

In advance, thank you for renewing.

Fraternally:

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



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Post Office Box 34500
Pensacola, Florida 32507-4500

FACT SHEET

The Special Operations Association (SOA), founded in 1977, is a 2,260+ member fraternal organization of American and foreign citizens who took part, or are now taking part in missions deep within hostile territory. Its members include World War II and Korean War Veterans as well as those from the more recent conflicts in the 1960's, 1970's, 1980's, 1990's, and into the 21st Century.

Our Association is composed primarily of US Army Special Forces personnel, but also includes Air Commandos, Navy SEALs, Marine Force Recon, veterans of other elite organizations, both military and civilian, who took part in special operations, and members currently on active duty who are conducting or supporting special operations.

The specific and primary purposes of the Special Operations Association are:

1. To unite fraternally all war veterans who either are now conducting or supporting classified "Special Operations" in hostile enemy territory, or have been assigned to United States or foreign military units which conducted such operations; and
2. To perpetuate the Special Operations *esprit de corps*; and
3. To commemorate fittingly the memory of those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW / MIA; and
4. To perpetuate the memory of Colonel George C. Morton through the management of the Association's Scholarship Fund. Since 1983, over \$361,500 have been awarded or committed to many deserving young scholars.

Annual membership dues are \$30.00 U.S. Lifetime membership fee is \$300.00 U.S.

Our correspondence consists of the Spring Newsletter when appropriate, the Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP), and the Special Operations Association Reunion After-Action Report (AAR).

The Special Operations Association is recognized by the Department of Defense and by the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit [501c(19)] veteran's organization operating on tax deductible donations.

The SOA will hold its twenty-eight annual reunion (SOAR XXVIII) in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Plaza Hotel and Casino during the period 29 September - 3 October 2004. We anticipate in excess of 700 members and guests. Hotel reservations can be made by calling 1-800-634-6575.

Updated 11/03

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
Officers and Directors
2003 - 2004

President: James F. Hetrick, SOA # 36-GL (702) 647-6904
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SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
Special Staff/Committee Chairman
2003 – 2004

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SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

SOAR XXVII SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

22 SEP – 28 SEP 2003

MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER

0900 – 1700 -SOA BOD Meeting

TUESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER

0900 – 1700 -SOA BOD Meeting

WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200 -Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800 -Late Registration

THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200 -Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800 -Late Registration

1300 – 1400 -CD's, Maps & Web Sites by

-Steve Sherman/Bob Golden

1500 – 1600 -POW/MIA Report

-Norm Doney

FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

1000 – NLT 0200 -Hospitality Room

1000 – 1800 -Late Registration

1000 – 1130 -Vietnam Operations by

-Cliff Newman/Dickie Hites

1130 – 1330 -Lunch Hosted by SOA

1330 – 1700 -SOA General Membership Meeting

SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

0700 – 1300 -Range Firing

1000 – 1700 -Hospitality Room

1000 – 1400 -Late Registration

1700 – 1820 -Cocktails – Cash Bar – Derby Terrace

1830 – 1845 -Posting of the Colors

1845 – 1850 -Toasts

1850 – 1900 -Introduction of VIP's and Guests

1900 – -Cash Bar Reopens

1900 – 1915 -Presentation of 25 Year Pins

1915 – 2030 -Banquet Dinner

2030 – 2055 -Guest Speaker Remarks

2055 – 2100 -Special Award Ceremony

2100 – 2115 -Retirement of Colors

2115 – 2130 -Break

2130 – 2215 -SOA Raffle

2215 – NLT 0200 -Hospitality Room Bar Open

SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER

0800 – 1200 -Hospitality Room

1200 – NLT -Hospitality Room is Closed

1200 – NLT -Hotel Check Out



SOA ODDS AND ENDS

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

RONALD J. COLLINGWOOD SOA # 199-GL passed away on September 12, 2002 at the VA Medical Center in San Diego, California. Cause of death was respiratory failure and bacterial pneumonia. He was cremated and ashes were scattered at sea off San Diego County, California on November 11th, 2002. His membership application listed assignment to the Phoenix Program in Cambodia and Vietnam. He was a member of the Association of Former Intelligence Agents and the Air Intelligence Strategic Services. His wife, Sothida, survives him.

JAMES HARTMAN SOA # 403-GL passed away last year, 2002, after a long illness. He had served with Detachment 1, later designated "First Flight" and carried for cover purposes on the records of the 15th Special Operations Squadron. James had amassed some 286 hours participating in Project "Heavy Hook". He is survived by a daughter, Margaret Thacker, of Spokane, Washington.

CLINTON D. MYRICK SOA # 223-GA MSG, retired, 78, passed away March 26th, 2003 at his home in New Port Richey, Florida. He was born in Sanford, North Carolina. He moved to Florida from Anchorage, Alaska. He retired from the United States Army having served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His Special Forces service included tours of duty with 1st Special Forces Group; Okinawa and 5th Special Forces Group; B-56, CCN and CCC. Clint was a member of VFW and the Special Forces Association. Survivors include his wife, Sun of New Port Richey, Florida; son, Michael Myrick of Covington, Kentucky; daughter, Deborah Crews, of Sanford, North Carolina; two step-sons, Roy Leonard, of Tampa, Florida and Casey Leonard, of Orlando, Florida; brother, Walter Myrick, of Apex, North Carolina. There are 10 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

DONALD M. SHOLTIS SOA # 1174-GL died suddenly in June 2003. He had served with "Hot Foot/White Star" in 1960. He also served with the 77th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina and the 11th Special Forces Group, Fort Devens, Massachusetts. He is survived by his wife, Linda Sholtis.

BILLY J. COLE SOA # 1527-GL COL, retired, passed away July 1st, 2003 at Northwest Medical Center of Benton County in Bentonville, Arkansas. He was 73, born February 14th in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating from Arkansas State Teachers College, he joined the Arkansas National Guard where he received his commission. He served in post war Germany and Korea. He also served as Special Assistant to the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand,

and Senior Advisor to the Royal Thai 3rd Army. He was a member of 1st Special Forces Group, which took him to Vietnam, Taiwan, and Thailand. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit w/2nd Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman's Badge, and Senior Parachutist Badge. Upon retiring in 1975, he started a second career in life insurance. He was a member of the Million-Dollar Round Table, and was President of the Life Underwriters of Oklahoma City. He initiated the "Mentoring Program" with the Million-Dollar Round Table that is still in use today. He is survived by his wife Elaine Cole; three sons, Jon Cole, of North Carolina, David Cole, of Boynton Beach, Florida, and Tech Sgt. Mike Seay, of Ramstein, Germany; two daughters, Carol Sheneberger, of Long Beach, California, and Gwen Benson, of Bella Vista, Arkansas; a brother, Jerry Cole, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; two sisters, Annette Watson and Carolyn Hardie, both of Little Rock, Arkansas; a grandson; and seven granddaughters.

CLYDE A. FORE SOA # 558-GA CPT, retired, passed away on the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, 27 July 2003 in Bradenton, Florida. Clyde graduated from the New York Military Academy and served in the 82nd Airborne Division. After completion of AOC he served three tours of duty in Korea during the War: 29th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds" and the 8240th Army Unit. He was also a veteran of World War II and had served in the 10th and 77th Special Forces Groups. During this service he was awarded the Silver Star, 4 Purple Hearts, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Distinguished Unit Citation, Master Parachutists Badge, and Korean Service Medal w/4 Bronze Stars. Clyde was buried at Arlington Cemetery with full military honors. After retirement, he was Outdoors Editor of the Bradenton Herald in Bradenton, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Janice J., a brother, Brian, 3 nieces and many treasured brothers in Special Forces and Special Operations.

ROBERT W. CHAPLIN SR. SOA # 320-GA CSM, retired, 63, died suddenly on 31 July 2003. He was born July 26th, 1940 in Schenectady, New York and was a 13-year resident of Hudson, Ohio. During his 26 years with Special Forces, he served in Vietnam on Project "Omega". His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Stars w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal w/ 4 Oak Leaf Clusters & 1 "V" Device, Purple Heart, Combat Medical Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. He was a PADI Master SCUBA Diver. He is survived by his mother, Marion Grace Chaplin, of Hudson, Ohio; wife, Ursula; sister, Jacqueline Boccuzzi, of LaBelle, Florida; daughters, Kymberly Eva Armstrong, of Bradenton, Florida, Marion Gail Drake, of Medina, Florida; sons, Robert Wendell Armstrong, Anthony Patrick Armstrong, of Bradenton, Florida, Christian Gerhard Chaplin, of Hudson, Ohio; granddaughters, Shera Darlington, Jennifer, Kaitlyn, Leigh, Robbylnn Armstrong, Caitlin Drake; grandsons, Christopher "C.J." Darlington, James Armstrong, Joseph Drake; and great-granddaughter, Anastajia Badano.

HAROLD E. ELROD SOA # 1239-GL MD, passed away on 19 August 2003 at the Baptist DeKalb Hospital, Fort Payne, Alabama. Dr Elrod was born April 28, 1948 in Miami, Florida. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War having served with Combined Arms Studies and 5th Special Forces Group. He also served with 6th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Among his awards and decorations are the U.S. and Vietnamese Parachute Badges and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Dr Elrod was a graduate of the University of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, and the Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, Missouri where he

received his Doctor Degree in Chiropractic in 1976. He had practiced in Fort Payne, Alabama for the past 22 years. His honors included: The Doctor Edward Elrod Scholarship, Cleveland Chiropractic College, Gran Maestro de la "Order of Daniel A. Carrion" President of Peru for medical and rescue efforts after the 1970 earthquake, Certificate of Appreciation from Alberto MacLean, Consul General of Peru, and Honor Graduate of Special Forces Communications Course. He held membership in the Alabama, San Mountain, American Public Health, and Cleveland Chiropractic Associations. In addition he was a member of the Fort Payne, Alabama Chamber of Commerce, Reserve Officers Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Special Forces Association and member of the Fairview Church of God. Survivors include his son, Patrick Elrod, of Lawrence, Kansas; daughter, Heather Elrod, of Kansas City, Kansas; father, Harold E. Elrod, of North Kansas City, Missouri; sisters, Janet Miller, of Independence, Missouri, and Judy Kilby of Carrollton, Texas.

DONALD C. SUMMERS SOA # 1571-GA COL, retired, passed away on 28 September 2003. He had been suffering from cancer of the esophagus. Don was born in Birmingham, Alabama on October 20, 1948. During the Vietnam War he was a member of the 170th AHC, a unit that supported MACVSOG. During the battle of Dak Seang, he was wounded several times. After his retirement he was the founder and Executive Director of the Ronin Group, LLC. He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline of Simpsonville, South Carolina; father and mother, Marion and Janon of Bellevue, Washington; two brothers, Bradley Summers of Bellevue, Washington, Shawn Otey and his wife Chris of Bremerton, Washington; two sisters, Lexine Otey of Issauah, Washington, and Crystal Olsen of Lynnwood, Washington; four children, Craig Collins and his wife Kim of Taylors, South Carolina, Kevin Collins and his wife Heather of Simpsonville, South Carolina, Amanda Bode and her husband Mike of Kansas City, Missouri, and Sam Summers of Columbia, Missouri; and two grandchildren, Taylor and Hayden Bode of Kansas City, Missouri.

ALLAN C. WILLIAMS SOA # 2249-GA CWO, passed away on 31 October 2003 after a long, courageous, and hard battle with ALS (Lou Gehrigs disease) at his home in Luling, Texas. During the Vietnam War, Allan was assigned to the 119th Assault Helicopter Company and was pilot in command and flight leader of the 1st Platoon located at Camp Holloway, Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam. He flew in support of SOG missions from September 1967 to January 1968. He accumulated approximately 1000 hours flying combat missions earning him the Air Medal w/26 Oak Leaf Clusters. Following Vietnam, Allan had a long and distinguished career in flying for the government, commercial, and industrial aviation. He served as a drug interdiction pilot in Central America. "Pussycat" will not be forgotten.

WILLIAM "BILL" PELLETIER SOA # 970-AA 57, passed away on 8 December 2003 at his home in Fort Worth, Texas. Bill had been battling cancer as a result of contracting hepatitis C while serving in Vietnam. Bill had served three tours in Vietnam, one was with FANK (Force Army National Khmer). His many awards and decoration include: Silver Star, Bronze Star w/2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple heart, Combat Infantry Badge, and the US Army Master Parachute Badge. His wife Susan; two sons, William "Ted" Pelletier Jr. and Dennis Ford; two brothers; a sister; and a host of nieces and nephews survive him.

DEATH PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN THE PRP:

BILLY D. "STICK" EVANS SOA # 2159-GL MSG, retired, passed away some time in January 2003. Billy served as the 1-0 on RT Colorado out of FOB-2, C&C. He was awarded the DSC for this action. Billy also served on B-52 and the Combat Readiness Team during his Vietnam Tours. His service included assignments to the 77th, 7th and 3rd Special Forces Groups. He had been recommended for the Medal of Honor on two separate occasions. Billy was cremated and his ashes scattered at sea. No further information was made available to SOA.

THE FOLLOWING NON-MEMBER DEATHS HAVE BEEN REPORTED

VALENTINE SKY COL, retired, passed away on 16 June 2003 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California. "Doc" Sky was the Group Surgeon of 1st Special Forces Group and 5th Special Forces Group. He also served in the 6th and 10th Special Forces Groups.

TONY POE passed away 27 June 2003 in San Francisco, California. Tony Poe was a long time employee of the CIA assigned primarily in Laos. It was reported that the role of Colonel Kurtz in the movie "Apocalypse Now" played by Marlon Brando was modeled after Tony Poe. Tony was also a long time friend of "Jack" Shirley, previously reported in the last PRP as deceased.

WILLIAM T. "RED" CANNON Born in the Bronx, New York on June 11th, 1925, died on July 5th, 2003, in Dunedin Florida. "Red", as he was better known, enlisted in the US Navy at the outbreak of WW II, and turned 17 in boot camp. For the duration of the war he served as a gunners mate on several vessels, mostly in the Pacific Theater of Operations. After the war, he attended Deep Sea Diving school at the Naval Gun Factory in Washington, DC, and achieving First Class Diver status. He then served on board several diving vessels and at the Torpedo Diving Range in Newport, Rhode Island, where he heard about the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT). He volunteered for training, and graduated with BUDs class 11 in 1959. From then on, his course was set. He and his fellow "Frogmen" of UDT Team 22 completed several Mediterranean cruises and trained in Roosevelt Road, Puerto Rico, as well as various locations around the world. In 1962 he saw action during the Cuban Missile Crisis, where he led his swimmers into the harbor to mine Russian patrol boats. In 1963, he graduated from Airborne Jump School. He served as an instructor in the ROTC program at the University of Virginia, and was then attached to the staff of Naval Special Warfare in Little Creek, Virginia. In 1968-69, Red was sent to Vietnam with SEAL Team 2. Upon his return, he went back to staff at Special Warfare until his retirement in 1972. He then attended Tampa College, earning a degree in accounting and opened AAN Accounting. An illness caused him to retire again, but he remained active in the Military Order of the World Wars, The Retired Officers Association, The UDT/SEAL Organization, The Navy League, and as a Life Member of the National Rifle Association. His wife of 47 years, Phyllis, and two sons, William Jr. and James S., as well as three grandsons, William III, Adam James, and Sean Michael survive him.

JIMMY JONES LTC, retired, passed away on 7 July 2003 at Springfield, Virginia. Jimmy served as the Executive Officer of Project Sigma, 5th Special Forces Group, Vietnam 1967. He also served with 77th, 7th, 8th Special Forces Groups and Special Warfare Center and

Schools. He was also a veteran of World War II and the Korean War. He was the recipient of numerous awards and decorations to include: Silver Star, Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge, 2nd Award. Jimmy was also a member of the Special Forces Association, the 187th Abn RCT Association and the DAV.

FRANK PINKERTON SGM, retired passed away on 11 November 2003 at the Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington. Frank served with Combined Studies in the early days of the Vietnam War. He was also a veteran of the Korean War.

