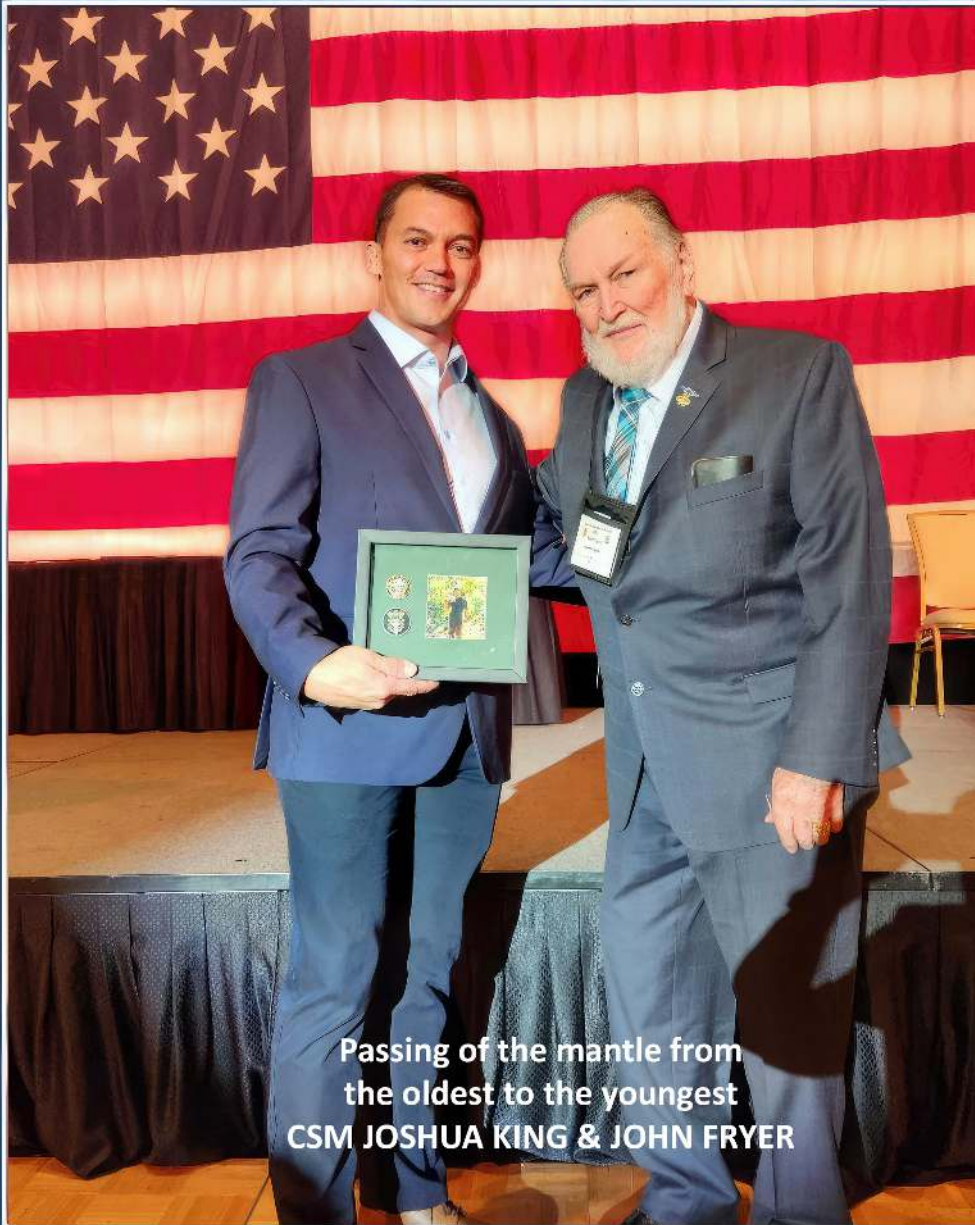




SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION AFTER ACTION REPORT



Passing of the mantle from
the oldest to the youngest
CSM JOSHUA KING & JOHN FRYER

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



EARLY WARNING ORDER

SOAR XLVIII

14-18 OCTOBER 2024

Who SOA Members in good standing and their guests.

Direct questions about eligibility and status to:
Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
954-448-2981 membership@specialoperations.org

Where: The Orleans Hotel and Casino

4500 West Tropicana Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89103-5420

800 675-3267

<http://www.orleanscasino.com/Groups>

Accommodations and rates will be announced in the 2024 PRP and newsletter.

See you at SOAR XLVIII in 2024!

SOA FACT SHEET

The Special Operations Association is incorporated in the State of Texas and approved by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) under the Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19), Veteran’s fraternal organization as exempt from federal income tax (EIN 74-2619854).

Membership in the SOA is open to veterans or members of a branch of the US Armed Forces Special Operations Community who have conducted Special Operations as a member of a combat element or provided direct support to the operational combat element within an assigned area of operations. Our members include combat veterans from all wars including WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, the Balkans, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan, as well as those from our most recent conflicts in the global war on terrorism.

The purposes of this Corporation herein after referred to as the “Association,” are:

1. To perpetuate the esprit de corps of the Special Operations community; and
2. To unite fraternally veterans of all branches of the United States Armed Forces who, since the beginning of World War II, have conducted or supported “Special Operations;” and
3. To commemorate fittingly the memory of all those who have given their lives in defense of the Free World and to those who served in Special Operations units and are still unaccounted for as POW/MIA;
4. To promote patriotism throughout the communities of the country; and
5. To educate its members and the citizens of the United States in the proper development of Special Operations, and to keep abreast of new developments in the field of Special Operations as is consistent with security regulations; and
6. To encourage every member of the Association toward a closer personal relationship and a friendly spirit of mutual cooperation; and
7. To foster and promote the general welfare and prosperity of the Members, and to improve by all lawful means their status and condition; and
8. To be a source of inspiration for all Special Operations Units now and in the future.



The SOA communicates with the membership via the website, Pre-Reunion Packet (PRP), After-Action Report, (AAR), newsletters and email blasts.

The SOA annual General Membership Meeting has been scheduled for 14-18 October 2024 at the Orleans Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. All members are encouraged to attend.

Revised: 31 December 2023
WEB SITE: www.specialoperations.org

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2024 Annual dues are now due and payable.
[Click here to pay now](#) or visit the SOA Website at
<https://specialoperations.org/soa/>

SOAR XLVII VIDEOS AVAILABLE IN THE SOA VIMEO LIBRARY

- [POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM](#)
- [AIR SYMPOSIUM](#)
- [CCS BREAKFAST](#)
- [GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING](#)
- [BANQUET OPENING AND AWARDS](#)
- [GEN FENTONS SPEECH](#)
- [TAPS](#)

SOAR XLVII PHOTO ALBUMS AVAILABLE TO VIEW IN THE SOA FLICKR LIBRARY

[GO TO SOA FLICKR LIBRARY](#)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SOAR XLVII soared! From the Monday first arrival day and Early Bird Shooting Event to the Taps Video and Farewell on Thursday, the Special Operations Association members, families, and guests enjoyed an event filled week.

Our AAR cover photo captures our theme: Special Operators throughout the years. CSM Josh King of the 5th Special Forces Group accepted two coins that traveled the Ho Chi Minh Trail from John Fryer, the sharpest Green Beret in his nineties. The cover captures the spirit of our association, as we pass the mantle of leadership on to new generations.

And what leadership was this displayed this week. Greg Walker educated us all about the successful El Salvador “Ghost Warriors” mission from 1981-91, also featuring our hero Spider Parks. COL (ret) Mark Mitchell lectured on his exploits as a Horse Soldier with the 5th in Afghanistan immediately following 9/11. Don Haase led an informative Aviation Symposium, starring our Air Partners.

John Vislosky was everywhere. He led the Silent Auction, secured first-class weapons for the “raffle,” and invited one of the senior leaders of the VA to speak on efforts to reach all veterans with needs. Our old friend retired VADM Ann Duff was present all week to answer all manner of questions regarding VA benefits.

Our Author’s Event under the direction of Dan Thompson grows every year. More and better writers!

Doc Padgett and Vicki Chan Padgett were hard to miss. They manned the Foundation table in the hospitality room, hosted the SOAF Bowling tournament as well as the SOAFAC meeting.

The POW MIA meeting, with our DPAA senior and retired members in attendance was a huge success, reporting on recent missions to recover our mates and bring them home. A special thanks to Ann Mills-Griffith’s League of POW MIA Families and the new Mission: POW MIA organization. Thank you David Gordon.

Horace Boner arranged another outstanding SRO liquor tasting to wet our whistles. The hardest working man in Las Vegas, John Russell secured seats at a great show, Cirque du Soleil: The Beatles Love!

Rob Graham and his merry band of video gamers kept many of us fascinated with the growth of Arma 3: SOG Prairie Fire. Dennis Cummings continues to document our history with video interviews. Please help Rob and Dennis document our history.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (cont’d)

And we saved the best for the last.

Our convention speaker was GEN Bryan Fenton, Commanding Officer US Special Operation Command. He spoke to us (with his CSM) from a remote location, recorded shortly after the October 7, 2023 invasion of Israel by Hamas. A tour de force, providing a stunning, brilliant end to our reunion.

A very grateful thanks to our QM Bob Daniels and his daughter Julie. QM secured its most profitable year due to the hard work and organization of the Daniels family.

A fervent thankful thanks to Bonnie Cooper, Ray, and Ronnie Frovarp and all the Board and Special Staff who stepped up to fill the needs of our reunion this year. Please review the website for many pictures taken by Bonnie, RT Rivero, and others. And from our hearts, a thank you to our ARVN brothers who grace our presence every year.

And last to our Reunion Chair, Phil Devon and our Las Vegas assistant, Linda Leavitt who work quietly and effectively behind the scenes all year to ensure a great week.

Next year: We celebrate the 60th Birthday of MACVSOG. Be there!

Doug Godshall, President
Special Operations Association

DIGITAL DELIVERY OF SOA PUBLICATIONS

Effective immediately, the SOA will utilize digital delivery as the primary source of communication with the SOA membership. In addition to a positive environmental impact, digital delivery reduces printing and distribution costs, which is one of the largest expenditures of SOA funds.

Paper copies will be available to members who do not have an email address on file.

If you have any questions, contact Ray Frovarp, 910 850 6023, rmfrovarp@gmail.com.

DID YOU MISS SOAR 2023 DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND YOUR CONTROL?



Don't miss SOAR 2024!

Being with your fellow comrades in fellowship and comradery is not only important to you, but it is important to your fellow members.

Brightlight is 100% member funded and can cover some or all of the expenses to attend SOAR depending on individual needs.

If you, or someone you know, can benefit from the BrightLight program, contact me personally. All conversations are confidential.

Ron Owens, BrightLight Chairman

305-984-2186

adventure4u@aol.com

"We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."
—George Orwell

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION AAR ONLINE RAFFLE

To participate in this worthwhile project to support the SOA Scholarship program, click **BUY NOW** to purchase tickets or contact Ray Frovarp, rmfrovarp@gmail.com 910 850 6023.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

The winner will be notified NLT 01 November 2024 via phone.

Winner has 90 days to claim the prize.
(Winner may opt to accept the prize or \$800.)

Springfield Browning Hi-Power 9MM Pistol
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PROCEEDS WILL FUND THE SOA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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Special Operations Association Ring

10ct gold – \$1750.00
Sterling Silver – \$600

MEMBER ONLY ITEM!

SOA logo on top of the ring
Top left side panel: your choice of graphics
Top right side panel: your choice of graphics
Bottom left side panel: your choice of graphics
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AVAILABLE AT THE SOA QUARTERMASTER STORE
soaquartermaster@gmail.com 727-804-0481



TAPS

The SOA has attempted to list our fallen as accurately as possible. Should any member have information about a deceased brother who has not been identified here, please contact the SOA Chaplain and the information will be published in our next report.

The following are our brothers who have passed since the last TAPS, and those who departed earlier, but were not previously identified.

MEMBER NAME	SOA#	DECEASED DATE
Batman, Sherman Richard	1456-G	22-Sep-23
Clark, Johnson S.	999-G	7-Aug-23
Daniels III, Thomas M.	584-G	29-Aug-23
Green, Donald Allen	719-G	22-Sep-23
Holbrook, Roger Joseph	1285-G	23-Sep-23
Hornung, Theodore Gregory	1181-G	13-Dec-23
Humphus, Thomas O.	1919-G	11-Aug-23
Hutchens, John "Hutch"	2063-G	5-Aug-23
Keel, Colin F.	2523-G	26-Dec-23
Kennemur, Frank	1329-G	12-Dec-22
Griskelis, Kestutis	271-G	6-May-23
Kittinger Jr, Joe W.	775-H	9-Dec-22
Lang, Walter P.	2438-A	4-Apr-23
Leites, Robert	53-G	4-Dec-23
Lid, Dennis W.	3127-G	14-Nov-22
Masterjoseph, Robert P.	51-G	6-Dec-23
Mollica, Leonard	48-G	3-Sep-23
Phan, Dinh H.	2367-O	10-Mar-23
Richter, Kenneth J.	1406-G	12-July-23
Rougeau, James L.	2134-G	26-Aug-23
Slatton, James W.	25-G	11-Apr-23
Slugocki, Alert	278-G	9-Dec-23
Stern, Michael B.	2172-G	3-Sep-23
Von Beltz, Jeffrey B.	2321-G	28-Jul-23
Woodbury, James Woody	3017-G	8-Sep-23

We always give thanks to God for all of you, making mention of you in our prayers; constantly keeping in mind your work of faith and labor of love and perseverance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father. Thessalonians 1:2-3

Dale Hanson, SOA Chaplain
cdhanson@att.net

HOSPITALITY



HOSPITALITY



**SOAR XLVIII
2024
BE THERE!**

JOINT SOA/SFA POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM



This year's Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Symposium focused on a case study of the process and techniques used by USG (Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and DIA's Stony Beach [SB]) to account for SGT John Jones a SOG MIA from the Hickory Hill radio relay site on June 5th, 1971.

SOA President Doug Godshall and I opened the Symposium with general remarks and administrative comments. The SOA leadership took the opportunity to thank the DPAA and DIA Teams, especially the lab personnel for their continued support. Additionally, for the ongoing mission of recovering the unaccounted-for Vietnam War service members.

Prior to the USG presentations, representatives from the National League of POW/MIA Families and a newly created Mission: POW/MIA organizations briefed attendees on their respective organizations, missions, and current and future initiatives.

Dr. Jay Veith, Executive Director for the League of POW/MIA Families, reaffirmed the League's mission dedicated to the recovery of Vietnam War service members. An anonymous donor has significantly aided the League's efforts to digitize decades worth of historically critical records. Dr. Veith assured the League will continue with their positive relationship with DPAA. He further noted that he and the League's Board Chairman, Ann Mills Griffiths (also in attendance) plan to travel to Southeast Asia before the end of the year to continue the League's decades long relationship with the governments of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

David Huffman, Executive Director of Mission: POW/MIA followed with an introduction to this new organization. It was formed in February 2023.

While initially dedicated to accounting for personnel unaccounted for from WWII, they have embarked upon an aggressive public awareness, social media and outreach campaigns focused on the Vietnam War missing. He further noted that MISSION: POW/MIA is pursuing the purchase of satellite imagery of incident sites where Vietnam War service members are still missing.

JOINT SOA/SFA POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM

DPAA and DIA's Stony Beach presenters provided the rest of the briefings, and update of their organization's current and future operations culminating with the case study of the recovery of SGT John Jones.

Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, DPAA Principal Deputy Director provided a strategic overview and key updates of DPAA missions with a focus on Vietnam War accounting.

- DPAA has approximately 700 employees responsible for returning the unaccounted-for US personal lost from WWII to present.
- Numbers of US personnel still missing (parenthesis are estimates of potentially recoverable): WWII 72,139 (29,311), Korea 7,486 (7,187), Vietnam 1,578 (1,089), SOG 66, White Star 4, Cold War 126 (15), Iraq and other conflicts 6 (4).
- DPAA's budget for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) is projected to be \$196M. As a comparison, DPAA's FY23 budget was \$150M.
- In FY23 DPAA accounted for 158 missing US personnel: Vietnam War 4, Korean War 39, the remainder from WWII.
- DPAA FY23 efforts in Southeast Asia: 8 Joint Field Activities (JFA)/partner missions:
 - Vietnam: 3 JFAs comprising 5 Recovery Teams (RTs), 3 Investigating Teams (ITs) and 1 partner RT.
 - Laos: 3 JFA comprising 6 RTs and 2 ITs.
 - Cambodia: 2 partner missions comprising 1 RT and 1 IT.
- For FY 24 DPAA projects a 300% increase in overall missions.

Mrs. Sumpter Winbush further stressed the importance partners play in the DPAA's accounting mission, stating they complement DPAA efforts and provide synergy to the mission. She spoke of the many challenges to the accounting for and recovery efforts; weather, unexploded ordinance, acidity of the soil, fading witness memories, passing of witnesses, significant cost of operations in SEA and host nation constraints. Significantly, she stressed the 80% of DPAA's operational budget is devoted to the Vietnam War accounting. The lion's share of the symposium was dedicated to an actual recovery operation from initial intelligence to final family notification and burial for SGT John Jones.

JOINT SOA/SFA POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM

The DPAA and DIA presenters laid out the steps involved in the recovery process with a slide show presentation depicting steps taken and photographs of the site.

It first starts with an analyst review of the case to determine what evidence is needed to advance the case. This process can involve open-source materials such as books, photographs, veteran's recollections, imagery and refugee/HUMINT. In SGT Jones' case, a veteran's recollection of the battle was a critical piece of information in the effort to identify the location. In conjunction with DIA's SB team who worked hand in hand with DPAA analysts, SB strategic briefers can be tasked to gather additional information. Once sufficient information is developed to warrant an on-site investigation, a team is deployed to the site to make a preliminary assessment of the viability of the site to contain remains. If this assessment is positive, a recovery team will be scheduled to excavate the site.

At this point, Dr. Nicolette Parr, DPAA-HI forensic pathologist and the Chief of DPAA's Vietnam War Identification Project took over the presentation. She also deploys to on-site excavations with the teams. Dr. Parr detailed with slides and photographs of the Hickory site how an excavation is executed, especially the care that is taken, when either osseous (bone) material and/or material evidence is discovered. In the case of SGT Jones, osseous material was discovered associated with the battle. To make matters more difficult the site had been later a target of a B52 strike. At this point, Dr. Parr provided an extremely interesting side bar description of the identification process, ranging from the role of DNA, the use of dental records, chest x-rays and other information to correlate a set of remains to an individual. At the conclusion of her briefing, Dr. Parr received a standing ovation from the assembled audience.

The final step in the accounting process is the family notification. Once the individual is identified, the actual notification falls in the purview of the respective casualty office. Next of kin are provided with all manner of information, an opportunity to ask questions and afforded the choice of where they would like their loved one to be interred. DPAA staff emphasized that all steps are taken in the process to ensure the fallen service member is treated with dignity, respect and honor befitting his or her sacrifice to our Nation.

A brief Question and Answer period wrapped up the presentations.

Mrs. Sumpter Winbush and Dr. Parr were presented with a copy of the four MIA posters that were displayed in the Hospitality room during SOAR. They will be displayed in the halls of DPAA-HI as a visual reminder of our missing comrades.

JOINT SOA/SFA POW/MIA SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium was a great success. There were 175-200 attendees. One of the largest attended symposiums in my recent recollection.

Its success was due to the very hard work and support of many: The Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee members with their support and input, Bonnie Cooper with audio/visual, Bruce Christensen helping me identify those still unaccounted-for, Jeanie Huffman the illustrator of the four posters, DPAA and DIA Directors and their staff for supporting this effort and the presenters from League of Families and Mission: POW/MIA.

David Gordon,
Chairman, Joint SOA/SFA POW/MIA Committee



SGT John Robert Jones
KIA/BNR: June 5th, 1971
Hickory Radio Relay Site
Recovered: August 10th, 2012



DPAA requests that anyone with personal insight on incidents involving an MIA, including photos, notes, or recollection to contact them. <https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaReportASite>



Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event



A record audience attended the Authors Reading & Raffle Event held 13-1500, Tuesday, 17 October. Over one hundred SOA Members and guests were treated to presentations from nine (9) SOA Authors.