SHEPPARD NORTON Younger brother of Charlie Norton passed on 19 August 2003 in Hudson Florida. He was 76. Our sincerest condolences, Charlie.

JON C. "SCOTTY" MCEWAN MSG, retired, 54. Scotty was instrumental in the reconnaissance of the U.S. Embassy in Iran along with Dick Meadows. He exfiltrated with the information gathered and then returned with Delta in the aborted attempt to rescue the 52 embassy hostages. Scotty was inurned at Arlington National Cemetery.

BEN SCHEMMER Author of "The Raid" and Editor of Armed Forces Journal. He was also one of the greatest supporters of Special Operations.

JERRY WASHINGTON Died in Jacksonville, Florida. He was a Captain having served with SOG in 1970.

GORDON E. SINCLAIR LTC, retired, died as a result of an auto accident in Iraq on November 23, 2003. Gordon had served with Special Warfare Center, 5th and 12th Special Forces groups and Special Operations-Europe.

FRANK E. ANDERSON Son of John C. Anderson SOA # 352-GL.

AVERY CHISTIAN STARK Age 4, granddaughter of Don Bendell SOA # 1920-GA.

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

Ola Lee Mize	1257-GL	Ray & Linda Flaherty	109-GA
Harris Munck	312-GL	Lee Dunlap	559-GA
Bob Ramsey	1472-GA	Robert Kingston	99-GL
David Harrington	2145-GA	William Ignatz	2008-GA
Tommie Ponder	308-AL		

Request you send a "get well" card, an e-mail, or make a phone call to our fellow members who are down. Do something. Wish them a speedy recovery. If any member is aware of another member who is ill, or has been involved in a serious accident, or is recovering from an operation, please notify someone on the SOA Board of Directors, preferably Jake Jacobson.

SPECIAL ATTENDEES AND GUESTS:

There were 639 Special Folks attending the various SOAR XXVII activities and they included the following:

Nick Godano - Sergeant at Arms.

Bill Sylvester - Sergeant at Arms.

MG Eldon Bargewell - Member - Guest Speaker at the Banquet.

Dr. Richard "Dickie" Hites - Guest Speaker at the GMM.

Mr. H. Ross Perot - Member.

MG Edison E. Scholes (Ret) - Member.

MG Jack Singlaub (Ret) - Member and former Chief SOG.

COL Lew Millett MOH (Ret) - Member.

COL Skip Sadler (Ret) - Member and former Chief SOG.

Members of the 219th Vietnamese Special Operations Squadron (VNAF).

Dr John Peters, MD - Honorary Member.

LTC Frank Hudson Member and currently Chief, Operations Directorate,

USASOC G-3.

CPT Corina McFadden - Senior Research Analyst, (POW/MIA Affairs), DPMO,
The Pentagon.

Wayne Lawley - Member and President of the Special Forces Association.

Toby Rushforth - President of the Forward Air Controllers Association.

Paul Warden - President of America Remembers.

Jeff Belcher - Project Officer, America Remembers for the SOA Commemorative
Tribute Pistol.

John Giduck - Lawyer and guest of a member. John donated his time to assist the
SOA with IRC matters relating to Membership eligibility.

George Marlin - Le Nature's Water Products.

Mrs. Solveiga Unger - SOA Parliamentarian.

Mrs. Jane Sisler, widow of SOG member KIA, George Ken Sisler.

Mrs. Toshie Meehan, widow of SOA member Bernard "Mick" Meehan.

Mrs. Evelyn Gray, widow of SOA member Wiley Gray.

Mrs. Mary Ann Harrison, widow of SOA member Marshall Harrison.

Ms. Barbara Birchim, sister of SOG member KIA, Jim Birchim.

Mrs. Rosie Childs, widow of SOA member Arthur Childs.

Ms. Karen Dehnke, sister of SOG member KIA, Dale Dehnke.

Mrs. Karla Lutz Bowling, daughter of member Joseph C. Lutz.

RECOGNITION OF SOA 20-YEAR MEMBERS AT THE MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

a. During the conduct of the SOA General Membership Meeting Mr. Hetrick President, SOA requested the following personnel having achieved 20-Year status as members of the SOA to come forward and receive their 20-Year SOA pins. This included all individuals who attended or joined the SOA commencing with SOAR I thru, and including SOAR VIII (1977-1984). Those present at SOAR XXVII were:

COOPER, Rudy, SOA # 506-GA

DELAVAN, John C., SOA # 485-AL

EDGEELL, James W., SOA # 311-GA
GASPARD, George W., SOA # 350-GL
LAURENCE, Peter A., SOA # 456-AL
LEAR, John O., SOA # 495-GL
LEWIS, James W., SOA # 276-GL
MANN, Russel S., SOA # 203-GL
MCGLOTHREN, Lemuel D., SOA # 443-GL
MEYER, John, SOA # 492-GA
MILLET, Lew, SOA # 505-GL
PAUL, David J, SOA # 503-GA
RATCLIFFE, Thomas, SOA # 351-AL
REED, Marcus E., SOA # 599-GA
SCHRAG, Robert D., SOA # 269-GA
SHIPPEN, Robert, SOA # 540-GL
SMITH, Bucky, SOA # 469-GL
SMITH, Louis, SOA # 134-GL
VASEY, Lewis G., SOA # 270-GL
WILSON, Steven B., SOA # 588-GL

b. FYI, any member whose SOA number fell between 001 and 599 and they have not been previously presented their 20-year SOA pin were eligible to receive this award.

c. Next year during the conduct of SOAR XXVIII, all personnel who attended SOAR I, thru, and including SOAR IX (1977-1985) will be eligible to receive their 20-Year SOA pin. If their SOA number falls anywhere between 001 and 651 and they have not previously been presented with their 20-Year SOA pin they will be eligible to receive this award.

RECOGNITION OF SOA 25-YEAR MEMBERS AT THE BANQUET:

a. During the Reunion Banquet Mr. Hetrick requested the following personnel having achieved 25 Year status (SOAR I, II and III) as members of the SOA were requested to come forward and receive their 25-Year SOA pins:

BATH, J.D., SOA # 589-GL
BERG, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL
CHIARELLO, Agostino, SOA # 082-GA
CLOUGH, Edward W., SOA # 043-GL
CUNNINGHAM, Thomas M., SOA # 079-GL
DEVERE, Donald, SOA # 018-GA
GRITZ, Bo, SOA # 042-GL
JACOBSON, Harold "Jake", SOA # 069-GL
PEROT, H. Ross, SOA # 091-HL
SHELTON, Bill, SOA # 890-GL
SILK, John P., SOA # 070-GL
THOMAS, Bill, SOA # 063-GA
VECHIARELLO, Frank, SOA # 047-GL
WHITTINGTON, Ray E., SOA # 049-GL

b. Any member whose SOA number fell between 001 and 100 was eligible to receive their 25-year SOA pin at SOAR XXVII if it had not been previously awarded.

c. For planning purposes at SOAR XXVIII, all members who attended SOAR I, II, III and/or IV whose membership number falls between 001 and 225 will be eligible to receive their 25-year SOA pins if it has not been previously awarded.

d. FYI, any SOA member that either joined the SOA prior to SOAR IV (December 1980) or attended SOAR I, II and/or III are, for all intents and purposes considered "CHARTER MEMBERS" of the SOA.

SOA GEORGE C MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RAFFLE WINNERS:

Third Prize: \$ 500 Savings Bond or \$ 250 cash

Tony Herrell, SOA # 1066-GL

Second Prize: \$1000 Savings Bond or \$ 500 cash

Jim Harrison, SOA # 1211-GL

First Prize: \$2000 Savings Bond or \$1000 cash

John Walton, SOA # 2261-GL

John Walton elected to donate the \$1000 prize back to the scholarship fund. Thank you John.

\$1,000 was donated to the General Operating Fund by:

Spider Parks \$500.00

John Giduk (Archangel) IRS Lawyer \$500.00

SOAR XXVII DONATIONS:

Mr Clyde Sincere on behalf of the entire SOA wishes to publicly thank all that contributed to this years raffle and door prizes. Again he reiterates the fact that he may have overlooked recognizing a donor. If per chance you donated an item and he neglected to recognize you, he offers his profound apology. The following list reflects those individuals who contributed door and raffle prizes to SOAR XXVII, thank you one and all:

Special Operations Association

Turner Publishing Company

America Remembers

Don Junevicius

J.D. Bath

Rudy Cooper

Paul Duffy

Patrick Hephner

Mark Kinsler

Tom Kyle

Larry Little

John "Tilt" Meyer

Al Paddock

The Plaza Hotel & Casino

Le Nature's Water Products

USAA

Ben Baker

Dale Bennett

Tom Cunningham

Jason M Hardy

Harold "Jake" Jacobson

Bill Krempa

Jim Lewis

Bill Lueders

Lew Millett

John Plaster

Larry Sellers
Billy Waugh

Bob Wallace
Jim "Sneaky" White

LAS VEGAS QUICK DRAW:

Ray Whittington and Lyn Pelot split the \$1,000 prize.

MONTAGNARD FUND (STMP):

The Bolivian Rug Raffle raised \$645.00 (Donated by the SOA)
The Montagnard Shirt Raffle raised \$205.00 (Donated by Billy Waugh)

AMERICA REMEMBERS:

A donation to the SOA of a 9mm Browning Hi-Power Capitan Vietnam Commemorative Tribute Pistol # 001 of 250 raised a total of \$5,715 for the SOA George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Program Fund.

Don Benjamin raised \$3,590.00 through the sale of raffle tickets and an additional \$2,125.00 was raised during the conduct of the Reverse Raffle following the Banquet activities. A special "Thanks" to America Remembers for their super contribution in support of SOA activities.

SOAR XXVII PHOTO COVERAGE:

The SOA wishes to thank Don "Zorro" Jutz, Khanh "Cowboy" Doan and Bill Sylvester for submitting many of the photos that are included in the SOAR XXVII AAR. As some of you are aware Ben Baker had informed the SOA that he was no longer able to act as the SOAR "Paparazzi" due to some physical health problems. Don Jutz has volunteered to take his place as the new SOA "Paparazzi" during reunions. However we welcome anyone who wishes to take photos, and submit them for inclusion in the AAR. Request you insure that you identify the persons in any photos that are submitted.

ADVERTISEMENTS:

If you have a requirement for an advertisement in either the AAR or PRP you are requested to coordinate your requests with Clyde Sincere, (sincere@patriot.net). Clyde will provide you the costs for various Advertisement sizes upon request. This includes any "flyers" announcing new books.

GOOD READING: "In the Company of Heroes" by Michael J. Durant.



**SOAR XXVII
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2003**

Call to Order

President James Hetrick called the SOAR XXVII General Membership Meeting to order at 1330 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. The Secretary, David Smith, was present. A quorum was established.

The President reminded the voting members that the meeting would be governed by the SOA Bylaws, newly revised, and Roberts Rules of Order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Members and guest present were lead in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America by Nick Godano.

Opening Prayer and Moment of Silence

Chaplain Chuck Luczynski lead the SOAR XXVII General Membership in an opening prayer and requested those present to take a moment to remember those who have passed away during the last year.

"Heavenly Father, we have come together this afternoon for the good of the Association and the good of its Members. We give you thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us each and every day. We thank you in particular for this beautiful day, the blue sky, the warm sun, and the gentle winds. Truly a day for knees in the breeze. We ask you this afternoon to in particular bestow upon us the gifts of patience, understanding, wisdom, and empathy, so that we may put aside all personal agendas and any jealousies and truly strive to improve this Association and its membership. We ask you to look over our active duty forces wherever they may be serving, protect them, return them swiftly to their families and loved ones. We ask you to hold close to you prisoners of war and those missing in action, that they may too be swiftly repatriated with the country they have loved so much and served so well. We ask you to hold close to your bosom our fallen comrades."

Chaplain Chuck Luczynski read the names of the following SOA members who have passed away since our last report:

Henry W. Gainous, Jr.	1676-GA
Ronald L. Collingwood	199-GL
Hilaire du Berrier	475-GL

James L. Hartman	403-GL
Billy "Stick" Evans	2159-GL
Ian D. W. Sutherland	216-GL
Gilbert K. Jenkins	1194-GA
William E. Edge	1756-GA
John E. Shirley	691-GA
Maury D. Carr	1638-GA
Charles A. Allen, III	413-GL
Richard A. Dietrick	1691-GA
Billy J. Cole	1527-GA
Clyde A. Fore	558-GA
Robert W. Chaplain, Sr.	320-GA

"Thank you Lord, we ask all this in your Holy Name. Amen."

Roll Call of Officers and Special Staff:

Secretary Smith read the roll of officers present:

Officers:

James Hetrick, President	36-GL
Cliff Newman, Vice President	6-GL
Rick Grabianowski, Treasurer	1313-GL
Charles Berg, Director	31-GL
Robert Jack, Director	414-GL
Gene McCarthy, Director	256-GL
Earl Trabue, Director	1056-GL
Harold Jacobson, Executive Director	69-GL
David Smith, Secretary	1242-GL

Special Staff:

James Hetrick, SOAMS	36-GL
John McClasky, Memorial Foundation	621-GL
Patrick Hephner, Reunion	1249-GL
Alan Keller, Scholarship	1488-GL
William Lueders, Tally	664-GL
Ty Furbish, Membership	1607-GL
Clyde Sincere, Special Fund Raising	10-GL

Introduction of Guests:

President Hetrick introduced and acknowledged parliamentarian, Solveiga Unger, PRP, CP, who has been the SOA parliamentarian for the past couple of years. He also introduced two guests: John P. Giduck, an attorney, who has a great deal of knowledge relating to non-profit organizations. He has volunteered to assist us in that area, and he has gotten our Association squared away by making some minor changes to our Bylaws that will help us to stay in compliance with IRS requirements. We will not have to make any major changes to our Association. At this time, John, I'd like to thank you very much for your assistance. We also have Dickie Hites with us, who along with Cliff Newman, Joe Swartz MD, Charles Wesley and Lemuel

McGlothern went to A Shau, South Vietnam this past year. During new business, Dickie will give a 20-30 minute talk about the joint recovery team for POW/MIA for full accountability.

Adoption of the Agenda:

The membership adopted, by general consent, the agenda as printed.

Appointment of Sergeants at Arms:

The President appointed and thanked Nick Godano and Bill Sylvester for serving as this year's sergeants at arms.

Welcome from the General Manager of the Plaza Hotel and Casino:

Patrick Hephner, SOAR reunion chairman introduced Mr. Mike Nolan of the Plaza Hotel. Mr. Nolan thanked SOA for it's continued selection of Plaza Hotel and Casino for the location of their reunion. Mr. Nolan also gave the membership an update about the improvements already made at the hotel and what changes are being planned for the future. Mr. Nolan hoped that SOAR would continue to hold their reunions at the Plaza Hotel for a long time to come. Mr Nolan closed with the announcement that the hotel would deduct \$20.00 off all SOAR attendees bill at checkout time.

President's Remarks:

President Hetrick thanked the members of the Board of Directors for all the times they had stood up and taken on one more job to their already numerous jobs.

Most board members are already handling two roles; they're part of Special Staff as well as being a member of the Board. It takes a great deal of time and what happens here is not because of anything that I do, it's because of what these guys do. This Board of Directors and I work for you. We are required to act in a certain manner as required by the Bylaws. We're not at liberty to do what we want. We're not at liberty to set our own agenda. The only agenda that we have is for the membership of the Special Operations Association and for the betterment of the Special Operations Association, and not any one individual, not myself, not any one of you, but everybody, corporately.

The Special Operations Association is a community, and if you look at the units that are involved, that's what it is. It is a community. Before 1986, we had Special Operations and its ad hoc units. We said, hey, 195th, we need some helicopters, we need some recon people, and they married us up and we went out and did the job together. We didn't have what was called a Special Operations community.