The audience was entertained and educated by a wide array of authors, their books; fiction, non-fiction, memoir, and in one case, accompanied by a vivid video presentation.

SOA attendees were given *FREE* raffle tickets and the chance to win autographed books. The books were graciously donated by the authors.

The recordation of SOG history, its men, “their heroism legion, mission impossible,” is of great import to us all.

SOA authors have taken up the mantle, volunteered for another important, yet risky mission; give witness to and chronicle SOG’s unique and heralded era. They write stories that inure to the recordation of our history, give eternal voice to the dead, and those soon silenced.



SOA authors were humbled by your attendance, encouragement, and support. They are grateful for your attention; listening, reading, and buying of their books, which in many cases have taken years to write. Suffice it to say, authors spend prodigious amounts of time, effort, and emotional ware to finish such projects, and yes cold hard cash.

We look forward to your presence again next year when another legendary group will share their stories. Come join us. Lend us your ears.

Respectfully,

Dan Thompson

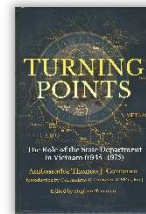
Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event

SOA DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS

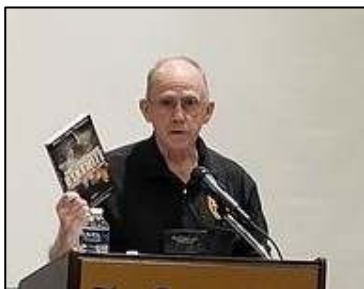
Look for these authors and titles online at the SOA website: www.Specialoperations.org, Amazon.com or your favorite bookstore:



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GONE TO TEXAS
Presented by Brenda Morris



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TURNING POINTS



Henry Thompson
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FOREST OF DARKNESS
Presented by Dale Jackson



TERRY BUCKLER & CLIFF WESTBROOK
WHO WILL GO



DALE HANSON
BORN TWICE

Authors' Reading and Book Raffle Event



**JOE PARNAR AND
ROBERT DUMONT**
SOG KONTUM: 1968-1969



BARRY PENCEK
*OPERATION TAILWIND: MEMOIRS OF
A SECRET BATTLE IN A SECRET WAR*



ROGER LOCKSHIER
WE SAVED SOG SOULS



**THANK YOU TO OUR SOA DISTINGUISHED AUTHORS
FOR SHARING THEIR TIME, TALENT, AND STORIES.**



HORSE SOLDIERS

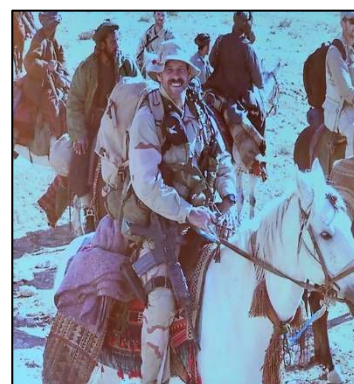


Colonel (Ret) Mark Mitchell, former commander of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), provided an overview of his experiences in 2001 as part of the initial military response to the 9-11 attacks.

The first teams on the ground were Special Forces ODAs, some of whom (including Mitchell) rode on horseback with their Afghan counterparts.

The world was amazed when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld held up a photo of these “Horse Soldiers” in a press conference and the story was immortalized in a book of the same name by Doug Stanton.

Only 7 weeks after the attack, then-Major Mitchell suddenly found himself on an operational detachment. Rumsfeld had ordered the Central Command to place battalion commanders on the ground with the Northern Alliance. As the operations officer for 3rd Battalion, 5th SFG(A), Mitchell became part of an 8-man “Operational Detachment Charlie” with his battalion commander. The detachment, like much of the initial response was an ad hoc effort.



Two of the eight were U.S. Air Force Combat Controllers who had never met, much less trained with, the “team” that they would accompany into combat. Mitchell recounted that, despite all the challenges, the arduous assessment, selection, and training they had endured enabled them to succeed on the ground.

In addition to participating in the liberation of Mazar-e Sharif, Mitchell served as the ground force commander during the 4-day battle at the fortress Qala-I Jangi.

For his actions in putting down the armed uprising by 600 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters, Mitchell received the Distinguished Service Cross. Mitchell closed out his remarks by sharing detail about re-opening the airfield in Mazar-e Sharif and later burying a piece of the World Trade Center (which were given to each team) and presenting a map with all the locations to the 9-11 Museum in New York.

HEALTH & WELFARE

The SOA has been fortunate to have representatives from the VA attend the last 3 SOARS providing compensation claims support and benefit information.



VADM Ann Duff, Dorian Jenkins, George Grogan and Alisha Flores from the P&F’s Office of Survivors Assistance (OSA), along with Larry Provost, from the National Cemetery Administration briefed Veterans and spouses about available survivor benefits.

Ann also met separately with spouses during the SOAFAC meeting providing information on survivor’s benefits.



Robert Reynolds, Deputy Under Secretary for Disability Assistance (DUSDA) briefed the membership on benefits.



VA representatives personally met with over 250 Veterans and their families. OTED took in 115 compensation claims.

The SOA Board and membership are extremely grateful for the VA’s attendance.

HEALTH & WELFARE



POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS INJURY (PTSI)

John “Doc” Padgett has researched new as well as long-established treatments for post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) and discussed these considering the risks and benefits of the methods used the most.

The signs and symptoms of PTSI were reviewed, as well as the similarity and differentiation of traumatic brain injury, which can co-exist with PTSI.

There are now approximately two million veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and approximately 15% of these, or 280,000 have been treated for PTSI.

While this number is impressive, not all cases have been reported or diagnosed. This is also true with Viet Nam combat veterans.

Doc discussed the current modalities of PTSI therapy, to include medication, group, and cognitive therapy, as well as the recent use of psychedelics.

He also presented a newer and very effective modality called Reconciliation of Traumatic Memories (RTM). This therapy is safe, with no drugs. It is non-threatening, non-invasive (no injections or electrodes) and the results are usually rapid with minimal regression.

He suggested that this therapy be investigated by anyone currently experiencing PTSI symptoms. Any member or family member seeking more information on PTSI and/or TBI may contact Doc Padgett directly at bacsi10@yahoo.com.

For more information on Health and Welfare topics contact:

John “Doc” Padgett – bacsi10@yahoo.com

VADM Ann Duff – Ann.duff@va.gov

Aviation Symposium

The 2024 Aviation Symposium featured the 195th Assault Helicopter Company's "special mission helicopter operations", from their formation at Ft. Carson, Colorado, training and shipment to Vietnam until they ceased flying SOG missions in June of 1970. Their in-country training and supporting special projects B-56 Sigma, B-50 Omega, and B-52 Delta.



The presenters were 2nd platoon "Ghost Riders" slick Crew Chief Don Haase and gun platoon "Thunder Chickens" Crew Chief Joel "Lil Mac" McDaniel. They went through helicopter maintenance school at Ft. Eustis, Virginia, and helped form the unit at Ft. Carson. When they reported to the 195th Headquarters at Ft. Carson, Colorado, in January of 1967, outside of the supply Sgt. and a PFC under him, they were the first men in the company.



They put together an outline of the history of the 195th. Aviation Company/Assault Helicopter Company using company historical notes, award citations, and the book *Secret Green Beret Commandos in Cambodia* by Lieutenant Colonel Fred S. Lindsey, USA (Ret). From that outline, they put together a slide show using rare photos of operations at Ft. Carson, transportation to Vietnam, and operations in Vietnam.

The company was formed at Camp Holloway, Pleiku, RVN, by then Captain Earl Carlson, who had worked with Special Forces at Ft. Bragg in the early 1960s and then moved to Pleiku, Vietnam, as part of the 81st Transportation Company, one of the first two helicopter units shipped to Vietnam with CH 21 Shawnee helicopters. Captain Carlson felt that those two experiences were why he was given command as a Captain. He was soon promoted to Major. The company's senior officers and NCOs had previous tours in Vietnam, but all the pilots and enlisted men were straight out of AIT schools.

The company trained all spring and summer of 1967 then on August 28, 1967, 31 aircraft left Ft. Carson bound for Long Binh, Vietnam. Flying to Oakland, California, arriving three days later with all 31 aircraft. It was a rare feat for helicopter units shipping to Vietnam out of Sharpe Army Depot, California. The aircraft were cocooned and placed aboard the USNS "Sea Train Washington," an aircraft transport ship, by maintenance personnel and Crew Chiefs for transoceanic shipment. The rest of the equipment was loaded on railroad flat cars and shipped to Oakland, California, and then to Vietnam.

The men boarded the USNS General Nelson Walker, a troop transport ship. This was the last troop transport mission for the USNS Walker, spanning back to WWII. After thirty days at sea, the USNS Walker approached the coast of Vietnam at Cam Ranh Bay. The two thousand troops on board awaited their fate in Vietnam. Three days later, the men of the 195th were offloaded at Vung Tau. After building our new home, the aircrews trained with our sister companies, the 191st and 240th AHCs of the 214th Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade.

On December 1, 1967, the 195th AHC began combat operations supporting the "Special Operations Group". The January 1968 Unit Historical notes state we are supporting the more familiar "Studies and

Aviation Symposium Con't

Observation Group.” Thus, the name change had occurred.

On January 29, 1968, the 195th lost its first aircraft in a hot LZ. Crew chief Wendell Skinner was pinned under the aircraft and left for dead for six hours. After returning from Song Be and learning of Wendell’s fate, Major Carlson exclaimed, “We do not leave our men behind.” Major Carlson made a daring one-ship rescue mission after midnight without gunship support. “All in a day in SOG.” A day later, the TET offensive started. Wendell Skinner and Major Carlson did not meet again for 50 years.



Concept of Operations on Classified Missions

Supported Unit Mission

- Area Recon
- Determine the direction of enemy movement.
- Determine the combat potential of enemy units
- Capture Prisoners
- Direct and monitor artillery
- Bomb Damage Assessment

195th AHC Mission

- Aerial LZ Recon
- Insert and extract Recon Teams
- Provide Gun ship cover of insertion and Extractions
- Resupply
- Radio Relay
- Flare ship
- Medevac

The TET offensive of 1968 stretched the aircrews of the 1st Aviation Brigade to their limits. Many days were 20 hours long, flying missions and maintaining aircraft. After the May offensive, the 195th returned to supporting the SOG missions full-time. At that time, the 195th commanding officer, Major Hummel, and Col. Drake, commander of B-56 Sigma, needing to make our aircraft and crews sterile, made a deal with the Air Force paint crews at Bien Hoa Air Force base to paint the 195th aircraft in the Air Force camo paint scheme. They traded 31 AK-47s for 31 aircraft paint jobs. The 195th was Vietnam's only Army aviation unit that authorized camo paint jobs.

Later, in the summer of 1968, 195th Air Crews Extracted a six-man recon team and a separate thirty-man Hatchet force in a Prairie Fire emergency. These extractions were made as a Typhoon blew in from the South China Sea. Colonel Drake put 195th pilots in for one Silver Star and eight Distinguished Flying Crosses. General Robert R. Williams presented the awards at a ceremony in the 195th Company area. In September, the 195th supported B-52 Delta at Quan Loi in Operation 5-68 (Alamo), another first for the 195th. A delta recon team discovered a large ammo cache. The 195th inserted the 81st Ranger Battalion, Delta’s reaction force, and they captured the cache. It consisted of 547,000 AK-Forty-seven rounds and required fourteen Chinook sorties to remove. Throughout 1969 Skychief crewmen received one DSC, Fifteen silver stars, one hundred two ARCOMS, Forty-two DFCs and two hundred and ninety-eight Air Medals for their service in the Republic of Vietnam.

All missions conducted through the latter part of 1969 were to be continued through 1970 with no

Aviation Symposium Con't

further changes required. On June 7, 1970, the 195th ceased operations supporting Special Forces recon teams and Hatchet Forces.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II-EAME
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Ar
Vietnam
Counteroffensive, Phase III
Tet Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase IV

Counteroffensive, Phase V
Counteroffensive, Phase VI
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Summer-Fall 1969
Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Counteroffensive, Phase VII

DECORATIONS -

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer
Embroidered VIETNAM 1967-1968
Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer
Embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

The symposium concluded by showing the four-minute video of the Prairie Fire extraction radio communications of RT Hawaii and the surviving members of RT Colorado from Laos in January 1971. John Plaster was the covey rider that the team from Savage Game Design did for the SOA Hall of Heroes display at 5th Group at Ft. Campbell, KY. It shows the teamwork required of the aviator crews, slicks, gunships, covey, and recon teams to complete the SOG mission. A tribute to David "Lurch" Mixer RT Colorado 22 January 1949- 29 January 1971. [See the complete video of the symposium by clicking here.](#)



GHOST SOLDIERS OF EL SALVADOR



At this year’s SOAR I was privileged to present an hour-long symposium pertaining to the significant input, actions, and leadership of MACV SOG veterans during the 10-year civil war in El Salvador. Contributions that led to the rebuilding and deployment of not only El Salvador’s special operations capabilities but those of the conventional army, as well.

That presentation, the first of its kind that I am aware of, has since been provided to the Command Historian at Fort Bragg for his archives on that US military campaign as acknowledged by the US Congress in 1996.

That acknowledgement includes an AFEM and all combat awards and decorations for all Services which sent Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guardsmen to El Salvador, with 21 of these killed in action and numerous others wounded or injured during their tours.

De Oppresso Liber!
Greg Walker
walkergrega@gmail.com

OFFICIAL SOA COIN

\$12
Available now through
SOA Quartermaster sales or at SOAR

Also available online:
www.specialoperations.org/soa/

NOTE: This is a members only item.

SOA FLAG

\$50
Available now through
SOA Quartermaster sales or at SOAR

Also available online:
www.specialoperations.org/soa/

NOTE: This is a members only item.

SOAR BANQUET



SOAR BANQUET



President Doug Godshall, for the third year, served as Master of Ceremonies. Although Doug makes it look effortless, it's quite a team effort to organize the banquet.

It starts months before SOAR with careful coordination with the hotel by our reunion coordinator, Phil Devon. Numerous Zoom meetings ensue, and updates, right up until the last moment, are provided by our volunteers and special staff. During the event, Doug is assisted by Linda Leavitt in handing out awards and tenure pins.

The colors were presented by American Legion Post 76, Las Vegas; Debra Sinyard once again honored us with her amazing voice singing the National Anthem, and Jack Kull presented the Missing Man table ceremony.



The youngest and oldest members performing the symbolic passing of the mantle of leadership were SOA Vice President CSM Joshua King and our oldest member present at SOAR, Jack Fryer. Their photo graces the cover of this year's AAR magazine.

We were joined by many special guests, including a large POW/MIA contingent from both government, civilian organizations, and Gold Star family members. The list of SOA warrior widows attending seems to grow each year, but they will always find a welcoming home within the SOA. Rob Graham and his team from Savage Games Design, who now feel like a part of the SOA family, also attended. The bond between the men of SOG and their Vietnamese aviators and Recon brothers was evidenced by the number of those men who attended.



SOAR BANQUET

AWARDS

PRESIDENT’S AWARDS were presented to Jean Thong, John Vislosky, Dan Thompson, John “Doc” & Vicki Padgett, Rhonda Frovarp, and Bonnie Cooper. Not pictured are Duffy Jensen and Jason Fry.

These are just a handful of the members and volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to the SOA and its members.



Larry Trimble accepted a Certificate of Appreciation to present to the Toyota dealership which has contributed to the funds raised by the SOA Riders.



John Vislosky introduced the SOA’s newest Honorary member, martial artist extraordinaire SGM(ret) Larry Jordan.

SOAR BANQUET

45 YEAR TENURE PIN CEREMONY



SOA Members who have achieved 45-year membership in the SOA. – l-r *Richard Dioguardi, James Martin, Jim Hetrick, Raymond Robinson, and Tom Cunningham. Not pictured Keith Messinger, Charles Berg.*

Others who achieved 45-year status as Members in the Special Operations Association.

Robert K. Brown	45-A	Harry H. Holt III	52-G
Marion Bush, Jr.	96-G	Harold (Jake) Jacobson	69-G
William L. Cassidy	92-A	Travis Mills	44-G
Agostino Chiaiello	82-G	Walter E. Nader	67-G
Robyn F. Evans	94-A	Arlin L. Olson	58-G
James E. Foster	46-G	Charles F. Pfeifer	40-G
Al Greenup	28-G	John P. Silk	70-G
Bo Gritz	42-G		

SOAR BANQUET

General Bryan P. Fenton

Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM)



SOAR XLVII Keynote Speaker was General Bryan P. Fenton, currently serving as the 13th Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida.

Prior to assuming command of USSOCOM, General Fenton served as the Commander of Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC. General Fenton's other assignments as a general officer include Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense; Deputy Commander, Indo-Pacific Command; Commander, Special Operations Command Pacific; Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, U.S. Army Pacific; Deputy Commanding General – Operations, 25th Infantry Division; and Deputy Director of Strategy, Plans and, Policy, Department of the Army.

His Army and special operations assignments include Director of Operations (J3), Joint Special Operations Command from 2012 to 2013; Brigade Command from 2010 to 2012; Squadron and Battalion Commands from 2005 to 2009, to include command at the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, NC.

General Fenton has served in multiple geographic combatant commands including U.S. Southern Command; U.S. European Command; U.S. Africa Command; U.S. Central Command; and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. He participated in Operations Joint Forge (Bosnia), Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan/Africa), Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn (Libya).

General Fenton's many military courses include: the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Basic and Advance Courses; Special Forces Qualification Course; Ranger School; Special Forces Language training (Spanish); U.S. Army Jump Master; and the Special Forces Military Free Fall School.

General Fenton holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from University of Notre Dame, and a Master's Degree from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He attended Negotiation/Leadership Training at Harvard University and served as the 2009 Army Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. General Fenton and his wife Dawn have two daughters.

The complete video of General Fenton speaking can be viewed at this link: [Gen Fenton Keynote Speaker](#)

As had become our tradition, the banquet was closed by remembering those the SOA lost since last we gathered by watching the Taps video. [Watch the Taps video.](#)

SOAR BANQUET



SOAR BANQUET



BEATLES LOVE

The Beatles-Love event was at the Mirage Hotel Casino & Resort and was absolutely sensational. The event show was a complete online sellout more than a month prior to SOAR.

A total of Ninety-nine (99) members were able to purchase tickets for the show. There were so many member applicants that a standby/cancellation list had to be established. There were more than twelve (12) members on the standby list hoping to gain access to the show in the event of any cancellations.

There were only four (4) cancellations; however, through the efforts of our Cirque du Soleil Group Sales Coordinator and Theatre Manager, Mr. Aaron Hinterlightner, we were able to secure a few additional seats to accommodate additional members for the show. Even with the additional seats, some members still had to be denied access to the show because of limited theatre and transportation seats.



Pursuant to the American Disabilities Act (ADA), all of our handicapped and/or mobility challenged members (with canes, crutches, wheelchairs, and motorized scooters) were also able to enjoy the show as we strive to accommodate every member, regardless of their physical disability.

For all future events, SOA members are highly encouraged to register online for the show as soon as the Registration Portal is open, and well in advance of the next SOAR.

Transportation was provided by Ms. Katsura Cavinder of Sweetours Excursion & Educational Tours with air-conditioned, custom comfort seating, with large windows for viewing of the Las Vegas metropolitan areas while enroute to and from the Mirage Hotel Casino & Resort. Our buses were granted special permission to unload and load directly at the front entrance to the Mirage, with a short walk to the theatre entrance. Elevators were available for all of our disabled members, with specially assigned/designated ADA seats.



BEATLES LOVE (cont'd)

The Beatles-Love show began promptly at 7:00PM and our members were thoroughly entertained for one and one-half hours of superb entertainment by the various performers in their respective, as well as group performances, from artistic theatrical, light illuminations, to spectacular aerial trapeze acts high above the theatre floor.

The show also included a group performance of a moving Volkswagen Beetle moving about the floor as if it was a live motorized vehicular movement, breaking away in apportionment by each performer holding portions of materials constituting the total makeup of the entire vehicle. This was an amazing feat that can only be appreciated by a physical visit to the show.