Nowadays, we have a Special Operations community, with aviation units who are assigned to do just that, and with Special Forces units, Ranger units, and all those people in that community. So, nowadays, it's a little easier to identify it. Part of our problem has been how do we determine who is what? So, we have a units list. The unit list includes a lot of units. It doesn't necessarily mean that every unit is eligible for the Special Operations Association. If you look at the By-laws, we have general members and associate members, and those are spelled out, and that's where the crunch is. When you come in to apply for membership, you have to comply with either one or the

other of those two requirements, and that's where you get your membership. If you cannot comply with them or do not meet those requirements, then you're not eligible to be a member. Have we had mistakes in the past? Certainly we have. It started way back when. And every membership chairman who has come through this organization has made some mistakes. Not because they were trying to make mistakes, not because they were trying to take care of their buddies or whatever, I think they were just honest mistakes. I don't believe that we are rife with wannabes or people who shouldn't be here. We have some. They've been grandfathered. The membership grandfathered them two years ago.

Now, today, we have a new membership chairman, Ty Furbish. Ty and this Board have sat down and looked at units, and we're tightening it up guys. It doesn't do any good to go back. What we're trying to be is more inclusive instead of exclusive, we're trying to be more cohesive instead of divisive, and we'll do that. That's our responsibility to you, and we are going to do that.

I know there are some people who are unhappy. As I said, we're required by the By-laws to conduct ourselves and conduct the business of the SOA in the manner that is prescribed by those By-laws as approved by you. This is not the Board of Directors versus the membership. That's not what it is guys. We work for you. We have a few people that don't like the way things are done. I'm sorry. We cannot do what individuals want us to do, we have to do what the majority of the membership tells us what to do, and that's what we're doing. The only thing I can say is that if we can't make you happy, and this membership can't make you happy, then maybe there are alternative places for you to be. And I'm not saying if you don't like it here go somewhere else. What I'm saying is that we have to do what the General Membership wants us to do, and if that doesn't satisfy us, there's nothing else we can do.

So, I ask you to bear with us. This is your Association. We're trying to make it as pure and as good as we can for you. If you have a complaint, or there is something you want to know about, you can get on the Internet if you want to, and you can start divisiveness on the Internet if you want to. We've had that off-and-on for two or three years now, but the way to handle it is to write a letter through the Executive Director through the Board of Directors and ask us to look at a problem, and we'll bring it to the Board of Directors meeting. We'll put it on the agenda for the General Membership Meeting if the Board thinks it's appropriate, or if it is a problem that requires that. That's all we can do. But, if you're putting it on the Internet, gentlemen, I came off of those nets a long time ago. What I would suggest is if you get off some of those nets, or pay less attention to some of the stuff that came across there, you'd be a lot happier. So, that's the end of my remarks. I hope I didn't offend anyone. That was not my intention. But you know, that old adage, "The buck stops here"? It's time guys. For two years the membership said its over. It's over. I'm telling you its over. The Board will not tolerate any more. We can't, or it will go on forever. I'm asking you to take a good look at what you're doing and saying. Just temperate it with reality and be honest with yourself, as well as other people."

Minutes 2002 SOAR:

By general consent the minutes of 2002 SOAR XXVI were approved as printed and mailed in the After Action Report for SOAR XXVI.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Grabianowski reported that an independent CPA firm had reviewed and found no major deficiencies in our financial accounting procedures. Financial reports of our last accounting period have been included in the PRP. There was one minor deficiency as noted on the recent CPA review, and it has already been corrected.

In order to resolve a possible deficit possible actions being investigated include: Increase in dues, increases in SOAR fees, looking at ways to reduce costs, especially printing expenses, and removing delinquent members from mailing lists. Also, we are looking at ways to increase and track donations and financial commitments from outside sources.

The Treasurer requested that all members indicate their SOA number on all correspondence, especially on checks. With 2400 members, even if 10% forget, it's a lot of extra work. Make checks payable to SOA or Special Operations Association, not to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund, not to SOAR, and although I appreciate it, not to Rick Grabianowski. Regarding registration: If you (or a guest) are not sure of attending SOAR, go ahead and pre-register, paying the necessary amounts. On the registration form indicate the possibility of non-attendance. In this event your money will be refunded if you can't make it. I'd rather issue a refund than spend an unnecessary 5 to 10 minutes in-processing your late registration when everyone is waiting in line.

Treasurer's report will be submitted for audit and published in printed in membership mailing.

Tally Committee Report:

The Tally Committee consisting of Bill Lueders, Dan Myers, and Alan Keller, met on September 4th to count the votes for secretary and two director positions.

The result of the votes casts for:

Secretary:

Charles Berg	121
David "Bulldog" Smith	166
Gene McCarthy	1 write-in vote

David "Bulldog" Smith was re-elected as the Secretary of the SOA.

Directors:

Chester Howard	59
Robert Jack	115
John "Tilt" Meyer	144
Billy Waugh	234
Ralph Miller	1 write-in vote
Elon Place	1 write-in vote
George Fischer	1 write-in vote
Carl Frankquet	1 write-in vote

John "Tilt" Meyer and Billy Waugh were elected as Directors of the SOA.

President Hetrick announced that the installation would be during the banquet when all officers and directors would be present.

Memorial Scholarship Program Report:

Alan Keller reported that to date a total of 114 scholarships have been awarded by the Special Operations Association. There are presently 20 young men and women on scholarship.. All scholarships are presently fully funded prior to granting a scholarship. The Association should be proud of all the young people and know that their monies are being well spent. Alan Keller announced an eligibility change regarding applicants who wish to attend junior college. They are now eligible as long as they are planning to work toward a four-year degree. All scholarships are presently fully funded prior to granting a scholarship.

Breakdowns of the current 20 scholarships -- 9 seniors, 2 juniors, 7 sophomores, and 2 freshmen. Alan Keller thanked the following committee members for their tireless and invaluable assistance: Billy J. Anthony, Steven Goth, Patrick Hephner, Charlie Norton, Al Paddock, and Billy Waugh. He also thanked historian, Jim Butler, and for the continuing fund raising by Clyde Sincere, who made this happen.

The 2003 scholarship recipients:

1. Ms. Elizabeth Gail Kennedy. Elizabeth is the daughter of Charles Kennedy (2186-GA). She is a freshman at the University of Texas in Austin. Her scholarship is awarded in memory of Master Sergeant Samuel Almendariz and Robert Sullivan, killed in action 12 July 1967.
2. Ms. Lisa L. Bennett. Lisa is from Ijamsville, Maryland, the daughter of Dale Bennett (910-GL). She is a sophomore attending the University of Maryland. Her scholarship is awarded in memory of Arthur Green, killed in action 03 August 1967.
3. Ms. Stefanie Jean Jalloway. She is from Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Richard Jalloway (679-GA). She is a freshman, attending Marquette University. Her scholarship is awarded in memory of Derek Williams, Jr., killed in action 23 August 1967.

President Hetrick announced that the name of Bob Shippen's daughter whose name was inadvertently left off the plaque would be added to make the total 115 scholarship recipients. The plaque has been refinished and is on display in the registration area.

The Membership Committee Report:

Secretary Smith reported that SOA presently has a total of 2,271 members on the roll. Of this, about 1400 are active, dues paying, or life members. About 180 are deceased, and about 700 are delinquent in dues.

An amnesty was declared in order to get delinquent members to renew their memberships. Any annual member who pays 2004 dues by 31 January 04 will be deemed a member in good standing. All back dues will be forgiven. On 01 February 04, anyone who has not paid their 2004 dues will be flagged and will not receive any further mailings from the SOA and the reinstatement fees will be in effect. As of 01 January 2004, annual dues will increase to \$30 and life membership will increase to \$300. If paid by the end of 2003, life membership will still be available for \$250. Send

back dues, present dues, or life membership payment to the Chairman of the Membership Committee at P.O. Box 237961, Cocoa, FL 32923-7961.

President Hetrick informed the membership that to save on operating expenses the 700 delinquent members will not receive either the Pre Registration Packet (PRP) or the After Action Report (AAR).

SOAMS Report:

President Hetrick reported:

- Sales so far this year is \$5,908.65; net income \$1,013.18; and inventory on hand \$20,588.53.
- SOAMS operation through August 31, 2003, there has been 80 orders for goods for total sales of \$5,908.65.
- That income for this period is \$1,013.18.
- SOAMS income statement and balance sheet will be in the After Action Report.
- SOAMS inventory on hand is valued at \$20,588.53; total assets include 3 SOA prototype rings at about \$400 each, and the increase in inventory in preparation for SOAR XXVII.
- New inventory includes the availability of the SOA ring, SOA license plate and frame, SOA beer stein, and 5 each of the prairie fire and SOA lapel pins in 10K gold for sale at SOAR XXVII.
- Items that do not sell will be replaced and they will be used for VIPs or raffle prizes and so on in the coming years. The sale of the items will reduce the inventory and the income will go either to the operational or scholarship fund.
- Strategy for 2003 is to reduce the inventory value with the goal to reduce the value to \$16,000 or below.
- Inventory items will be stocked at lower levels after SOAR to reduce inventory on hand value. In restocking inventory items after SOAR, the inventory value will decrease to the minimum level possible and still be able to provide adequate member services.
- Whether SOAMS continues to operate as it has is dependent upon somebody stepping forward to take over SOAMS.
- The other option is to provide memorabilia items for sale to the membership only at SOAR

Your president experienced extreme difficulty this year trying to be president and run SOAMS at the same time. It takes a lot more time than you would imagine, especially in developing items and

working with vendors and so on. We buy good quality stuff and it lasts awhile, so the demand is decreased. Is anyone interested, or is anyone willing? I know nobody's interested, but is anyone willing to step forward and take over SOAMS, maybe someone in the Las Vegas area although it doesn't have to be Las Vegas area, it can be anywhere.

Reunion Chairman Report:

I'm Patrick Hephner, member number 1249. I want to thank you for taking time to listen to Mr. Mike Nolan, the General Manager of the Plaza Casino.

This year we occupy about 350 rooms, which is less than last year. Hopefully, next year the membership will give the Plaza another chance. One of the ways we benefit is for every 50 rooms we take, they give us one free room, and that free room is raffled or provided for a silent auction, which raises money for SOA.

Mr Hephner commented that with a few glitches in the registration area, everything has been going smoothly. Changes have been made as a result of input from you the members; one of them was the no smoking area. We now have signs up and we also have a couple of fans.

Remember to check the reader board before you ask where or when a function is to take place. The board gives you that information and it is updated regularly.

If members have any suggestions please put it in writing, and get it to Patrick Hephner.

Chairman Hephner concluded by thanking Steve Goth and Bob Golden for helping out and running the bar this year. He mentioned that there are some other new bartenders who are doing a great job and they appreciate your tips. A special thanks to Alan Keller who has been helping out wherever needed but more volunteers are needed.

Special Presentation by Dickie Hites from the Joint Task Force Full Accounting:

Vice President Cliff Newman began his introduction by mentioning his preparation for returning to Viet Nam early in 2003 by recounting his visit to the Joint Task Force Full Accounting Base in Hawaii. It was there that he met Mr. Dickie Hites, the Director of Intelligence/J2 of the Joint Task Force Full Accounting.

Mr. Hites began by explaining that the Joint Task Force Full Accounting is responsible for the fullest possible accounting of all the men and women missing from the conflict in Southeast Asia no matter what branch of the armed forces they served in. Currently there are still about 1,882 missing of which about 1400 are in Viet Nam, approximately 400 in Laos and 55 still missing in Cambodia. Mr. Hites talked about the how, what, and where of trying to find and bring those still missing home.

Mr. Hites told the members, while he was at SOAR, he would be happy to talk about an individual case and that he would be pleased to receive any information that SOA members could share with him.

President Hetrick thanked the speaker and informed him that SOA would be sending him a plaque as a thank you from the membership.

Bylaws Report: (Note: Full transcript of the amendments can be found on page 53-58)

Chairman Earl Trabue presented the proposed Bylaws amendments. The following amendments were adopted after discussion and with no changes: (all numbers and letter refer to adopted Bylaws)

1. Article II PURPOSE new numbers 1 & 4
2. Article IV MEMBERSHIP A. Definitions 1. Special Operations Unit(s) a and b
3. Article IV MEMBERSHIP A. Definitions 2. Membership and Operations Associates, a. General Member and b. Associate Member
4. Article IV MEMBERSHIP B. Special Operations Units List 1
5. Article IV MEMBERSHIP C. Eligibility
6. Article IV MEMBERSHIP D. Classes
7. Article IV MEMBERSHIP E. Operational Associate
8. Article IV MEMBERSHIP F. Honorary Member
9. Article IV MEMBERSHIP J. Transfer of Membership 1, 2 & 3
10. Article V BOARD OF DIRECTORS E. Election 1, 2 & 3
11. Article VIII COMMITTEES A. Membership Committee 1, 2 & 3

Recess

New Business:

Updates on the status of:

- Scholarship – in 2003 the SOA had hoped to fund four scholarships for a total of \$16,000, but since there was a drop in SOA donation income, only three scholarships for a total of \$12,000 were fully funded for this award period. If members wish to make a donation to the scholarship fund they need to specify that their donation is for the scholarships fund.
- Montagnard Project – The Special Forces and military communities have supported relocating 1,000 Montagnards. Additionally they assisted in the purchase of 90 additional acres for the Montagnard community in North Carolina. Members may also specify that their donation be used for SOA Montagnard Project.
- SOAR XXVIII – planned for 29 September to 3 October 2004 at the Plaza Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada. Start to make your plans now.
- New metal Life Membership plates are still being engraved and except for new life members all the plates should be completed shortly.

Introduction of SOA Chaplain:

President Hetrick officially introduced and thanked Chaplain Chuck Luczynski for volunteering to serve as the chaplain for SOA. Chaplain Luczynski was formally in the 195th Aviation.

20-year Pins:

President Hetrick presented the following 20-year pins to those members whose numbers were between 1 and 599 and who had not previously been awarded a pin:

Rudy Cooper	John Lear	Tom Ratcliffe	Steve Wilson
John Delavan	Jim Lewis	Robert Schrag	Lew Millett
Jim Edgell	Russel Mann	Bucky Smith	Marcus Reed
Speedy Gaspard	Lemuel McGlothren	Louis Smith	David Paul
Pete Laurence	John Meyer	Lewis Vasey	Robert Shippen

The president recognized Jack Abraham who requested to speak on supporting the SOA Scholarship Fund. Jack Abraham moved to:

Re-establish the policy of publishing the SOA Donors Honor Roll as it related to the SOA Scholarship Fund.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

Good of the Order and Announcements:

Barbara Birchim, 1810-WW requested on behalf of the family members of those service people that are still missing in action; that SOA members who might have any information about someone missing, to please go to Dickie Hites. Giving him even a small piece of information that might be the key to reopened a case or it might be the key to solving the question as to where someone might be found.

Fred Platt 825-GL, Commander of China Post, American Legion. We have a China Post Meeting tomorrow at Giligan's Hideaway at 2601 Atlantic Street for China Post Members at 11 o'clock. Buses leave for the firing range tomorrow at 7:15 AM.

Adjournment:

President Hetrick adjourned SOAR XXVII sine die at 1615.

David "Bulldog" Smith
Secretary

The full transcript of SOAR XXVII GMM can be requested from the Secretary for copying and mailing fee.

PROCTOR DAVIS
and Company
Certified Public Accountants

To the Board of Directors
Special Operations Association, Inc.
1755 E. Plumb Lane, Suite 129
Reno, Nevada 89502

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Special Operations Association, Inc. (a non-profit organization) as of December 31, 2002, and the related statements of activities, and cash flows, and the accompanying supplementary information on page 8-9, which is presented only for supplementary analysis purposes, for the year then ended, in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. All information included in these financial statements is the representation of the management of Special Operations Association, Inc.

A review consists principally of inquiries of Association personnel and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Proctor, Davis & Company

PROCTOR, DAVIS & COMPANY
September 16, 2003

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
December 31, 2002

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 20,839
Investments (Note 2)	96,266
Inventory	20,933
Prepaid director's contract	<u>1,200</u>

Total Current Assets 139,238

Furniture and equipment (less accumulated depreciation) (Note 3) 379

Total Assets \$ 139,617

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LONG TERM LIABILITIES

Scholarships payable (Note 4) \$ 42,500

Total Liabilities 42,500

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted net assets 24,681

Temporarily restricted net assets 72,436

Total Net Assets 97,117

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 139,617

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
SUPPORT			
Membership dues (annual)	\$ 16,400		\$ 16,400
Membership dues (life)	19,725		19,725
General contributions	1,116		1,116
Scholarship income		\$ 14,374	14,374
SOAR convention		60,834	60,834
SOAM sales	38,145		38,145
Interest and dividends		4,402	4,402
Miscellaneous	24		24
Net assets released from restrictions	133,855	(133,855)	0
Total Revenues	<u>209,265</u>	<u>(54,245)</u>	<u>155,020</u>
EXPENSES FROM SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE			
Programs and direct costs	144,084		144,084
Administrative and general costs	47,495		47,495
Fund raising	32,487		32,487
Total Expenses	<u>224,066</u>		<u>224,066</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(14,801)	(54,245)	(69,046)
		71	71
NET ASSETS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2002	<u>39,482</u>	<u>126,610</u>	<u>166,092</u>
NET ASSETS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2002	<u>\$ 24,681</u>	<u>\$ 72,436</u>	<u>\$ 97,117</u>

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Decrease in net assets	\$(69,046)
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash used by operating activities	
Depreciation	306
(Increase) decrease in SOAMS inventories	3,496
Increase (decrease) in unrealized gain in investments	2,174
Increase (decrease) in prepaid accounts	(1,200)
(Increase) decrease in scholarships awarded	<u>(24,500)</u>
NET CASH USED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u>(88,770)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES	
Purchase of investment securities	(96,196)
Proceeds from redemptions of investments	<u>102,436</u>
NET CASH PROVIDED BY INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>6,240</u>
INCREASE IN CASH	(82,530)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>103,369</u>
CASH, end of year	<u>20,839</u>

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2002

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Organization and Nature of Activities - Special Operations Association, Inc. was established 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 perpetuate the Special Operations esprit de corps. They wish 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. They also perpetuate the memory of Col. George C. Morton through the management of the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Organization's headquarters is located in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Association's support comes from membership fees, contributions, and fund raising efforts.

The Special Operations Association, Inc. is a nonprofit organization exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Contributions, SOAR Convention and Fundraising - Contributions of cash are reported as temporarily restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or the purpose of the restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. SOAR Convention registration fees are classified as temporarily restricted and reclassified to unrestricted when they are used to pay expenses of the convention. Fundraising revenues are considered to be temporarily restricted until they are transferred to unrestricted after the purpose of their restriction is accomplished.

Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - The Association considers all highly liquid investments with a maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents.

Investments - Investments are composed of certificates of deposits and bonds and are carried at fair value. Unrealized gains and losses are included in the change in net assets.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2002

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Concentrations of Credit Risk - Financial instruments that potentially subject the Association to credit risk consist primarily of cash in banks. The company has bank accounts which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation up to \$100,000. On December 31, 2002, all accounts were within federally insured limits.

Inventories - Inventory consists of miscellaneous memorabilia available for sale to members at various fundraising events. Inventory is valued at the lower of cost or market. Cost is determined by the first-in, first-out method, and market represents the lower of replacement cost or net realizable value.

Furniture and Equipment - Furniture and equipment are capitalized at cost and are depreciated using accelerated methods which prescribe rates and periods for various categories of assets, including furniture and equipment (5 - 7 years). Use of these accelerated methods approximates amounts determined by generally accepted accounting principles. Repairs and maintenance are charged to expense when incurred.

Functional Expenses - Expenses are charged directly to program or administrative, in general categories based upon specific identification. Indirect expenses have been allocated equally to both program and administrative categories.

Note 2 - Investments

Investments are stated at fair value and consist primarily of certificates of deposits and bonds as follows:

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)</u>
Certificates of deposit	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,043	\$ 43
Bonds	<u>1,195</u>	<u>1,223</u>	<u>28</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 96,195</u>	<u>\$ 96,266</u>	<u>\$ 71</u>

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2002

Note 2 - Investments (continued)

These funds represent board designated amounts set aside in prior years for the purpose of funding scholarships and other program expenses.

Investment return is summarized as follows:

Interest and dividend income	\$ 4,402
Net unrealized gains	<u>71</u>
Total temporarily restricted investment income	<u>\$ 4,473</u>

Note 3 - Furniture and Equipment

The following is a summary of furniture and equipment as of December 31, 2002:

Furniture and equipment	\$ 1,770
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,391)</u>
Total furniture and equipment	<u>\$ 379</u>

Note 4 - Scholarships Payable

Scholarships payable consist of all amounts awarded, but not yet paid to scholarship winners.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE
For the Year Ended December 31, 2002

EXPENSES

Programs and direct costs:

Scholarships awarded	19,080
SOAR hotel/catering expenses	45,607
SOAR registration gift	9,113
SOAR XXVI expense	4,855
SOAR supplies & miscellaneous expenses	6,541
SOAM research & development	157
Travel	12,423
Legal & professional fees	4,449
Printing	16,189
Executive director contract expense	9,800
Bank & credit card fees	682
Supplies & office expenses	7,479
Telephone	1,410
Postage	1,909
Equipment & property rental expense	1,251
Insurance	1,817
Miscellaneous expense	1,322
Total Direct Costs	<u>144,084</u>

Administrative and general costs

Advertising	140
Legal & professional fees	4,449
Licenses & permits	50
Printing	14,247
Executive director contract expense	9,800
Bank & credit card fees	682
Supplies	7,479
Telephone	1,411
Postage	4,541
Equipment & property rental expense	1,251
Insurance	1,817
Miscellaneous expense	1,322
Depreciation	306
Total Administrative and General Costs	<u>47,495</u>

Fund raising

Cost of sales - SOAMS	30,446
Fund raising expenses	2,041
Total fund raising costs	<u>32,487</u>



WILLIAM T. LUEDERS

P.O. Box 99
Stafford, VA 22555

4 September 2003

SUBJECT: Special Operations Association, "Year 2003 Tally Committee" Report

TO: Mr. James F. Hetrick
President, Special Operations Association (SOA)
965 N. Grandview
Paulden, AZ 86334-0000

The "Year 2003 Tally Committee" met at Fairfax, VA, on 4 September at 0930 hours, to count the number of votes for next year's SOA Secretary and two Board Directors

The Committee consisted of:

William T. Lueders (664-GL), Chairman
Dan "Rock" Myers (003-GL), Member
Alan Keller (1488-GL), substitute for Harlow Stevens

Of the 296 ballots received, the votes for each individual and "write-ins" are:

SECRETARY

Charles L. Berg (31-GL)	121
David C. "Bulldog" Smith (1242-GL)	166

Write in

"Gene" McCarthy	1		
		Total	288

DIRECTOR

Chester B. Howard (1609-GL)	59
Robert Jack (414-GL)	115
John S. "Tilt" Meyer (492-GL)	144
William D. "Billy" Waugh (005-GL)	234

Write in

Ralf Miller	1		
Elon Place	1		
George Fischer	1		
		40	
Carl Franquet	1		
		Total	556

I will not be arriving in Las Vegas in time for giving a presentation of the voting results at the SOA BOD Meeting on Monday and Tuesday. Clyde Sincere will have a sealed envelope containing the results of the "Year 2003 Tally Committee" meeting, which he will disclose to the BOD.

Wm. T. Lueders

William T. Lueders
Chairman
Tally Committee



Secretary: "Bulldog" Smith; Directors: "Tilt" Meyer & "Billy" Waugh



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

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

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, Junior College, Community College, Four-year college or university which will lead to 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 and must be a son, daughter or grandchild, natural or adopted of an individual who served in a Special Operations unit and is a member in good standing of the SOA.

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 15 May 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 2003, 114 young men and women will have been awarded a scholarship since the commencement of the program in 1983.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS, PLEASE WRITE:

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

Revised: 01 June 2003



George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship
2003 Awardees

Ms. Elizabeth Gail Kennedy

Ms. Kennedy is from Crocket, Texas; the daughter of Charles Kennedy (SOA # 2186). She is a freshman attending the University of Texas in Austin. Her scholarship was awarded in memory of Master Sergeants Samuel Almendariz and Robert Sullivan, both of whom were USAF – KIA 12 July 1967.

Ms. Lisa L. Bennett

Ms. Bennett is from Ijamsville, Maryland; the daughter of Dale Bennett (SOA # 910). She is a sophomore attending the University of Maryland. Her scholarship was awarded in memory of Arthur Green – KIA 3 August 1967.

Ms. Stefanie Jean Jalloway

Ms. Jalloway is from Chicago, Illinois; the daughter of Richard Jalloway (SOA # 679). She is a freshman attending Marquette University. Her scholarship was awarded in memory of Derek Williams, Jr. – KIA 23 August 1967.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

GEORGE C. MORTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 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
Anonymous	(IMO Jack Long)	\$ 150.00
Anonymous		\$ 500.00
Anonymous	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Bahr, Roy W., SOA # 315-GL		\$1,000.00
Baker, C. "Ben", SOA # 897-AL		\$1,466.00
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		\$1,395.00
Berg, Charles L., SOA # 031-GL	(IMO FOB-3,"The Siege")	\$ 602.00
Bernard, Woodie, SOA # 1281-GA		\$1,030.00
Blakey, George "Moe", SOA # 551-GL		\$2,000.00
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, "Ike", SOA # 1209-GL	(IMO Dick Meadows)	\$ 500.00
Chambers, B. "Ray", SOA # 627-GL		\$ 900.00
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, Richard F., SOA # 207-AL	(IMO Paul Tracy)	\$ 100.00
Cooper, Rudolph, SOA # 506-GA		\$1,270.00
Cunningham, Tom., SOA # 079-GA		\$ 200.00
Dawson, Ray, SOA # 657-GL		\$1,800.00
Dean, James, SOA # 123-GL		\$ 100.00
Downey, Fred, SOA # 085-GL	(IMO Marv Compton)	\$1,000.00
Duffy, Paul, SOA # 918-GL		\$2,000.00
Edens, Ralph, SOA # 438-GA		\$ 750.00
Estes, Richard, SOA # 597-GA		\$ 100.00
Evans, Bobby, SOA # 659-GL		\$ 200.00

Fisher, George, SOA # 636-GA		\$ 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	(IMO Walt Shumate)	\$ 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
Golden, Bob, SOA # 1282-GL		\$1,050.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL		\$ 100.00
Gow, William M., SOA # 955-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 100.00
*Gray, Wiley/Evelyn, SOA # 121-WW	(IMO Wiley Gray)	\$2,000.00
Haase, Donald W., SOA # 1683-GL		\$ 875.00
Hardy, Jason, (Non-Member)		\$ 450.00
Hawke, James, SOA # 221-GL		\$ 250.00
Hephner, Patrick, SOA # 1249-AL		\$1,225.00
Herrell, Tony, SOA # 1066-GL		\$ 300.00
*Husar, Adam, SOA # 022-GL	(IMO Arnold Astrada)**	\$ 100.00
*Isler, Jack, SOA # 004-GL		\$ 500.00
Harold "Jake" Jacobson, SOA 69-GL & Folks from Perdido Key, FL		\$2,000.00
Kendall, William L., SOA # 1354-GA		\$ 100.00
Kinsler, Mark, SOA # 700-GL		\$19,225.00
Kyle, Tom., SOA # 2141-GA		\$ 225.00
Ladue, Mike, SOA # 464-GA		\$ 500.00
Laurence, Pete, SOA # 456-AA		\$ 350.00
Lear, John, SOA # 495-GL		\$ 500.00
Leonard, Mike, SOA # 1844-GL		\$1,725.00
Little, Lawrence L., SOA # 1610-GL		\$ 120.00
*Long, Jack, SOA # 441-GL		\$1,500.00
Lueders, William, SOA # 664-GL		\$ 350.00
*Mar, Al/Ann, SOA # 439-WW		\$12,150.00
Martin, John P., SOA # 345-GL	(IMO Mary Watson)	\$ 100.00
McClaskey, John R., SOA # 621-GL		\$2,850.00
Messinger, Keith, SOA # 090-GL		\$6,100.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-GL		\$1,000.00
Miller, Ralf M., SOA # 060-GL	(IMO Bill O'Rourke)	\$ 250.00
Millet, Lewis, SOA # 505-GL		\$ 150.00
Mitchel, Pat W., SOA # 1897-GA		\$1,000.00
Morrell, David, SOA # 905-HL		\$1,350.00
Mullowney, Richard, SOA # 1319-GA		\$ 285.00
*O'Rourke, Bill/Jan, SOA # 379-WW		\$3,120.00
Page, Clarence, SOA # 1270-GL		\$ 125.00
Parks, Robert, "Spider", SOA # 465-GL		\$1,800.00
Perchard, John, R. Jr., SOA # 341-GL		\$ 300.00
*Pierson, Roger, SOA # 644-GL		\$ 100.00
*Pinn, Lionel, "Choo-choo", SOA # 019-GL		\$1,050.00
Plaster, John, SOA # 726-GL		\$1,400.00
Platt, Fred, SOA # 825-GL		\$2,845.00
Pollack, James, SOA # 426- AL	(IMO Terry Leverton)	\$1,000.00
*Raye, Martha, "Maggie", SOA # 097-HL		\$2,780.00
Scholes, Ed., SOA # 1350-GL		\$ 150.00

Schults, Jim, SOA # 500-HL		\$ 500.00
Shriver-Saal, Colleen, SOA # 987-WW		\$ 450.00
Sherman, Steve, SOA # 759-AL		\$ 500.00
Silk, John, SOA # 70-GL	(IMO Michael Newbern)	\$ 100.00
Silk, John, SOA # 70-GL	(IMO Estevan Torres)	\$ 100.00
Siugzda, Herb, SOA # 030-GL		\$ 500.00
Smith, David & Shirley, SOA#1242-GL	(IMO Tom Sincere)	\$ 100.00
*Squires, Ben., SOA # 356-GL		\$1,010.00
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
Wang, Jon, B., SOA # 1092-GL		\$ 100.00
Walton, John, SOA # 2261-GL		\$1,000.00
Warkocki, Ken, SOA # 1231-AA	(IMO "Frenchy Amundson)	\$ 100.00
Waugh, Billy D., SOA # 005-GL		\$29,382.00
Waugh, Billy D., SOA # 005-GL	(IMO P.Tracy/A.Fontez)	\$1,000.00
Waugh, Billy D., SOA # 005-GL	(IMO Walt Shumate)	\$1,000.00
Waugh, Billy D., SOA # 005-GL	(IMO "Choo-Choo" Pinn)	\$ 500.00
Waugh, Billy D., SOA # 005-GL	(IMO "Budda" Grant)	\$ 500.00
Werther, William, SOA # 497-GL	(IMO Richard Cole)	\$ 100.00
2000 SOA Board (Bahr, R., Benjamin, D., Berg, C., Chambers, B.R., Hetrick, J., McClaskey, J., Smith, D., Wan Winkle, H.)	(IMO Tom Sincere)	\$ 200.00

* Deceased Member

The SOA is a Tax Exempt Organization – Internal Revenue Code 501 © (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.



A WORD ABOUT MEMBERSHIP FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The present membership consists of 782 General Annual, 642 General Life, 325 General X (not in good standing) 72 Associate Annual, 68 Associate Life, 84 Associate X (not in good standing), 39 Honorary Life, 22 Operational Associate Annual, 4 Operational Associate Life, 25 resignations, 24 expulsions, 23 Warriors Widows, and 155 deceased. We also had 7 unqualified applicants/members who were issued numbers that were later revoked. Once the numbers are issued they are never reissued to another applicant.

On 1 January 2004, the annual dues will increase to \$30 and life membership increases to \$300. A one-time \$5 application fee for new members is introduced. That's \$35 for new annual applicants and \$305 for new life applicants.