Our members had complete unobstructed seating, some as close as ten (10) feet from the landing spots of some aerial trapeze artists. All SOA group seats were such that all members were able to be seated next to everyone in their respective parties.

The SOA Entertainment Committee were overwhelmingly complimented on all aspects of the show, from arrangement, to transportation, to show closing and return to the Orleans Hotel.

Members are highly encouraged to submit to the Entertainment Committee event(s) of their desired choice, keeping in mind that all desired events must be available on Tuesday evenings of all SOAR reunions; cost effective, and can be enjoyed by all.

Please submit all questions, suggestions and/or comments to John Russell (949) 698-4616, or to Johnr7940@gmail.com.

John Russell—Committee Chair, Judith Russell—Committee Co-Chair, Janet McGovern—Committee Co-Chair, Patricial Bah—Temporary Co-Chair.



CCS BREAKFAST

There were approximately seventy-five attendees this year. Our friends from the UK, the Savage Game Design team supported our memorial breakfast to our fallen brothers. President Godshall and his wife Cathy were also in attendance.

This year's event was a low-key event again. A prayer led breakfast. Followed by reading the names of our fallen CCS brothers by Alex Saunders. Skip Cantwell read the names of the Green Hornet's fallen, and Don Haase read the names of the 195th. AHC, 155th. AHC, 189th AHC and 240th AHC fallen SOG Air Partner Brothers.

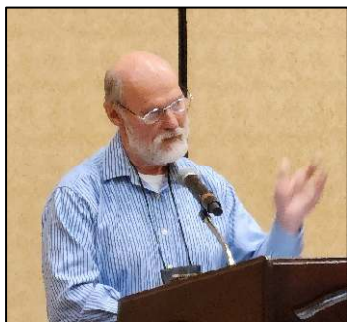


Many would say the highlight of the breakfast was when Ben Kristy of DPAA asked to address us. Ben is the case officer for our MIA brother Jerry "Mad Dog" Shriver. He is seeking information to find and return Jerry's remains to us and his family. Ben stated that in 1970 a graves registration team with a six-man security detail went to the site. At that time they recovered the remains of Lt. Gregory M. Harrigan but could not find Shriver's. They think the six-man security forces was a CCS recon team and are looking to interview its members or others who may have information as to location. Contact Benjamin.H.Kristy.civ@mail.mil with information.

After the fellowship with friends and family we formed up for a group photo of all the veterans.



PRAYER BREAKFAST



Dale Hanson, SOA Chaplain hosted the inaugural SOA Prayer Breakfast on Tuesday, 17 October 2023. Fifty (50) members and guests attended and shared prayers for those who could not be with us, our Association, our fallen and our Nation.

“I was most gratified to see the breakfast hall filled with those who attended our first annual prayer breakfast.” “Like me, I think we all see the great need as we are watching the world seemingly turned upside down, and America abandoning the God and values upon which our founding fathers established our country.”

Following the meal, veterans from Mai Loc and Kha Sanh joined for fellowship and comradery and a photo op.



We thank all who attended and look forward to this becoming an annual event at SOAR. I look forward to next year and will be daily in prayer for us.

Dale Hanson
cdhanson@att.net

SOG: PRAIRIE FIRE SAVAGE DESIGN



Rob Graham of Savage Game Design brought a crew to SOAR again this year to demonstrate the Arma 3 Military simulation video game, SOG Prairie Fire.

The Savage team is dedicated to telling the history of MACV-SOG and their impact on Special Operations forces in the military branches in the USA and the world.

Rob's goal is to tell our history devoid of the myth of Hollywood movies and TV series. The true nature of the men who watched and harassed the Ho Chi Minh trail and the NVA adversary they faced in their own back yard.

The Savage Game Design team: Tanner Herbert, Jim Moriarty's exceptionally talented stepson. Ben Greening and Pete O'Conner are UK SAS QWOT veterans, traveling from the UK with Rob. Sam Erickson is a USA Airborne vet. Sam is a voice actor in the game and those who went to the Author's reading saw him read from Dick Thompson's book Code Named Dynamite. Zachary Shirley served with Sam and is a leg. Julian Noel is a Navy pilot veteran and retired airline pilot. Callum Spawforth is the Savage Game Design IT and computer guru. Ralph Pezzullo is a New York Times best-selling author who lived in Saigon in the early 1960s as a boy with his father who worked for the State Department. Don Haase's grandson Rian helped demonstrate the game.



Some were actually able to take out AA batteries and gun boats with the Cobra Gun Ship

SOA members like Ken Snyder tried his hand at flying in the game. Many had their friends kibitz them as they tried their hand at the joystick.



The Savage team is a very good friend of the SOA. This summer they have started work on Game two involving SOG missions in Vietnam drawing from our SOA Member authors stories. For more information visit their website: [Savage Game Design \(savage-game.com\)](http://savage-game.com).

LIQUOR TASTING



Following the General Membership Meeting, thirty-seven (37) SOA members and guests were treated to a Scotch tasting. Ms. Mahalia Scaglione of Diageo Hospitality presented an intriguing history of Johnnie Walker Scotch whiskey.

As Ms. Scaglione presented the history, Mr. Arturo Sanchez poured tasting samples of the Johnnie Walker product line.



With a small amount of left-over sampling product, several SOA members then demonstrated Special Forces tried and true tasting methodologies.

The gathered group thoroughly enjoyed the different products and look forward to next year’s liquor tasting event.



Horace Boner
horace.boner@verizon.net

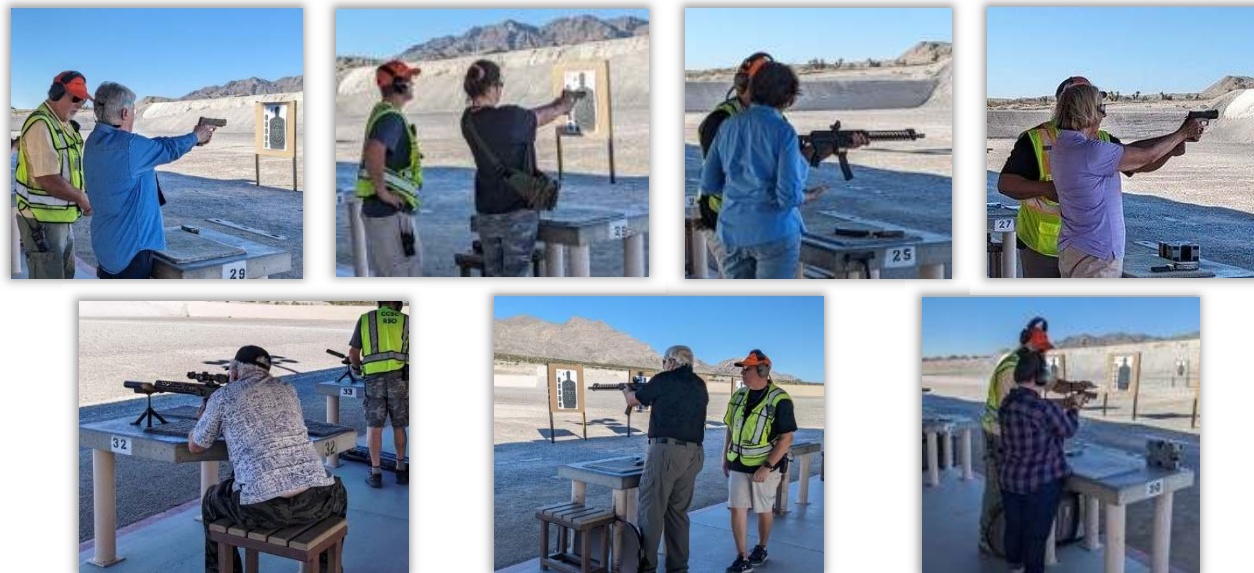
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EARLY BIRD FUN SHOOT

The event was held on Monday 16 October, at the Clark County Shooting Complex, 11357 N. Decatur Blvd, Las Vegas, NV 89131-2801 at 1:00 P.M. Bus transportation departed from the Orleans Hotel at noon. Upon arrival at the Shooting facility a safety briefing was held, followed by a great box lunch and beverages.

Then the shooting began



The Range furnished weapons and ammo. Weapons furnished consisted of three 9mm pistols currently in use by the U.S. Military, one 45MM pistol, one 9MM carbine, and two rifles with scopes. Each shooter kept their own targets, rotated them from station to station and took them home with them.

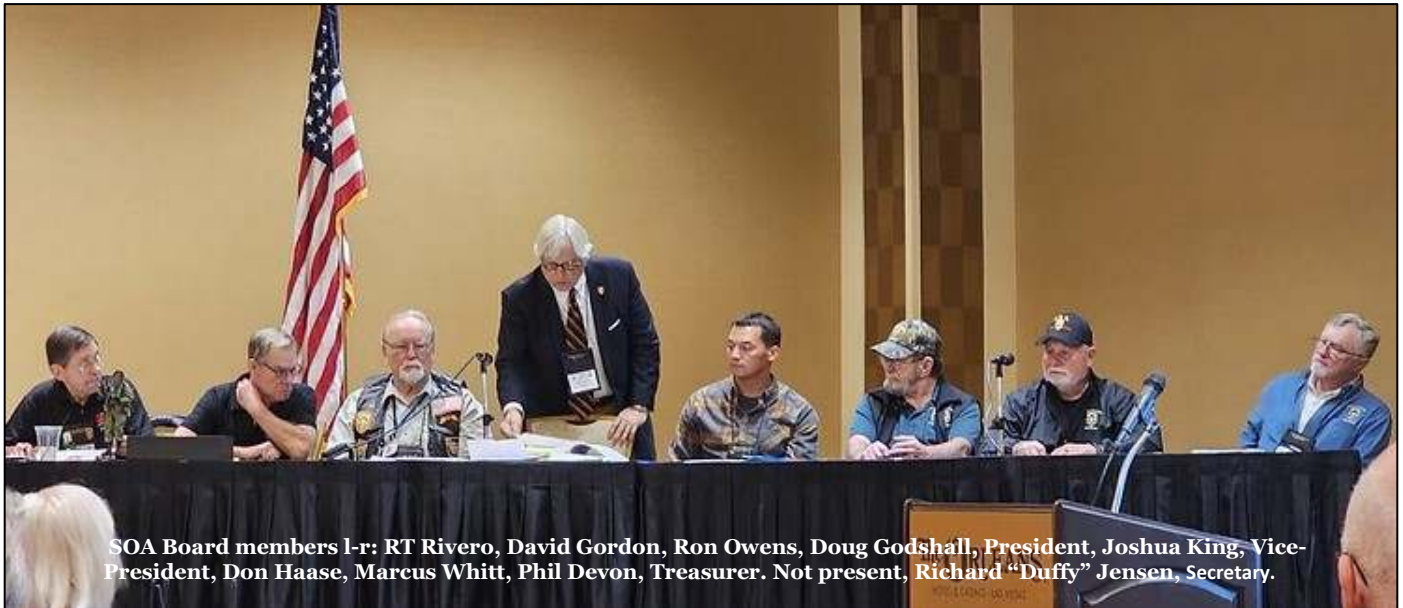
Range personnel were extremely patient and helpful with new shooters. The weather was great during the event. All attendees had a great time and received a complimentary SOA tote bag as a souvenir. The Bus left the facility at 5:00 PM.

Rick Estes, Fun Shoot Chairman
rickestes92595@gmail.com

VEST WITH CONCEALED WEAPON POCKET
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



SOA Board members l-r: RT Rivero, David Gordon, Ron Owens, Doug Godshall, President, Joshua King, Vice-President, Don Haase, Marcus Whitt, Phil Devon, Treasurer. Not present, Richard “Duffy” Jensen, Secretary.

President Godshall called the General Membership Meeting to order at 1331 Wednesday, 18 October 2023. There were 89 general members in attendance.

Treasurer Devon, SOAF Executive Director Padgett, and Chairmen Owens, Whitt, and Russell presented their respective reports. President Godshall addressed the remaining agenda items. These reports can be found in the meeting minutes as follows.

President Godshall and Membership Chairman Joe Wilson presented Tenure pins to members registered for SOAR XLVII

Newly elected SOA Members are sworn into Office: President Godshall, Treasurer Devon, and Director Haase



President Godshall introduced the “Three Amigos” who presented a small tribute to our former Vice-President Mike Taylor in the form of a twelve inch “action figure of Mike that will be taken to the 5th Group Hall of Heroes at Ft. Campbell for permanent display.

President Godshall closed the meeting with Good of the Order matters and adjourned the meeting at 1440 PDT.

SOAR GMM MINUTES

SPECIAL OPERATIONS ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

18 OCTOBER 2023

- I. Call to Order 1331 PDT President Godshall
- II. Recognition, Sergeants-at-Arms - *Ron Owens, George Sternberg, Robert Taylor, Tim Schaff* President Godshall
- III. Pledge of Allegiance President Godshall
- IV. *Moment of Silence for our Fallen, MIAs and POWs* President Godshall
- V. Roll Call – SOA Board of Officers/Directors Director Rivero
President Godshall, Treasurer Devon, Director Rivero, Director Owens, Director Gordon, Director Haase, Director Whitt, Vice President King arrived soon after.
- VI. SOA Special Staff Members Present President Godshall
Ray Frovarp, Joe Wilson, Horace Boner, John Russell, Bonnie Cooper
- VII. Credentials Report/Announcement of GM Present, and if a quorum is present
General Members present, 89. A quorum was present.
- VIII. General Member’s Approval of GMM Agenda President Godshall
President Godshall called for a motion to approve the agenda, which carried unanimously.
- IX. Business Meeting
 - A. Regular Business:
 - 1. Approve SOAR XLVI General Membership Mtg Minutes President Godshall
(SOAR XLVII PRP)
President Godshall asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting (19 Oct 2022). Joe Wilson so moved; Ray Frovarp seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Prior to proceeding with the regular agenda items, President Godshall introduced the “Three Amigos” who presented a small tribute to our former Vice-President Mike Taylor in the form of a twelve inch “action figure of Mike that will be taken to the 5th Group Hall of Heroes at Ft. Campell for permanent display.
 - 2. Financial Reports (See AAR Reports) Treasurer Devon

SOAR GMM MINUTES

• SOA – A 501(c)19 corporation. The Balance Sheet shows a total of \$623,000 assets, \$8,500 of temporary liabilities, and \$614,000 of equity. The Total Assets and Liabilities comparison is \$94,000 on a year over year basis. The income during the nine-month year to date period is \$169,000. Treasurer Devon cautioned that the figures are skewed to the positive as they do not yet show anticipated expenses of about \$70,000 incurred at SOAR. Despite this, the financial health of the SOA will remain very strong.

• SOAF- A 501(c)3 corporation. The Balance Sheet shows a total of \$53,000 assets, \$0 liabilities, and \$53,000 of equity. The Total Liabilities and Equity comparison year over year is \$32,000 which reflect improved fundraising efforts. The income during the nine-month year to date period is \$21,000.

3. SOA Foundation Report Ex Dir Padgett
Ex Director Padgett began by recounting the Foundation’s efforts to find members that might have been affected by the recent fires in Maui. Fortunately, no members were affected by this, but in the future the Foundation will continue to aid members affected by natural disasters. He encouraged members to contribute to the SOAF so that this worthwhile activity can be sustained in the future.
Ex Director Padgett also noted that he and Gen. Bowra and Vice-President King will be doing a “Lessons Learned” presentation at Fort Bragg. At this event, Gen. Bowra will represent the “then” and Vice-President King will be the “now”.
4. SOA Scholarship Committee Report. President Godshall
President Godshall commented that with the costs of higher education hovering at around \$25,000 the Committee had increased the awards to our deserving scholarship candidates. Presently, four very good candidates were granted \$4,000 each. This program benefits the families of all members and donations are encouraged.
5. SOA Brightlight Committee Report. Chairman Owens
Chairman Owens was gratified that the Committee was able to assist some members in attending SOAR this year. He thanked everyone for their support and especially Larry Trimble, Marcus Whitt, and the SOA riders for their contributions to the fund. He asked the assembled to let us know if you are aware of someone in need of assistance. He reminded the assembled that assistance for those in need can be for travel, meals, or perhaps care givers.
6. SOA Warrior’s Family Fund Committee Report Chairman Boner
The Warrior’s family fund was able to provide monetary assistance to the widow of a recently deceased member. Chairman Boner stressed the need for contributions to maintain this very important benefit for our families.
7. SOA Tally Committee Report
President Godshall

SOAR GMM MINUTES

In August 1,100 ballots were sent to eligible General Members. The Tally Committee met in October and tallied the results. President Godshall won with 195 votes, Treasurer Devon won with 203 votes , Director Haase won with 116 votes.

8. SOA Riders Committee Report Chairman Whitt
This year's ride was held in Knoxville. 16 riders and 10 significant others participated and travelled for four days, over 31 miles through eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina. The ride generated \$2,300, and an additional contribution by a Toyota dealership in California facilitated by Larry Trimble brought our total donation to Brightlight to \$4,000.
The next ride is scheduled for February 8. SOA members are encouraged to join the riders and participate in our rides.

 9. SOA Entertainment Committee Report Chairman Russell
This year's "Beatles Love" event at the Mirage sold out with 99 attendees signed up. More than 12 members were on standby but only 4 cancellations were registered. However, with the help of the Cirque sales coordinator Mr. Hinterlightner we were able to obtain a few more seats. They were all rewarded with a sensational show. These events are very popular, so for all future events members are encouraged to register online as soon as the registration portal opens.

 10. Swearing in newly elected SOA Officers/Directors President Godshall
President– Doug Godshall
Treasurer – Phil Devon
Director – Don Haase

 11. Non-Valor Award Presentations President Godshall–Member chair
Recognition, 20 Year SOA Members
Recognition, 25 Year SOA Members
Recognition, 30 Year SOA Members
Recognition, 35 Year SOA Members
Recognition, 40 Year SOA Members
President Godshall and Chairman Joe Wilson presented Tenure Pins to many of the 58 eligible members registered for SOAR.
- B. New Business: President Godshall
For the Good of the Order
- XI. Meeting Adjournment: *14:40 PDT*

Respectfully Submitted by
RT Rivero
RT Rivero
Director, Special Operations Association

Special Operations Association, Inc.
Profit and Loss Comparison 2023 - 2022 - Cash Basis
January - December 2023

	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022
Income		
Contributions	165,055	190,075
Fund Raising	20,280	14,365
Interest Income	2,285	347
Membership Dues	21,920	29,035
Miscellaneous Income	800	1,517
Quarter Master Sales	33,836	29,378
Reunion Revenue	135,945	104,291
Total Income	\$ 380,120	\$ 369,008
Expenses		
AAR Production/PRP Production	21,410	18,622
Administrative Expenses	37,887	46,394
Advertising/Promotional	7,680	0
Fund Raising Expenses	5,215	5,806
Jedburgh Award Expenses	840	0
Quarter Master Cost	25,569	32,908
Reunion Expenses	144,700	124,899
Scholarship Expenses	16,000	40,000
Travel	13,331	1,150
Total Expenses	\$ 272,632	\$ 269,779
Net Income	\$ 107,489	\$ 99,229

Special Operations Association, Inc.
Balance Sheet - Cash Basis
As of December 31, 2023

	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
SOA Non-Restricted Accounts	401,000	267,884
SOA Restricted Accounts	160,614	198,241
Total Current Assets	\$ 561,614	\$ 466,125
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 561,614	\$ 466,125
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities	8,500	20,500
Equity		
Net Assets (Retained Earnings)	445,625	346,396
Net Income	107,489	99,229
Total Equity	\$ 553,114	\$ 445,625
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 561,614	\$ 466,125

Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.
Statement of Activity 2023-2022 Comparison - Cash Basis

January - December 2023

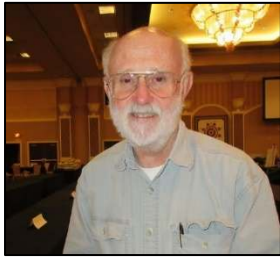
	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2022
Revenue		
Contributions Income	58,561	20,890
Quartermaster Sales	0	1,546
SOAFAC Revenue	2,260	735
Total Revenue	\$ 60,821	\$ 23,171
Expenditures		
Bank Charges	46	175
Charitable Contributions	27,000	9,000
Legal & Professional Fees	600	425
Office Expenses	590	887
Other General and Admin Expenses	250	0
Quartermaster Inventory Expense	1,064	1,660
Reunion Expenses	315	0
SOAFAC Expenses	1,603	0
Travel	7,973	0
WEB Expenses	1,060	1,157
Total Expenditures	\$ 40,500	\$ 13,304
Net Operating Revenue	\$ 20,321	\$ 9,867
Interest Earned	4	1
Net Revenue	\$ 20,324	\$ 9,868

Special Operations Association Foundation, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position - Cash Basis

As of December 31, 2023

	As of Dec 31, 2023	As of Dec 31, 2022
ASSETS		
SOA Foundation Checking BOA	15,261	4,940
SOA Foundation Savings	37,162	27,158
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 52,422	\$ 32,098
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities	0	0
Equity		
SOA Fund Balance	32,098	22,230
Net Revenue	20,324	9,868
Total Equity	\$ 52,422	\$ 32,098
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 52,422	\$ 32,098

SOA FUNDRAISING REPORT



Thank you to the vendors who generously donated items; the volunteers who worked throughout the year; and the SOA membership who continues to support us with your donations.