We have members on the rolls that have not paid dues since 1998. Just before SOAR XXVII, the count of annual members who were delinquent in dues stood at 877. Therefore, at SOAR XXVII, a dues amnesty was announced. Anyone who owes back dues can become active, and in good standing, again by paying 2004 dues by NLT 31 January 2004. On 1 February 2004, anyone who has not paid 2004 dues will be marked GX, AX, or OX, as applicable, and dropped from the active rolls. He will not receive any further mailings from the SOA. In order to be reinstated, the \$5 late fee and \$30 annual dues will be required along with a letter requesting reinstatement. Please pass the word to all your buddies that we count on annual dues. Send dues payments to the Chairman of the Membership Committee at the address below. The Honorary Life and Warrior's Widow categories do not owe dues.

Perhaps a short review of membership categories is in order. We have the following categories.

- General members
 - May have annual or life status
 - These are the voting members
- Associates
 - May have either annual or life status
 - Non-voting
 - Enjoy all the rights and privileges of general members except that they may not vote
- Operational Associates
 - May have either annual or life status
 - Non-voting
 - Not members of the association
 - Reserved for foreign military personnel who were part of US special operations teams on special operations missions
 - Enjoy a special status that allows them to attend reunions and meetings (at their own expense)
- Honorary Life Member and Warrior's Widow
 - Life status
 - Non-voting
 - Not actually members of the association but are always invited to attend SOARs (at their own expense)
 - May not attend General Membership Meetings
 - Does not pay dues

I remind you of the Membership Criteria and the need to assure that all applicants meet them. I ask you to use only the latest application form, please. A copy is included in this AAR. Please discard all other copies. Additionally, I take this opportunity to remind you that in order to be a sponsor for an applicant the reference (or sponsor) must be a general member of the SOA and must have personal, first hand knowledge of the applicant's qualifications. First hand knowledge means you were there with him and witnessed his qualification for membership. That is, if you served in CCS in 1970 and the applicant served in Project Delta in 1968, you cannot be a reference for him because you did not serve with him. Or if you served in CCN, and the applicant served in ODA-594 in 2002, you cannot be a reference for him because you did not serve with him.

The BOD approved the offer of Honorary Life Membership to General Bryan Doug Brown, the commander of USSOCOM at MacDill AFB. This is based upon his career in special operations and his present position. His combat tours include Vietnam, Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, and Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Iraq. The president of the SOA will contact him directly.

The BOD approved the offer of Honorary Life Membership to MG Geoffrey C. Lambert, the commander of US Special Forces. This is based upon his career in Special Forces and special operations, and his present position. His combat tours include Operation Just Cause in Panama, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Iraq. The president of the SOA will contact him directly.

The BOD once again affirmed that A-Team assignment is not a qualifying assignment for SOA membership.

The BOD affirmed that A-101, Lang Vei, is not a qualifying assignment for SOA membership. However, A-113, MSF, Lang Vei, is a qualifying assignment.

The BOD approved the addition of new members to the membership committee. They are Pete Buscetto, Bob Jack, Bob Dewey, Mike Haas, Skip Ettinger, Larry Kramer, Steve Doyle, and Don Murphy. It also approved the addition of military liaisons to the membership committee. These are men who are on active duty and are not presently members of the SOA. They will assist in vetting prospective members from present day operations. They are Sean Berg, Doug Swenor, and Fred Funk. The incumbent members of the membership committee remaining are Harry Claflin, Ray Dawson, John Korsbeck, Chieu Ngoc Lam, and Curtis Williams.

Please, if you move, let us know. Send your address changes to me. Send your membership questions to me. Send your dues to me.

Tyler Furbish
Chairman, Membership Committee
PO Box 237961
Cocoa, FL 32923-7961
tyfurbish@earthlink.net
Tel/Fax 530-706-9595



SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

Application for Membership



1. Name: _____ Date: ____/____/____
Print or Type: LAST NAME FIRST NAME MI MM/DD/YYYY
2. Address: _____ Apt. # _____
3. City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ + _____ Phone: () _____ - _____
4. Social Security Number : _____ Service Number (prior to 1969): _____
5. E-Mail: _____ @ _____
6. Application Type: General Member _____ Associate Member _____ (see types and requirements on page 3)
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. References (only a **General Member with personal knowledge of the above may** 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 my check or money order for \$35.00 (USD), payable to the Special Operations Association. A \$5.00 (USD) one-time filing fee is required with initial application (i.e., \$35.00 for initial application). Annual dues of \$30.00 (USD) are due thereafter by December 31 of each year. A \$ (USD) re-application fee will be required after 31 January if dues are paid late. Initial Lifetime Membership is available to qualified applicants at a cost of \$305.00 (USD).

Applicant's Oath:

I affirm that the information submitted on this Special Operations Association membership application form is true, correct, and voluntarily given

Signature _____ Date _____

Mail completed application to:

Tyler Furbish
Membership Chairman
Special Operations Association
PO Box 237961
Cocoa, FL 32923-7961

Membership Criteria

The SOA is a fraternal organization made up of U.S. and allied participants in Special Military Operations conducted in combat areas during WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and others.

Types and requirements of membership

General Member

This is a **Voting Membership**. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually.
A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

Requirements

1. The applicant must have been assigned to one of the units recognized by this Association
2. The ROUTINE and REGULAR (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 qualifying assignment(s). This information may be crosschecked 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 for documentation may be waived if the application includes the name of at least one General Member who, from personal first-hand knowledge, can verify the applicant's qualifications.

Associate Member

This is a **Non-Voting Membership**. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually.
A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

Requirements

Government documentation assigning you to one of the units recognized by this association. If your ROUTINE and REGULAR (normal) duties at the assignment DID NOT place you in DIRECT THREAT/EXPOSURE to hostile fire, you may qualify for an Associate membership.

Operational Associate

This is a **Non-Voting** status that may be awarded to certain non-US military and paramilitary personnel who were in combat with and under the direct control of US Armed Forces personnel. If such persons were members of the US military, they would qualify for General Membership. Dues are \$30.00 (USD), assessed annually. A one-time filing fee of \$5.00 (USD) will be assessed at time of application.

LIFE STATUS

A one-time charge of \$300.00 (USD) for General and Associate members. Members must be in good standing.

GUIDELINES

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 (routine and regular) 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

in a ROUTINE and REGULAR 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.

BECAUSE INTERPRETATION OF "SPECIAL OPERATIONS" AND THE ABOVE GUIDELINES MAY BE RELATIVE TO EACH APPLICANT, THE FINAL DEFINITIONS SHALL REST WITH THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION.

Revised: September 2003
(all other versions obsolete)



EARLY WARNING ORDER

SOAR XXVIII

IN PAST YEARS SOME MEMBERS DID NOT KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION REUNION (SOAR) WAS TO BE HELD, WHO TO CONTACT FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, OR WHERE TO FIND THIS INFORMATION.

WELL HERE'S THE POOP:

WHAT: SOAR XXVIII

WHEN: 29 SEPTEMBER 2004 – 3 OCTOBER 2004

**WHERE: PLAZA HOTEL AND CASINO,
ONE MAIN STREET, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
TEL: (800) 634-6575**

**DEADLINE FOR SOAR ROOM RATE OF \$42.00 IS 21
AUGUST 2004. WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION
INFORM THE CLERK THAT YOU ARE WITH SOA!!!!!!**

**SOAR REGISTRATION FORM WILL BE IN THE PRE-REUNION
PACKET (PRP) WITH A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR
MAILING. PRP WILL BE MAILED IN MID JULY.**

**THERE IS ALSO A POCKET CALENDAR IN THIS AAR PACKET
WHICH HAS ALL THE DATES, ADDRESSES AND POOP.**

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

AMENDMENTS TO 2002 BYLAWS PASSED AT SOAR XXVII 26 SEP 03

The amendments approved on 26 Sep 03 are as follows: **Article I** par 1 amended. **Par 4** was added & the former **Par 4 - 7** were renumbered **5 - 8**. **Article IV** **Par A1 & 2, B 1, C, D, E & F** were amended, the former **Par D** was moved to **G**. **Par G - L** were re-lettered **H - M** and the new **J** was amended. **Article V E** and **Article VIII A** were amended.

Article II A. 1 & 4.

1. To perpetuate the esprit de corps of the Special Operations community; and
4. To promote patriotism throughout the communities of the country, and

Paragraphs previously numbered 4, 5, 6 & 7 are renumbered 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Article IV A 1

A. Definitions:

1. Special Operations Unit(s)
 - a. The unit/project/operational team must be or have been composed of U.S. Armed Forces military personnel with a mission to conduct Special Operations as defined by this Association; or
 - b. In a ROUTINE basis to provide DIRECT combat support as part of the Operational Team performing Special Operations missions.

Article IV A 2 a & b

2. Membership

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, DEBATE, AND TO VOTE. General Members must meet the requirements, of this Association as stated in Par IV E 1 below and as specified for IRS code 501(c)(19) organizations. 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.

b. Associate Member:

A person who meets the requirements of this Association as required in Par IV E 2 below and 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 AT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND MAY NOT DO SO. However, they may be chairmen and/or members of committees and do have a right to vote on committee matters in committee meetings. 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.

Article IV B 1

B. Special Operations Units list.

1. The Membership Committee shall prepare, for the approval or disapproval 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 units in this list will each be given starting and closing dates of eligibility. Units currently conducting operations will be so identified and given a closing date at the appropriate time. The Membership Committee will, as necessary, recommend changes to the list of units to the Board of Directors for approval or disapproval.

Article IV C, D, E, F & G.

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 detrimental to the Association's purposes, and will refuse to approve the application of anyone who submits false information or misrepresents information on his application for membership.

D. Classes – Membership in this Association shall consist of two classes: General Members, and Associate Members.

1. General Member – General 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. 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 during that unit's period of eligibility and the fact that he was placed in direct threat/exposure to hostile fire. If adequate documentation is not available one General Member in good standing must

verify the credentials of the applicant from first hand knowledge of the applicant while in this assignment. In those cases where a General Member is not available to vouch for the applicant, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, the BOD based upon the documentation available, on a case by case basis, may grant general membership to the applicant. Further, General members must meet the requirements of membership as specified in IRS code 501(c)(19). Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the BOD on a case by case basis based upon policies established by the General Membership at a regular or specially called meeting.

2. Associate Member – Associate membership is granted to any person applying for Associate Membership and approved by the Membership Committee. Applicant must 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 direct support role. The Associate Member's routine or normal duty did not involve direct threat or exposure to hostile fire. The applicant must also supply adequate documentation to prove assignment to a Special Operations unit recognized by the Association during that unit's period of eligibility, 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. In those cases where a General Member is not available to vouch for the applicant, upon recommendation of the Membership Committee, the BOD based upon the documentation available, on a case by case basis, may grant associate membership to the applicant. Further, Associate members must meet the requirements of membership specified in IRS code 501(c)(19). Exceptions to this rule may be made only by the BOD on a case by case basis based upon policies established by the General Membership at a regular or specially called meeting.
- E. Operational Associate – The Operational Associate is a DISTINCTION conferred on members of foreign military units and para-military personnel who served with U.S. Armed Forces Special Operations Units, as determined by this Association, in the role defined in the General Member category. However, the persons who have Operational Associate status in the Association are not members of the Association and do not enjoy any privileges or rights of a member. 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.
- F. Honorary Member - Honorary membership status may be granted upon approval of the Board of Directors to a person who has contributed significantly to U.S. armed Forces Special Operations and who would add to the prestige of the Association. However, the persons who have honorary membership status in this Association are not members of the association and do not enjoy any privileges or rights of a member. 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 of two-thirds

of the Board, the Membership, at a general meeting, may 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). However, Honorary Memberships may not be given, if in so doing, the IRC 501 (c)(19) two and one half percent rule is violated.

The previous paragraph D. Application is re-lettered as paragraph G. The previous G. is re-lettered to Paragraph H and former paragraphs H. through L. are re-lettered I. through M.

Article IV J.

J. Transfer of Membership

1. 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.
2. The special designation of Warriors Widow may be bestowed upon the widowed spouse of all deceased members. Each year (unless she states in writing that she no longer desires to receive it) a registration form for that year's SOAR will be sent to her in order that she may register and attend the SOAR, at her own expense, if she so desires. A Warrior's Widow has no membership status. However, she will be identified with a WW prefix to her deceased member spouse's membership number.
3. It is acknowledged that from time to time the parents, brothers, sisters, sons or daughters, of a deceased member may have a desire to speak to, and gain additional information on the activities of their beloved one from those that served with him. Therefore, these immediate family members, and others that may have a legitimate reason approved by the BOD, may apply for a registration form and upon recommendation by the Membership Committee and approval by the BOD, attend a SOAR at their own expense. These relatives and others will NOT be recognized with any prefix or other symbol connected to the membership number of the deceased member.

Article V. E.

E. Election(s)

1. The candidates receiving the highest number of votes for their respective Board of Directors Office, or position of Placed Director, are elected. A tie vote shall be resolved by a majority of the Board of Directors voting for one of the candidates.
2. No person may run or be a nominee for two different Offices in the same election. When two Placed Director positions are open the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

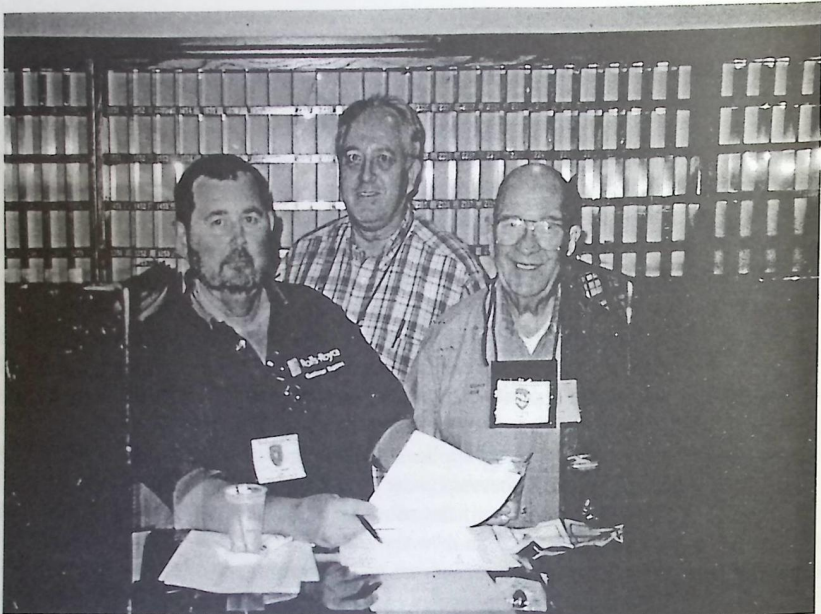
3. If an incumbent is elected to a different office, his currently held office is declared vacant, and filled according to these bylaws.

Article VIII A

A. Membership Committee

1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of a minimum of seven members and such additional members as may be designated by the Board. The Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force will each be represented by at least one member who has served in their respective service if such member is available. The BOD will review the membership of the committee at least annually and make any changes in the committee it deems necessary.
2. Duties:
 - a. 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.
 - b. The membership committee will receive all membership applications, vet the applicants, and determine which applicants are qualified and will be accepted as members and in which category of membership. Each member of the committee will vote on the back of the application and sign his name together with any comments he desires to make on the rationale for his vote. The committee chairman will be the last one to vote. A positive vote of a majority of the committee will be required to accept any applicant as a member in any category unless the BOD, at its discretion, allows the chairman to assign applications to a three man sub committee for determination of eligibility for membership under the following conditions.
 - (1). One member of the sub committee must be from the applicant's branch of service.
 - (2). The vote for acceptance must be unanimous. If the vote of the sub committee is not unanimous for acceptance the applicant's file will be referred to the entire committee for final determination as to whether the applicant will be accepted for membership and category of membership.
 - c. The membership committee shall, as a whole, make recommendations to the BOD as to which units should be added or deleted from the Units List. Each member WILL be required to make and sign a statement as to his rationale for voting for or against the addition or deletion of any unit from the Units List. The information so gathered will be included in the packet of recommendation forwarded to the BOD for its final approval.
 - d. 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.
3. The Chairman of the committee will insure that all committee members are well versed in,

and understand, all aspects of the by laws that pertain to membership as well as all instructions in membership matters that come from the BOD. He will insure that his committee complies with these by-laws, instructions of the BOD and the provisions of IRC 501(c)(19).