This year, revenues increased 42% over last year - the highest in the past five (5) years!

Online ticket sales were offered for the first time. This proved to be successful, so we will continue to offer online sales in 2024.

Proceeds will fund the SOA Scholarship program ensuring scholarships will be available to our Members' progeny in 2024:

\$ 7,280	AAR
\$ 6,995	PRP
\$ 6,005	SOAR Table Raffle
\$20,280	Total

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS

AAR: John Bristow, Springfield SA 35 Browning

PRP: Khanh Doan, Sig Sauer P365XL

SOAR Table Raffle winners

Smith & Wesson 1911: Brad Welker
 Smith & Wesson Metal: Larry Atwood
 Smith & Wesson Shield: Brad Welker
 Tomahawk: Robert Willis
 Smith & Wesson Dagger: Alex Saunders
 Sandal Knife: Charlie Borg
 Recon Fighter Knife: Randy Ford
 SOG Machete: Larry Atwood
 Bonnie Cooper Quilt: Dana Hall

Tracker Bush Knife: Ron Owens
 Bowie Knife: Ed Madsen
 SOG #2 Knife: Jordan Comstock
 AR 15 Decanter: Horace Boner
 All Purpose Field Knife: John Collier
 Pop Smoke Coffee Swag: Denise Groll
 Fort Bragg Print: Charlie Borg
 Billy Waugh Wine: Don Stephens
 Etched Decanter: Clete Sinyard

Rich Mallowney
n185rk@hotmail.com

TENURE PINS

Having achieved a benchmark year as a Member of the Special Operations Association, the following members received their pins during the General Membership meeting at SOAR XLVII.



40 YEARS

Rick Freeman
Neil Coady

35 YEARS

Thomas Johnson
James Shorten
Bruno Urbaniak
James Sallee



30 YEARS

George Sternberg
Steve Sullivan
Tom Tatten
Robert Coates



TENURE PINS

25 YEARS

RT Rivero
 Ridge Marriott
 Don Haase
 John Gebbie
 Robert Coates
 Keith Hendricks
 Larry Little
 James Sallee
 Phil Brown



20 YEARS



John Gebbie
 Robert Willis
 Josh King
 Biff Hadden
 Charles Pesta
 Clete Sinyard
 Larry Midash
 Robert Coates

2024 SOA OFFICER AND BOD ELECTION

The SOA will elect a Secretary, and two (2) Directors to three (3) year terms effective as of the 2024 SOAR XLVIII General Membership Meeting.

1. SOA Members competing for an open position must agree to serve as a Trustee on the Special Operations Association Foundation (SOAF).
2. In order to run for any Board position, a member must be a General member in good standing and have attended at least one (1) of the last three (3) SOARs, including the day before the General Membership Meeting, the General Membership Meeting, and the Banquet prior to competing for office.
3. Interested candidates should submit a digital picture and a short bio (no more than 150 words) to the Membership Committee NLT 15 June 2024.
4. The SOAR XLVIII Pre-Registration Packet (PRP) will contain the bio/photo data for each candidate.
5. Ballots will be emailed NLT 1 August 2024 to General Members in good standing who have an email address on file. Those without a valid email address will receive a paper ballot via USPS.

Ballots must be received by the Tally Committee NLT 30 September 2024 for tabulation and presentation at the 2024 SOAR General Membership Meeting.

6. Address queries about seeking election to the Nominating Committee.

John S. Meyer, Chairman
619-892-5983
idahoonezero@sbcglobal.net

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

TALLY COMMITTEE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 ELECTION RESULTS

The SOA Board employed an electronic balloting system for the second year for the election of the SOA Board Officers and Directors.

In August 2023, 1100 ballots were dispatched to eligible General members in good standing using email or USPS.

The deadline to return ballots was 30 September 2023.

The Tally Committee met 01 October 2023 and tallied the votes.

Results:

PRESIDENT – Doug Godshall was declared the winner with 195 votes.

TREASURER – Phil Devon was declared the winner with 203 votes.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE – Don Haase was declared the winner with 116 votes.

The return rate for 2023 was 18.5% which is slightly higher than 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray Frovarp, Chairman

Tally Committee

910 850 4646

rmfrovarp@gmail.com

GEORGE MORTON SCHOLARSHIP 2023-2024 AWARDS

The Scholarship Committee received and evaluated thirty-three (33) SOA Scholarship applications.

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

However, due to the limitations of the scholarship fund, only four applicants could be chosen (12%), making the selection decisions exceedingly difficult.

Thanks so much to the seventeen (17) SOA members who volunteered to read, evaluate, and rank the 33 applicants (well over 700 pages). We thank you for your time and dedication to the scholarship program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023-2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Visit the SOA website to read complete bios of the awardees



Ryan Angle
University of Southern CA



Anne Marie Krompecher
University of South Carolina



Loren Schowengerdt
University of Nebraska at Lincoln



Joseph Sean Lock
Virginia Tech

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS \$\$\$ NEEDED

As previously mentioned, due to the limited donations/funds in the scholarship program, **only four applicants could be awarded** (12%), making the selection decisions very difficult. Throughout the years, the SOA Scholarship program has provided significant support to descendants of SOA members. Since the inception of the program in 1983, over 200 students have received monetary assistance in achieving their educational objectives and reaching their lifetime goals. The success of this program continues to rely on your generosity. Please consider donating this this very worthwhile endeavor. There is no better cause than the investment in our youth.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE - Applications for the FALL24/SPR25 school year are now available on the SOA website. Announcements will be posted in the SOA newsletters, the SOA website or contact me directly.

Steve Yevich, Chairman
410-349-7576; syevich@hotmail.com

VIDEO HISTORY REPORT



The video history project recorded eight new interviews at the 2023 SOAR increasing our SOA Archives to over 170 interviews. Thank you to all who participated.

We are always looking for new content on all areas of MACV-SOG operations and are looking for more information on the following areas:

- One such area is the **Naval Advisory Detachment** that was responsible for training and launching agent teams, Singleton agents and sabotage teams into North Vietnam by boat. The Vietnamese Coastal Security Service also trained and operated from the NAD. Anyone who has information on the NAD and its function please contact me.
- We are also looking for information on **Camp Black Rock** that was located near NAD Da Nang. We would like to set up an interview with you during SOAR 2024, or in St. Louis, MO should you be passing through Missouri.
- We are also looking to interview anyone who was involved in teaching at the **One Zero School at Long Thanh**. The interviews we have are great, but we would like to fill in more about the history of the school.

If you know you are coming to SOAR next year please feel free to contact me to set up an interview time. If you will be arriving early or staying late please consider doing an interview on Monday or Friday. Please check with me to see if any Sunday slots are available, as we will do our best to accommodate you.

Also, if you have friends that have not done an interview yet please mention our Video History Project to them. Each year we lose more members, and we need to interview as many as possible before time takes its toll on more of us.

As always, I would like to thank Lisa Allen for her dedication to the Video History Project and all the hours that she has put in conducting our interviews. I would also like to thank Kenyon Smith for all the hard work he freely contributes to SOAR. He has been getting the job done for the archives and VHP for about seven years now and helps keep things running smoothly for us during the reunion.

As a reminder, the SOA Archives is looking for more items of historical nature to be displayed during SOAR. Please contact me if you have anything of interest that you would like to donate, in order to help preserve the history of Special Operations.

It was great seeing everyone this year and we look forward to seeing everyone at SOAR XLVIII in 2024.

Dennis Cummings, SOA Archivist
 djc106@aol.com
 314-303-9156

WARRIOR FAMILY FUND

The SOA Warrior’s Family Fund was established in 2012 to assist SOA family members who cannot afford to attend SOAR.

In addition, the Warrior Family Fund Committee can approve up to a \$500.00 stipend for widows and family members to cover funeral expenses following the death of a SOA member. Family members in need of assistance are encouraged to apply.

In 2023, the Warrior Family Fund provided five monetary (5) stipends to the widows of SOA members who passed from our ranks. These \$500 stipends provide funds to the widows in a time of need to allow for the payment of unexpected funeral expenses.

For SOAR XLVII, the Warrior Family Fund provided limited monetary support to a family member to attend SOAR XLVII.

The Fund is moderately healthy and is available to provide limited family support in times of need. SOA Members are encouraged to contact the Fund Chairman to nominate family members who might be needing assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Horace Boner, Chairman
443-812-4592
horace.boner@verizon.net



SOAR REGISTRAR'S REPORT



SOAR XLVII was held at the Orleans Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas NV, during the week of 16-20 October 2023.

Over 500 members and their guests gathered in camaraderie and fellowship celebrating our membership and remembering our fallen.

SOAR XLVII Attendance by type:

- 198 General
- 17 Associate
- 3 Operational Associate
- 16 Honorary
- 9 Warrior's Widows
- 290 Guests



Thank you to the numerous members and guests who volunteered this year.