**Ty Furbish, Chuck Luczynski, Earl Trabue
"The Workers"**



MG Eldon A. Bargewell, SOA #1474-GL
Assistant Chief of Staff for Training and Operations NATO
Traveled from Brussels to be the guest speaker



Billy Waugh, MG Eldon Bargewell



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shelton



Special Operations Association (SOA)

965 N. Grandview Road

Paulden, AZ 86334

September 6, 2003

Gentlemen of the 219th Special Operations Squadron, VNAF, "King Bees",

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter recognizing the Honor, Valor, and Fidelity of the Officers and Men of the 219th Special Operations Squadron, VNAF, "King Bees". To those who served with the "King Bees", this recognition is long over due. Therefore, the Special Operations Association takes the opportunity of SOAR XXVII to recognize your contributions to the MACVSOG operations during the Vietnam War.

The actions of the "King Bees" are legendary among the members of the Special Operations Association as well as with all of the U. S. military aviation units with whom you worked during operations in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, North Vietnam, and the Demilitarized Zone between North and South Vietnam. The stories shared by all those who worked with and depended on you are stories of medivacs and rescues that were carried out under the most extreme conditions of armed combat. Mostly, they equate to numerous close calls where the lives of the Vietnamese and Americans team members and helicopter crews were fighting tenaciously and valiantly for their lives, with the outcome often in doubt.


What we remember most, however, is that when the situation was at its worst, a call, "King Bee go down", came over the air, and a "King Bee" came boldly and fearlessly into the Landing Zone. Taking everything the enemy had to give it the King Bee came on, risking all, to pull out the team on the ground that often had no other hope to survive.

From those years we forged the bond of "Brotherhood", of the early days of the Special Operations Community, of those who, even today, are willing to risk all to answer the call. The King Bees share a special place in our community. Your flying skills, Courage, and "Dedication to the men on the ground" are legendary and will never be forgotten. Your selfless exploits and sacrifice will forever be etched in the memories and hearts of the men with whom you served.

Tonight, September 27, 2003, at SOAR XXVII, we, the men of the Special Operations Association lift our glasses in a salute to you. We salute you in recognition and appreciation for being there when it counted the most, when our lives were at stake.

"Gentlemen of the King Bees, We Salute You."

With the Respect and Admiration of the members of the Special Operations Association,


James F. Hetrick
President, SOA



219th VNAF Kingbees



219th VNAF Kingbees



219th VNAF Kingbees



219th VNAF Kingbees Ladies



MG Bargewell presenting the TF1AE Guidon to SOA

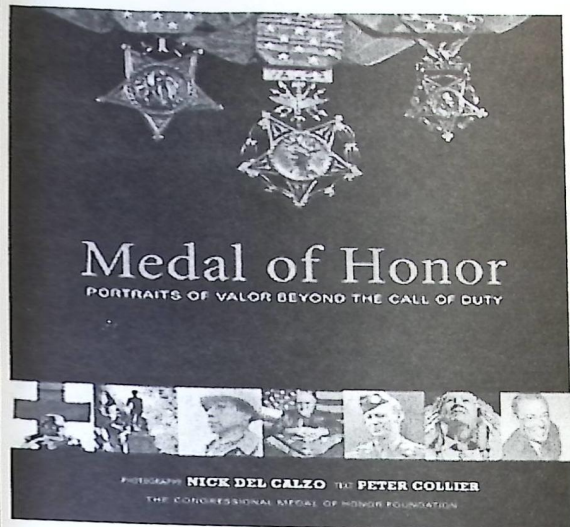


SOAR Chaplain Chuck Luczynski

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H. Ross Perot receiving the SOA plaque for outstanding achievement



Tina and Andy Brown



Don Benjamin, Col. Lew Millet MOH (Ret.)



An invitation to record your legacy of service...An historic look at over 60 years of unconventional warfare... published with the Special Operations Association.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMEMORATIVE BOOK

Special Operations Association has partnered with Turner Publishing Company, a leading publisher of military commemorative histories, to produce a new book detailing the unique history of Special Operations from 1942 to present, including stories, individual biographies and photographs submitted by members of SOA.

Biographies are brief vignettes (approx. 150 words) detailing individual military histories, with “then and now” photographs. *Your help is needed to tell the complete story of Special Operations and the important role military personnel play in our Nation’s defense.* The book will also contain a detailed history of Special Operations, an In Memoriam Tribute to soldiers who died while serving, the history of SOA with roster, Medal of Honor and Victoria Cross awards, and much more.

The SOA Commemorative History Book will be a large, 9 x 12 -inch “coffee-table” book with hundreds of pages, and bound in a sturdy leatherette cover sporting the emblem of the Special Operations Association—the perfect keepsake for all Special Ops veterans and family members—sure to be handed-down from generation to generation. ***Don’t miss out on this opportunity to record your thumbprint in Special Operations History!***

We also encourage family members and associate members of the deceased to sponsor biographies honoring our fallen comrades. *There will be no cost to have your material(s) included.*

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Remember, this book will be incomplete without your story! Biography samples and a fill-in-the-blank questionnaire have been included inside this brochure for your convenience.

I also encourage you to reserve your own copy of this tribute for the special price of \$55.95. The number of books printed will be based upon the number of copies reserved in advance, so you are advised to order early. Please join me in support of our new book.

Gene McCarthy, Director
Special Operations Association
macgene@cox.net



Founded 1977

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ROBERT L. BARHAM II was born Jan 29, 1943 in Los Angeles, California. He served 20 years in the USMC (1961-1982) and retired as a master sergeant.



While in Vietnam (1966 -1969) he served with 3rd Recon Battalion: Delta Co., Team Adder-Mamba, and with Echo Company. His Recon patrol leader experience began in mid 1966 in I Corps to include patrols within the An Hoa complex, A Shau Valley; and later moving into Dong Ha, Khe Sanh, and "Leatherneck Square" TAOR.

He received the Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart during combat action against VC-NVA forces.

After retirement from the USMC he was employed by the Department of Defense as a training & operations officer, serving in Hawaii and South Korea. During Jul 2000 he returned to Vietnam for one last patrol.

He currently resides in the mountains of Broadway, Virginia where he conducts Vietnam historical research, and writes full time.

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October 3, 2003

Mr. Don Benjamin
34617 743 Road
Wauneta, NE 69045-6526

Dear Don,

Jeff and I certainly enjoyed attending your recent Reunion. It was good to see you and talk to so many fascinating people. Please extend my appreciation to Jim Hetrick and Clyde Sincere for their hospitality.

I especially appreciated the opportunity to share a table with so many distinguished individuals. It was indeed an honor for Jeff and I to be a part of your Reunion.

I was glad to hear that the Special Operations Association Vietnam Tribute Pistol generated a good return for your George C. Morton Scholarship Fund. I am glad that we were able to assist you with this worthwhile project.

Cordially,

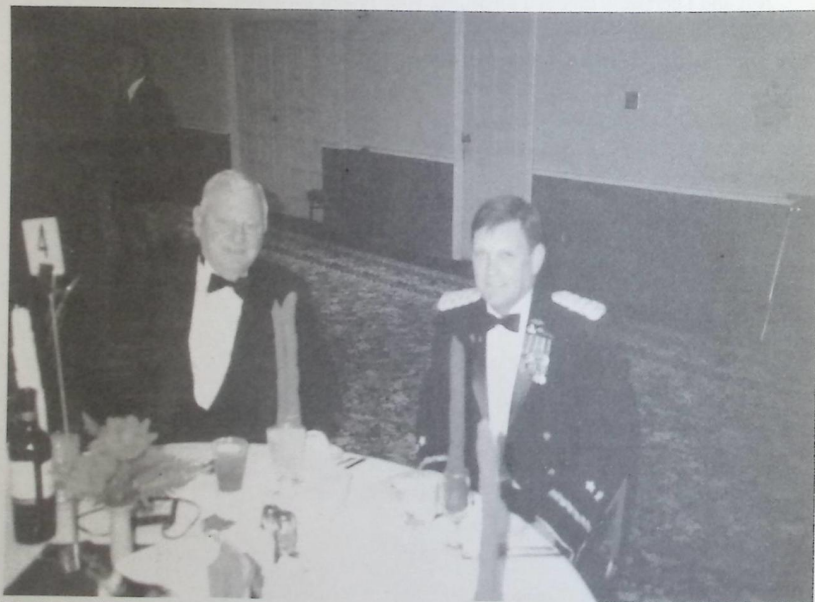
Paul J. Warden
President

PW/dk

Enclosure



Roy Bahr, H. Ross Perot, Mrs. & MG John Singlaub



Clyde Sincere, MG Eldon Bargewell



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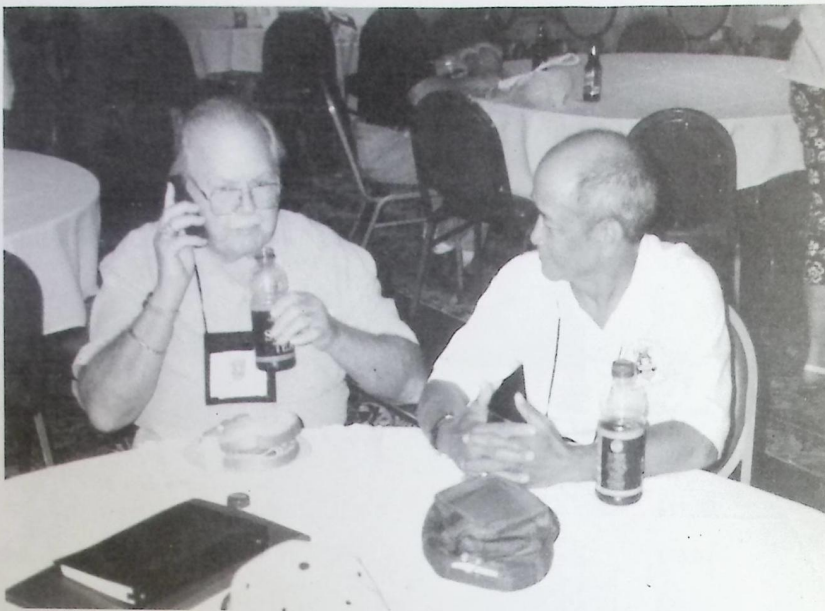
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SOA Board and Officers

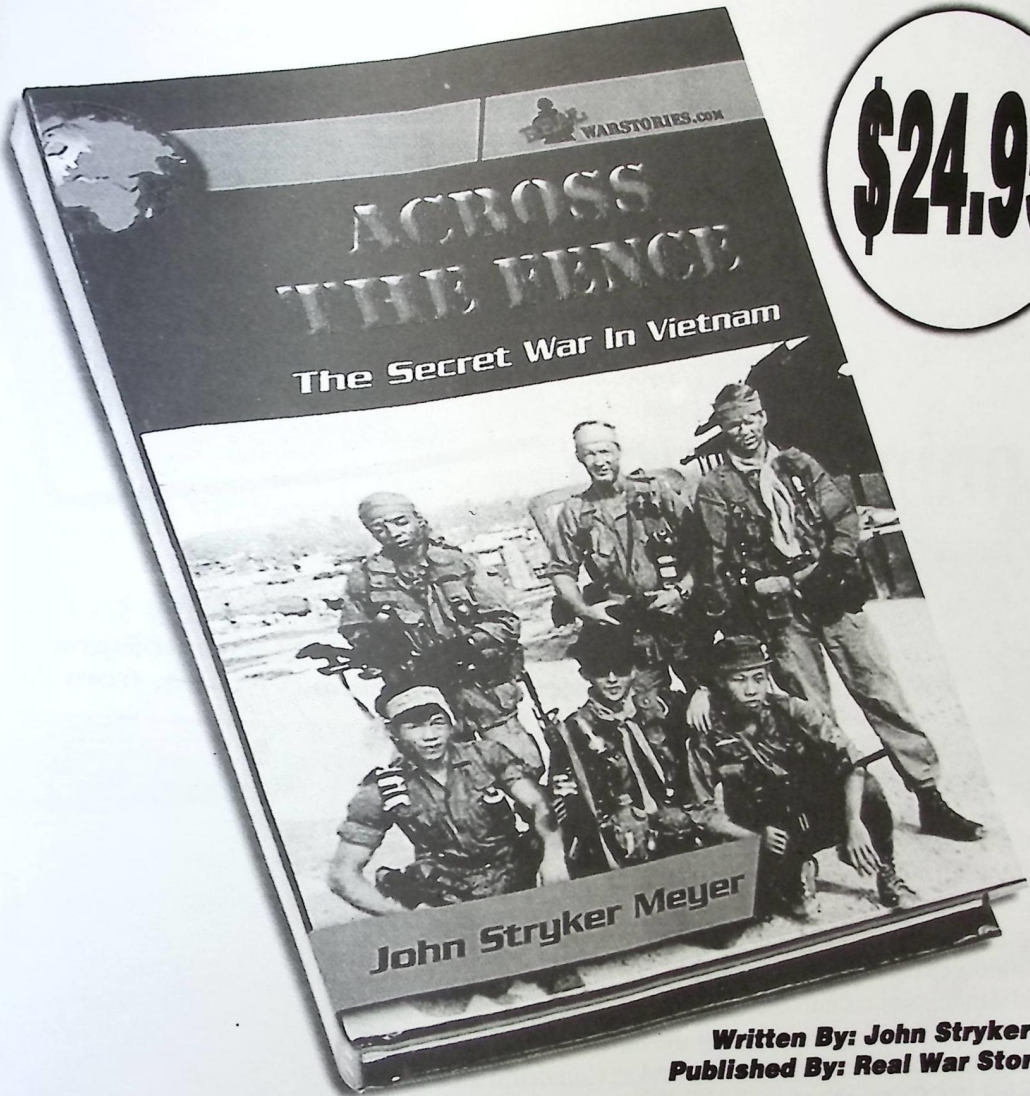


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Running Recon

A Photo Journey with SOG Special Ops Along the Ho Chi Minh Trail

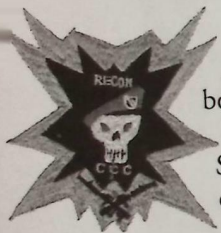
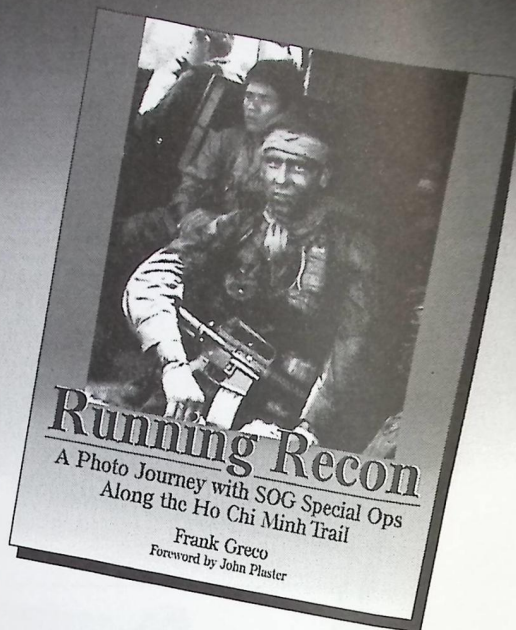
by Frank Greco • with a foreword by John Plaster

Running Recon is a combination military memoir and combat photography book. It reflects both the author's experiences in Kontum, Vietnam, from April 1969 to April 1970 as part of the top-secret Studies and Observation Group (SOG) and the collective experiences of SOG veterans in general.

What sets it apart from other Vietnam books is its wealth of more than 700 photographs, many never before published, from the author's personal collection and those of his fellow SOG veterans.

Frank Greco was a member of SOG's OP-35, Ground Studies Group, the innocuous title for the section of SOG that ran the highly classified and daring missions into the enemy's own backyard, activities denied by the U.S. government at the time. A member of Recon Team Colorado, the author was stationed at Command and Control Central (CCC) near Kontum in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. After running recon for 8 months he took over the operation of the photo lab there, processing the field photos from the teams and flying numerous aerial reconnaissance missions across the border.

Through photos, firsthand accounts by other SOG veterans, and top-secret documents and after-action reports that have been declassified, Greco shows what it was like to run highly classified, extremely dangerous cross-border recon missions along the Ho Chi Minh Trail into Laos and



Cambodia. Color maps marked with specific operations and locations help readers follow the action of the CCC recon teams and the larger Hatchet Forces. Essential elements of

"This fine book not only documents the work of a great bunch of unsung heroes who have never been given credit for their sacrifices, it also tells in a straight-from-the-shoulder fashion the life of those who 'crossed the fence'—some never to return. I've learned a great deal more than even I knew about SOG."

—Col. Stephen E. Cavanaugh,
Chief, SOG, 1968–1970, (USA, Ret.)

interest in SOG, the Vietnam War, special operations, or military history in general.

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H. Ross Perot, Jake Jacobson

U.S. Special Operations Command Memorial Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 6696, MacDill AFB, Florida 33608-0696

15 September 2003

To the family of CMA3 Marvin Shields,

As you may or may not know, there is a memorial located at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa Florida dedicated to the memory of those special operations forces who have served or will serve the interests of the United States of America. CMA3 Marvin G. Shields, USN was not a special operation trained warrior, he earned his Medal of Honor while supporting and fighting with a Special Forces unit. The Special Operations Memorial Foundation Board of Directors were asked by Mr. Jake Jacobson if it would be appropriate for Marvin's name to be placed on the Special Ops Memorial.

It is my pleasure to inform you the Board unanimously voted to honor Marvin by placing his name on the Memorial along with those who so bravely gave all to defend our great nation. Although not special operations trained, he epitomized the tenants of those who serve in special operations, and he is deserving of this recognition.

His name will appear in a place of special recognition at the center of the Memorial reserved for Medal of Honor recipients who were serving in a special operations unit when they earned the Medal of Honor.

Respectfully,

Ross P. Van Lerberghe
Special Operations Memorial Foundation Secretary



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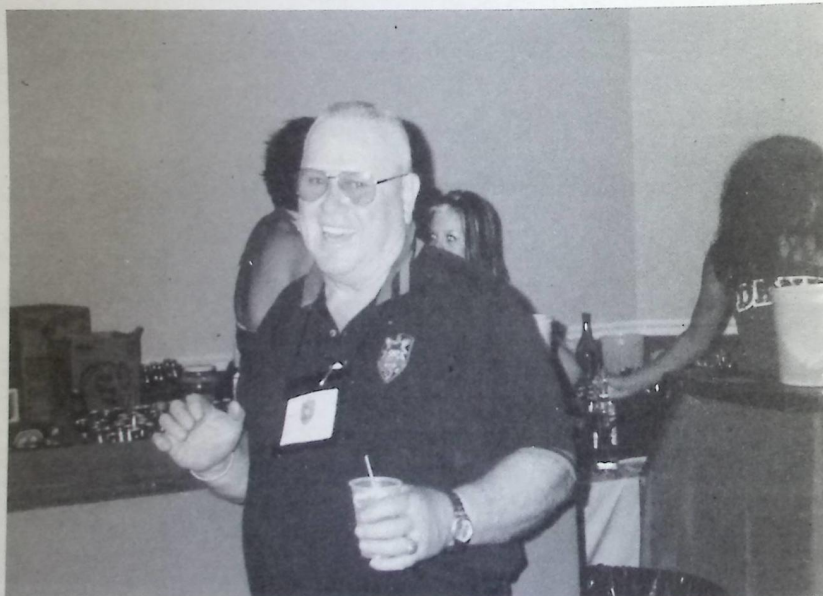
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SAVE THE MONTAGNARD PEOPLE (STMP)

Committed to Preserving the Culture of the Dega People
www.montagnards.org

George Clark, President
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October 21, 2003

WE DID IT! But we couldn't have done it without all the very good friends the Montagnards have all over the United States.

STMP both realized a dream and bit off a large chunk of trouble. Dreams and troubles always seem to come together. Looking back over the last sixteen years, as an organization, we've come a long way. Each step has been a tough, uphill one, and each step was based on the guidance and hopes of the founders of the group. Each step we've taken we had assistance when we needed it - assistance that frequently came out of the blue. This time we needed quite a bit of help and we got it!

One month ago we finalized the purchase of ninety (90) acres adjacent to the ten (10) acres we already own, 12 miles SW of Asheboro, NC. Frankly, we didn't need either parcel of land. If we were a big corporation, like Enron, we could have sidestepped our commitment to the Montagnard people. We would have just continued to have the annual picnic somewhere and given shallow lip service to the fictitious search for a home for the Montagnard Cultural Center. We could have done this until most of us were too old and tired to remember our promises - we didn't.

We did what we had promised! We were obligated! As you get older, promises are more important to keep, and obligations are harder to meet.

Over the years, we have certainly grown, but thankfully we've stayed pretty much the same. We keep our word. We limp a bit in wet weather, and we creak a bit louder when we get off our butts, but our word is as strong as ever.

The word of others remains true also. The land purchase would never have been possible without a lot of help. STMP has led this operation, but there are a lot of good people along beside us. And there were others who were often in front.

Now to get to the bottom line! The land cost with various fees, etc. was just a bit less than \$300,000. Donations toward the land purchase were \$150,000. STMP made a down payment of \$128,000, leaving a balance of \$170,000 to be paid in monthly installments over 15 years. The monthly payment is \$1,385.00 at 5.5% interest. A balance of \$22,000 is currently in an escrow account for land payments as they become due. This is backup money to be used as needed. Since the last newsletter, pledges amounting to about \$600/month have been received, and as they are received they will be used to offset the \$1,385/month mortgage payment.

About now an excellent question would be "Were did we get \$150,000??? Glad you asked. The largest donation of \$41,500 came from the Special Forces Association and their members. The list of these donors is in the current issue of the DROP (and it fills two pages). The response of the SFA members was truly wonderful. The Toleo Fund, Mr. Ben Roberts and Mr. D. Hamilton each gave \$25,000 toward its purchase; Mr. Bill Farrell in Oregon raised \$5,000, and an old friend, Dr. Surry Roberts, donated \$3,500. STMP members and friends donated \$15,000 specifically toward the land purchase. The Montagnard community has contributed \$10,000. These figures have been rounded for simplicity and were accurate as of October 7, 2003. At Dega Days, the Montagnards contributed an additional \$1,000.

At SOAR in Las Vegas, Jack & Alice Clemens and Sandy Estlow raised \$3,500. Part of this was from a raffle on a Montagnard blanket and jacket. The remainder was in the form of donations either to the general fund or land account. Going to these affairs is important to STMP. We are well received and supported, but it is also an excellent opportunity to promote our various activities.

STMP keeps a "working account", which is money spent at the discretion of the directors and may be used for any legitimate purpose. In the past, this fund has been used to assist Montagnards in need, fund STMP projects such as the pavilion building, or to help the Montagnard community in general. This fund is still and will continue to be maintained. We are not narrowly focused on the land. The land, however, does allow us a certain freedom of movement. As an example, a Montagnard family of six was recently asked to leave their trailer home in Greensboro, through no fault of their own. They were moved into the old farmhouse on the new property and are living there while fixing it up.

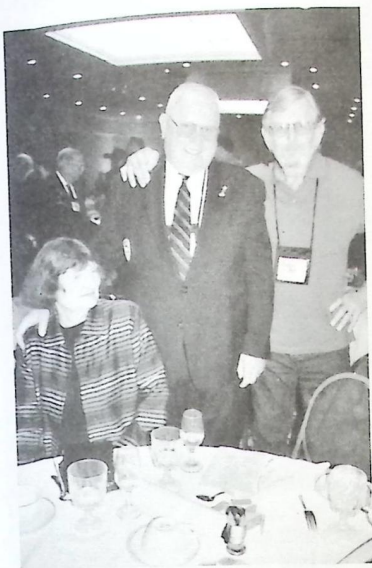
We were very proud to have Dega Days held at the Pavilion again this year. Just as last year, STMP provided the meat and the Montagnards did nearly all the work. The crowd was estimated at 2,000. It must have been a difficult job counting everyone, since many of the Montagnards walked the entire property, envisioning what could be done with the land. Those decisions are theirs to make. The Montagnard tribal council has scheduled elections for a Board of Directors for the steering committee that will plan and oversee the land use on the ninety acres.

Isn't it unusually that this much of a newsletter has been written and there's been no begging for money? And it gets better—there won't be any request for money, except for those who have not paid their annual dues.

BUT, we could use some help – WORK HELP. STMP has grown tremendously in the last few years. We have job openings in almost every field - **AND** all of these jobs are unpaid - **AND** most will cost you money to perform. We can use help in so many areas (too many to list). Most of the work needs to be done in central North Carolina, but there are other opportunities for all kinds of skills. No matter where you are, you can pass on the story of the Montagnards. If you are among the lucky ones who live near Asheboro you can expect a call very soon. It would be great if you called me with your specific areas of interest.

If you think your annual dues are current, there should be a membership card enclosed. If there isn't please call me (540) 743-2943. Life members should already have a card, if not please notify me. Enclosed is a new blank application. If you are now, or ever were, a member, you don't need to compete it. Perhaps pass it on to a friend you think might like to join. Make copies if you wish and of course, if you're not a member please consider joining us.

George Hadelor, Secretary, STMP, 481 Almond Drive, Luray, VA 22835-3521
(540) 743-2943



Bulldog Smith Jack Clemmons



Nellis AFB Color Guard



Shirley and Ben Baker



Bobbie and Thomas Kyle



Ben Baker, Ed Clough

NIGHT STALKERS EARN SILVER STAR

By CHANTAL ESCOTO

The Leaf-Chronicle

Greg Williamson/The Leaf-Chronicle

Six soldiers with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment were recognized at Fort Campbell Wednesday for their heroic actions when their Chinook helicopter came under heavy enemy fire in Afghanistan last year.

Seven service members died and 11 others were wounded during the March 3 and 4, 2002, mission which was the onset of Operation Anaconda.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Donald Tabron, Master Sgt. Cory Lamoreaux and Sgt. Brian Wilson all received a Silver Star -- the Army's third highest combat medal. Broken Wing Awards were given to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Alan Mack, Chief Warrant Officer John Talbot and Sgt. Daniel Madden. The Broken Wing is given to aircrew members who minimize or prevent aircraft damage or injury to personnel during an emergency.

Although Tabron's Silver Star was pinned on Sept. 10 by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker in Washington, D.C., during a 9-11 commemoration anniversary, he was included in Wednesday's ceremony for the benefit of his peers. The unit delayed awarding the medals until now because most of the soldiers had been deployed on various missions around the world.

"What these men have done for this nation, many will never know," said Col. Andrew Milani, 160th commander. "They don't know that on that Afghan mountaintop these soldiers put their lives in great peril to protect the freedoms we all enjoy."

The soldiers of "Razor 3" a MH-47E Chinook helicopter crew and other special operatives, landed in the snow-covered rough terrain on a reconnaissance mission when they were attacked by al-Qaida and Taliban fighters. As the crew fought back, the aircraft was hit by small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

Realizing the aircraft was losing power, the pilot lifted suddenly to move out of the area quickly, causing a Navy Seal, Petty Officer Neal Roberts, who wasn't strapped in, to fall about 10 feet to the ground. Besides losing hydraulic fluids and having engine problems, the crew knew they couldn't leave Roberts behind and returned to the known al-Qaida territory.

With the help of Air Force AC-130 gunship, a team of Army Rangers that arrived later and additional Chinook crews, the remaining Razor 3 members were rescued after 15 hours of intense fighting.

Col. Erik Peterson, the soldiers' battalion commander, said the crew decision to go back for Roberts was because of loyalty and the military's honor to leave no one behind.

"I don't think there is any question among their peers and commanders that they did the right thing," Peterson said. "Nobody can presume to fully comprehend the choices and decisions they made."

The 160th SOAR "Night Stalkers," a tenant unit of about 1,600 soldiers at Fort Campbell, is the only aviation regiment that transports special operations personnel to hot spots around the world.

Chantal Escoto covers military affairs and can be reached at 245-0216 or by e-mail at chantalescoto@theleafchronicle.com.

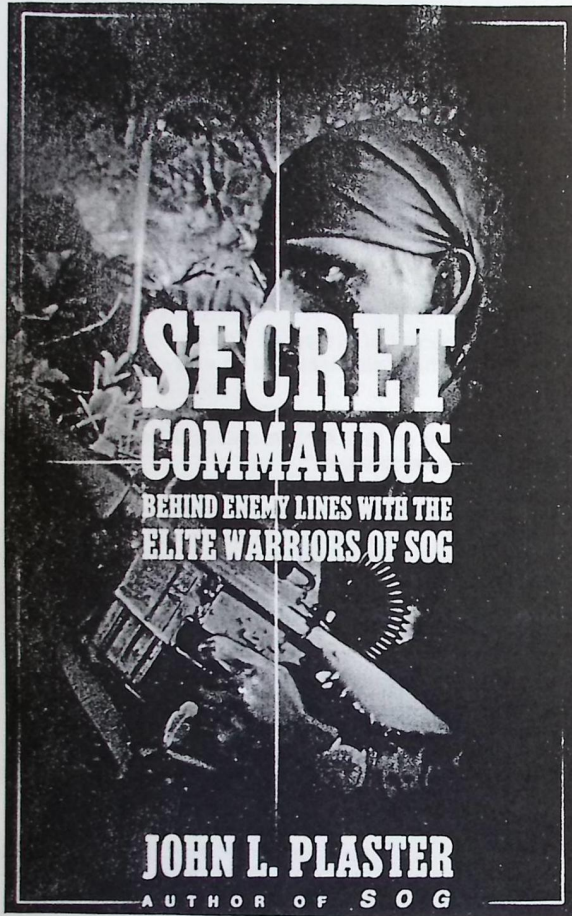
Originally published Thursday, October 16, 2002

To be released by Simon & Schuster, June 2004 --

SECRET COMMANDOS

More true combat stories, more SOG men at last given the credit they deserve

This book tells many tales from John's three years in SOG, December 1968 to December 1971.



A few highlights: Jim Pruitt's DSC operation; the loss of Ricardo Davis; Eldon Bargewell's DSC mission; Mo Worley's DSC operation; how Robert Masterjoseph gave a nut to capture a prisoner; Bill Deacy's brush with death at CCS; the loss of RT New Mexico; 1970 invasion of Cambodia; the loss of RT Pennsylvania; the 1968 CCN sapper attack; and many, many other stories — *harrowing to humorous* — plus an accounting of every FOB-2 man who was MIA or KIA during this period. In addition to the 100+ SOG vets Plaster interviewed for his first book, Plaster interviewed an additional 40 for this, the final volume in his SOG trilogy.

Please Help Promote this book to the public: THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO is to order it in April or May through a local bookstore, especially a major one like Borders, B. Dalton, Barnes & Noble or Books A Million. To thank you for this assistance, when you buy your book locally, send it to John for a personalized inscription, and he will pay the return postage.



Julie Sylvester, SFC Billy Hooper



The SOARETTES

CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII

- A historic event took place here today, in front of hundreds of guests, ADM Thomas B. Fargo, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, unfurled the colors of the new command responsible for bringing home all Americans lost in conflicts while serving their country, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC).

■ The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command consists of 425 joint military and Department of the Navy civilian personnel and is headquartered in Hawaii. The first commander of this organization is Army Brig. Gen. W. Montague "Que" Winfield, who assumed his position at the ceremony this morning. "It is an honor for those of us who are privileged to be part of keeping the promise America makes to its heroes, that we will never forget and we will do everything in our power to bring them home," said Brig. Gen. Winfield.

■ JPAC's mission is to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all Americans missing as a result of the Persian Gulf War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Korean War and World War II.

■ The new command both absorbs and replaces Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, established in January 1992 and the U.S. Army's Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii, established in May 1976. The decision to merge these units came from extensive studies to determine feasibility and the benefit of operational improvements. JPAC will coordinate all U.S. POW/MIA investigation and recovery efforts.

■ The unit's mission is daunting, today there is still one American missing from the Gulf War, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, more than 8,100 from the Korean War, and more than 78,000 from World War II.

■ The U.S. Government, the Department of Defense and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command remain committed to scientific excellence and the fullest possible accounting of all Americans still missing or unaccounted for in defense of this great country. JPAC will continue to fulfill our nation's promise to the POW/MIA families and those Americans still waiting to come home.

■ For more information visit our website at www.jpac.pacom.mil

LTC Jerry O'Hara
Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command PAO
310 Worchester Ave, Bldg 45
Hickam AFB, Hawaii, 96853-5530
Office: (808) 448-8903 Ext 111, alt. 109
Cell: (808) 255-4078
Fax (808) 448-2619
Web Site: www.jpac.pacom.mil



J.D. Bath, Shirley Bath, Jane Sisler



Gail Plaster, Smilin' John Plaster, H. Ross Perot

MEDICAL ALERT ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Gentlemen: I am working with Dr. Steve Yevich , Director of the VA National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, (and formerly with CCN Recon), in an attempt to pinpoint why so many of the men who served on the recon teams and hatchet forces are dying from pancreatic cancer, pancreatitis, gall bladder problems and other severe, very painful intestinal disorders. The incidents of our having these problems are way out of proportion to the general population, and quite obviously we usually suffer in silence as seldom do we share our problems with the men we served with. **We have lost two of our Medal of Honor recipients to these maladies and many others are suffering in silence.** I also lost half my pancreas but survived. I had a great surgical team and they caught it just in time. In my case, there was no known medical cause for my problem.

Amongst other things Gentlemen, the pancreas is responsible for insulin production in the human body. Problems with your pancreas can manifest itself in your liver, kidneys and is a major cause of diabetes. Pancreatic pain is most exquisite. My question to you is, why such a high number of SOG and SF troopers who served in the border areas of Vietnam affected with these problems. Could it be Agent Orange or a result of the many, issued wonder drugs we took?

We need your help

We are undertaking a study to determine why so many of us have these severe intestinal problems. We need to hear from you if you have had or are having problems with any of these areas. I also realize that you also know of many of our comrades in arms who have died from these problems. Therefore, if you are currently suffering from any of these maladies or know of any of your friends who have these problems or have died from these causes please contact either myself or Dr. Steven Yevich with as much as the following information that you have:

- ☐ FULL NAME: _____
- ☐ AGE: _____
- ☐ DATES IN RVN: _____
- ☐ DATES IN MACVSOG OR SF: _____
- ☐ PHONE NUMBER: _____
- ☐ ADDRESS: _____
- ☐ DESCRIPTION OF MEDICAL Problem _____

Please submit your information via E-mail or snail mail to the following addresses, or you can contact me telephonically.

James E. Butler
rtpython@redshift.com
P.O. Box 22613
Carmel, CA 93922
(800) 937-2400

Founder of the Special Operations Association

Dr. Steven Yevich
Steven.Yevich@med.va.gov



George Marlin, Carla Lutz Bowling, Paparazzi Jutz, aka Zorro



Mr. and Mrs. Norm Doney

LE NATURE'S

The SOA wishes to express its appreciation to George Marlin, Business Manager, Le Nature's various flavored and Vitamin and Mineral enhanced flavored waters, Ice Teas and Juice drinks that he donated to SOAR XXVII. In addition to the Pallet and a half of various products donated, George assisted Steve Goth and his crew operate the Hospitality Bar during the conduct of SOAR XXVII. Thank you George and we look forward to seeing you at SOAR XXVIII.

Attendees also received a sample bottle of Le Nature's product when they came through the registration line at SOAR. In turn all they were requested to do if they liked the product and resided within a reasonable distance of a Military Commissary was to approach the COMMISSARY MANAGER and request that he add Le Nature's products to his stores stock assortment. In return for your assistance, George will insure that a donation is made to the George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund Program for up to \$0.25/case for every case of Le Nature's waters, teas and juices sold in any military commissary worldwide.

At SOAR XXVII some attendees queried due to its name as to where Le Nature's was produced. FYI, Le Nature's is produced in Latrobe, Pennsylvania – their water is utilized in the production of Rolling Rock Beer.

If anyone has any queries whatsoever regarding this product do not hesitate to contact George at:

GEORGE MARLIN
Business Manager
Le Nature's
P.O. Box 2067
Sugar Land, Texas 77487
(281) 565-7241
g2marlin@aol.com



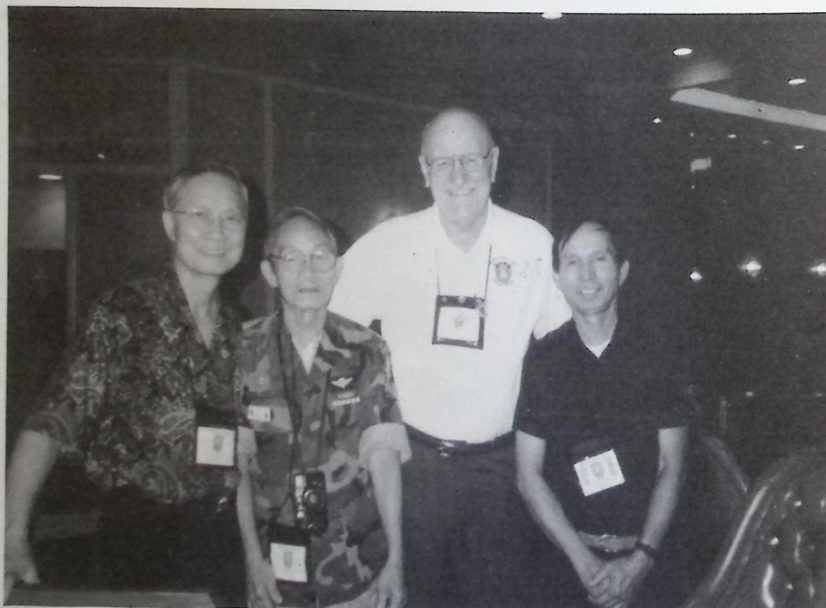
McClaskey's and the Ginder's



Karen Dehnke, Cliff Newman



Kingbee Pilots and Ladies



Thu X Huynh, Kien That Nguyen, Zorro, Khiet Phan



Contact: Marisa Stella, Publicity
P: 212-698-7093/ F: 212-698-2858
Email: marisa.stella@simonandschuster.com

NAPALM DREAMS

By John F. Mullins

NAPALM DREAMS (Pocket Star Books; April 1, 2004; 0-7434-7767-7) is the first book in *The Men of Valor* series, a realistic, action-packed adventure series which will follow a core group of Special Forces soldiers through the jungles of Vietnam and beyond.

It is a very bad day for Green Beret Captain Finn McCulloden and his troops. Sent in at the last moment to reinforce a Special Forces border camp in imminent danger of being overrun by a North Vietnamese regiment, facing odds of twenty to one, beset by treachery from within, the situation complicated by the seeming incompetence of his second-in-command Lieutenant Bentley Sloane, and now the weather is closing in.

In one brutal day and night McCulloden and his team and their Montagnard allies fight an increasingly desperate battle against a determined and competent enemy. Good men die in a struggle the American people have already given up on. But they will neither give up nor give in. All are heroes in the truest sense of the word. But one will rise above them all, almost despite himself.

Napalm Dreams and its follow-on, *Into the Treeline* introduce the core group of Special Forces operators who will populate the rest of the books in the series. From the desperate battles in Vietnam to the triumph of Afghanistan and dozens of little-known struggles in between we will live and fight with these Men of Valor.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

John F. Mullins joined the U.S. Army in 1960, subsequently serving three tours in Vietnam with the

Special Forces, initially as a medic and then as a Team Leader and SOG operative after being commissioned in 1964. After retiring in 1981, he has worked as a "for-hire soldier," conducting security and anti-terrorism operations in such places as Bogotá, Beirut, and Belfast among others. He is also both the writer of the story and the actual model (his name and likeness are used) for the Soldier of Fortune and Soldier of Fortune: Double Helix computer games by Activision.

####

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NAPALM DREAMS

John F. Mullins

Pocket Star Books

April 1, 2004

Price: \$ 6.99

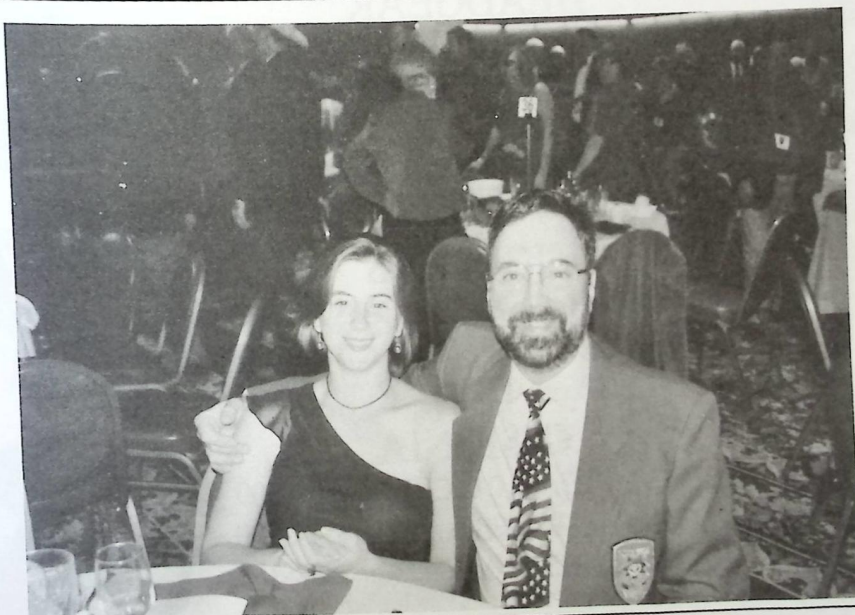
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Cowboy, Cunningham



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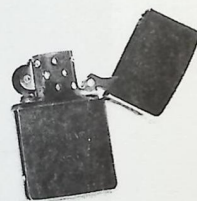
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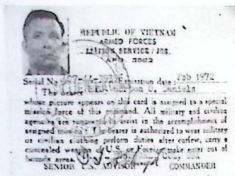


INSIGNIA

RECON TEAM PATCHES \$150-\$500
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SOG Identification Cards

SOG Id's	\$250.00
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Insignia

Patches	\$150.00 to \$500.00
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I am interested in all other items that you may have, Mike Force, Seal, Force Recon, LRRP, ect... Please give me a call for an offer. I am also interested in items from post Vietnam covert ops (Central America, Grenada, Rhodesia, ect...)

Jason M. Hardy
580 Parker Street Gardner MA, 01440
(978) 630-3533
jason.hardy@worldnet.att.net



1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)
Special Activities Association
First In Asia Fund



3 October 2003

Memorial Wall Update

Currently we have raised \$10,125.00 to build the memorial. Cost of the completed project is estimated to be close to \$50,000.00. The reinforced concrete foundation for the monument is complete and in place. The black granite stone has been ordered and will be completed and delivered in time for Menton day. Currently, bids are being taken for construction of the retaining wall and sidewalk.

The "First In Asia Fund" is now recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization with a federal ID number of 91-1952903. What that means is all donations to the fund are tax deductible by individuals or businesses.

Donations of \$125 or more will have a stone engraved with the company or individuals name and placed into the walkway leading up to the memorial.

Send donations to: Commander HHC, 1st SFG (A)
Box 339502, Mail Stop 78
ATTN: First In Asia Fund
Ft. Lewis, WA 98433-9502

Points of contact are SFC Kevin Patton at (H) 360-458-4360, (W) 253-967-8853, (C) 253-208-8388. CSM Perry Davis at 253-967-8719 or LTC Downey at 253-967-8600.

Kevin L. Patton
SFC, USA
FIA Treasurer



Bill Shelton, Cowboy



Zorro and Janda Hooper, Ms Coors



Keaton's daughters, Cowboy, and Keaton Lafayette



Watkins, Meyer, Shippen, Cowboy, George, Dan



Steve Goth, Bar Manager (Do you know why he's smiling?)



Bartenders Dezirae and Erin



25 SOA Year Pin Recipitients



25 SOA Year Pin Recipitients

**Special Forces Association
National Convention 2004
Las Vegas, Nevada
20 June - 24 June 2004**



**Registration
(Type or Print All Information Carefully)**

Name _____
Last First MI

SFA Member # _____ Chapter _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ zip+4 _____

E-Mail _____ Telephone # _____
Home Work

Guest(s) _____

Name(s) on ID Badge(s): *Max 16 Letters or Spaces per line*

FIRST

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LAST

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FIRST

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LAST

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Registration @ \$100.00	X	# of Attendees _____	Total _____
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Registration includes Hospitality Room, Picnic, and Banquet.

Convention 2004 Golf Tournament - Tuesday 21 June.

Entry Fee @ \$85.00 X # of PLAYERS _____ Total _____

Entry fee includes Green Fees, transportation from hotel, prizes, and lunch.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

SEND NOW TO:
SFA National Convention 2004.
P.O. Box 42056
Las Vegas, NV 89116

Convention Headquarters is the Riviera Hotel and Casino
2901 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.
Convention Room Rate \$73 plus tax. Reservations 1-800-634-6753.
All major events and the Hospitality Room will be at the Riviera.

For more information visit our convention website at www.sfa51.org
for specific questions or requests, contact John Lied
Telephone (702) 451-9476, email jlitedjr@earthlink.net

**SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL CONVENTION 2004 – LAS VEGAS
HOSTED BY CHAPTER LI**

**CONVENTION DATES 20 – 24 JUNE 2004
(SUNDAY THROUGH THURSDAY)**



SCHEDULE OF MAJOR EVENTS –

**SUNDAY
20 JUNE 2004**

- Arrival / Hotel Registration / Convention Check-in (Early arrivals receive Hotel Convention Rate)
- Hospitality Room - Top of the RIV

**MONDAY
21 JUNE 2004**

- Late Arrival Registration
- Opening Formation 0900 - Wear Green Beret
- Hospitality Room
- National Board & Chapter Presidents Meeting - 1300

**TUESDAY
22 JUNE 2004**

- SFA Golf Tournament Nellis AFB – Depart Hotel 0645
- Hospitality Room
- Stage Shows

**WEDNESDAY
23 JUNE 2004**

- Association Picnic Inside Riviera 1100-1500
- Hospitality Room
- Stage Shows

**THURSDAY
24 JUNE 2004**

- General Membership Meeting - 0900
- Hospitality Room
- Banquet at the Riviera Doors Open 1800

**FRIDAY
25 JUNE 2004**

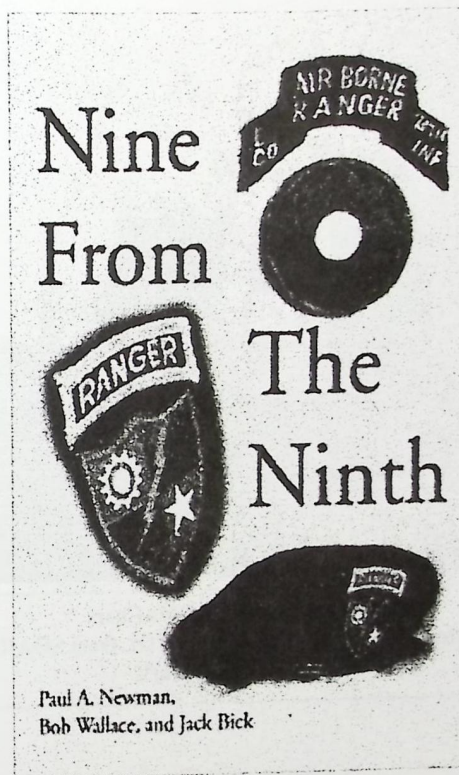
- Farewell Breakfast Kristofer's 0700 -1000
- Checkout (Late departures receive Hotel Convention Rate)

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