Your dedication and service is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our reunions.

The volunteers were: Robert "Swede" and Linda Ashton, John and Carrol Trantanella, Jean Thong and Ray and Ronnie Frovarp.

May God bless those who wanted to but were not able to attend, and we pray their situation may improve this coming year, enabling them to join their brothers and sisters in arms for next year's reunion.

See you next year at SOAR 48!

Ivan Davis, SOAR Registrar

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The Membership Committee has been active in processing applications for membership, changes in membership status, changes in contact information, and answering questions from prospective members by email and telephone calls. It has also assisted the Board of Directors with their specific requests, particularly advising the Board of Directors regarding Honorary membership nominees. Lastly, the Membership Committee has processed Warrior Widow requests.

The SOA President requested during a Board of Directors meeting at the beginning of 2023 that the Membership Committee assume responsibility for recruiting efforts for the SOA. An Ad Hoc Membership Recruitment Committee was created shortly after that meeting. Several newer members were recruited with the thought that they would approach their units' members or, if no longer on active duty, be closer to their former peers. The Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) includes former and active-duty members of the various military branches as well as several members who have been members for some time.

Based on previous success, the members were encouraged to reach out to eligible applicants to encourage them to join by having one-to-one relationships, by attending their unit/former unit events/reunion/dances, etc., in order to speak to attendees about the SOA. A member of the AHC attended a USASOCOM sustainment unit's formal gathering after that unit's Adjutant reached out to the SOA in order to create a relationship with the SOA.

As the result of this initiative, the following is reported:

- SOAR 2021 to SOAR 2022 – 34 membership numbers were added to the membership roster. One was a Warrior Widow who received her deceased spouse's membership number, and one was an Honorary member.
- SOAR 2022 to SOAR 2023 – 74 membership numbers were added to the membership roster. Two are Warrior Widows who were issued their spouses' membership number. An application for Operational Associate was approved and added to the membership roster. There are four new Honorary members who were vetted by the Membership Committee.
- Four more membership applications have been approved since SOAR 2023 of the nine applications received. None of the other five applicants have been rejected as the Membership Committee is awaiting documentation from them.
- The first woman General member was added to the roster.

Forty-five members have been reported deceased this year as of this writing. Reported deceased means that the SOA has received information regarding the death of the member which may have occurred sometime in the past or more recently. Additional information regarding our deceased members is in TAPS.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
membership@specialoperations.org

BRIGHTLIGHT



The mission of Operation Brightlight (BL) is to provide financial assistance to SOA members who would otherwise not be able to attend SOAR.

The program is funded 100% by member contributions, and the SOA Riders, who understand the importance of Members joining their comrades in fellowship and friendship.

Costs eligible for assistance are dependent on the needs of the Member, and if required, can include a family member or other primary care giver.

Since the inception of the program, over 47 SOA members and their family members have received assistance in the program.

In 2023, four (4) members were approved for the program.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from this program, contact me.

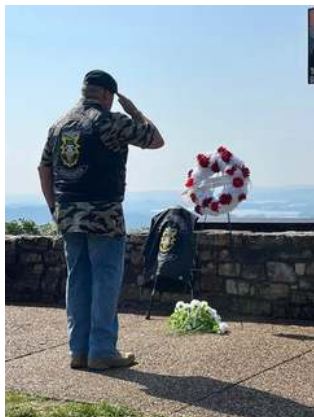
All conversations are confidential.

Respectfully submitted,

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

“We sleep safely in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.”

SOA RIDERS REPORT



The SOA Riders gather annually, in different parts of the country, in a formal ceremony of remembrance, to honor our Brothers who remain missing and honor the MIA/KIA from all Special Operations Units, MACVSOG and elements in direct support of that operation.

During the year, we raise funds to support the Brightlight program to ensure funds are available to assist our Brothers who would otherwise not be able to attend SOAR due to exigent or financial circumstances.

The 2023 ride generated \$2,300. A contribution facilitated by Larry Trimble, brought our donation to Brightlight to \$4,000.

7-10 June 2023 Chairman, Marcus Whitt and his wife, Pam hosted the meeting in Morristown TN.

Sixteen riders and ten significant others participated and biked for three days, over 441 miles through eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina.



SOAR XLVII Charles Daily and his wife Sherrie hosted the SOA Riders at their home in Las Vegas for a BBQ on Wednesday 18 October.

Tom Cunningham, Charles Daily & Spouse, Bill Davis & Spouse. Richard Dioguardi, Randy Ford, Roland Meder & Spouse, Ron Owens & Spouse, Paul Sawyer, Jim Shorten, Larry Trimble, Greg Walker, Marcus Whitt & Spouse, Melvin Wick & Spouse, Art Wilbur & Spouse attended the event.



SOA RIDERS REPORT



Marcus Whitt presented the SOA Riders founder, Larry Trimble, with a Special Forces poster signed by all the members that was present on our June 2023 ride. The poster was donated by SOA Rider Ron Owens.

Marcus Whitt presents Charles and Sherrie with a bottle of the Special Operations Association Combat Cuvée Wine thanking them for hosting the event.



SOA members in good standing are eligible to join the SOA Riders and participate in our rides, no dues are required. In 2023, we welcomed five (5) new members increasing our membership to 107 Riders.

The next ride is scheduled for 5-8 June 2024 in Concord NH. The ride will be hosted by Tom Cunningham.

Contact the Chairman for more information on the SOA Riders or check us out on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SpecialOperationsAssociationRiders>. You can also contact us via the [specialoperationsassociation.org](https://www.specialoperationsassociation.org) site.

Respectfully Submitted

Marcus Whitt, Chairman
csmwhitt@att.net



SOA FOUNDATION



The SOAF was active at SOAR XLVII through informative and participatory functions. With support from the ladies of the SOAF Auxiliary (SOAFAC), the Foundation table was staffed for all the hours the exhibit hall was open.

Foundation and SOAFAC volunteers gave out information about the Foundation and conducted fund raising through the sale of shirts and raffle tickets, as well as accepting some generous donations to the Foundation. And we can't forget the wine tasting of the SOA's very own wine, the Combat Cuvee!

Wednesday night saw the third annual "Bowling for the Foundation" event at the Orleans Bowling Lanes. This fun event was another fundraiser for the Foundation and was well attended. The winners were eligible for a prize in the men and women's categories, and a drawing was held for a very nice gift basket from the Orleans Hotel.

At the banquet, the SOAF Executive Director and the Chair of the SOAFAC (Team Padgett) were jointly honored with the President's Award for their service. While it is an honor and award that they shall always cherish, they feel that they could not have succeeded without the efforts of their Board and Committee.

The SOAFAC held its own events, which will be covered in a separate report.

The SOAF Executive Director and Board of Trustees wish to extend their thanks to all who volunteered to staff the SOAF table, and who participated in our bowling event.

We also humbly thank those who contributed to the Foundation during SOAR XLVII. Special thanks also to the staff of the Orleans Bowling Lanes for accommodating us and making lanes available at short notice.

The Foundation is here to help the membership. Calamitous illness, financial hardship, natural disaster assistance and more are things which we can assist.

Contact us at soafoundation.net.

Respectfully and fraternally,

John "Doc" Padgett
Executive Director

SOA FOUNDATION AUXILLARY REPORT



The Special Operations Association Foundation Auxiliary Committee (SOAFAC) met for the third time at the annual SOAR. It was great seeing everyone again, and welcoming new members.

Members of the SOAFAC were busy helping the Foundation at their exhibit table. Not only did the members sell shirts but offered wine tasting as well.

Dan Kutina graciously made a second Vietnam quilt and Cindy Kutina donated a large welcome basket. Both were raffled with the proceeds supporting the SOAFAC.

The annual membership meeting was held on 18 October with many new and old members present.

The goals of the committee were reviewed, and it was decided that the committee should focus on providing support for its widowed members. Thus, a fund was begun that would be restricted to providing emergency financial support for the SOAFAC members. Within an hour, the committee had received over a thousand dollars.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Chan-Padgett



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

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND GUESTS

The Quartermaster store had a Banner year. We sold almost \$25,000 in QM items during SOAR in Oct. This was our highest in total sales during past SOAR events.

CHECK OUT THE SOA ONLINE QM STORE FOR NEW AND SALE ITEMS

We have new items recently posted on the QM store website and some items have been reduced.

NEW PRODUCTS



DRI-FIT POLO SHIRTS



HOODED SWEATSHIRT
Pullover or Zippered



BOONEY HAT
COFFEE CUP – LARGER SIZE



Don't hesitate to contact me by phone or text if you need assistance in navigating the order form, website or have suggestions on products. I am available anytime to assist in completing the order form.

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

SOA FEE SCHEDULE



Fees can be processed online by clicking the Membership tab on the SOA website - www.specialoperations.org, or mailed USPS.

ORDER REPLACEMENT LIFE OR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARD

- \$20 Life Members
- \$10 Annual Members

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

- \$30 If paid before January 31
- \$35 If paid after January 31

REINSTATE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$25 Add fee if more than 12 months in arrears.

If you are applying for reinstatement or a change in status from annual to life, contact the Membership Committee in advance to verify status.

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

Special Operations Association
PO Box 335461
N Las Vegas, NV 89033

www.specialoperations.org

V 12/2023

MEMBER UPDATE CONTACT



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

This information can be processed on the SOA website by clicking the Membership tab or by mailing this form to the SOA.

MEMBER PERSONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

SOA# _____ Date of change _____

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

NEXT-OF-KIN CONTACT INFORMATION

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

First Name _____ MI _____ Last Name _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

Joe Wilson, Membership Chairman
membership@specialoperations.org
954 448-2981
PO Box 335461
N. Las Vegas, NV 89033



YOU KNOW WHY YOU JOINED THE SOA

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

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

EVERYONE CAN BE AN SOA RECRUITER

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



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

Contact me to discuss how you can help.

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

SpecialOperationsAssociation.org

VENDORS & ADVERTISING

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

- A. **VENDOR/EXHIBITOR:** The SOA has a policy relating to items sold to attendees at any SOAR. Vendors and/or Exhibitors must ensure that all items offered are in "good taste", "not of questionable moral value" and "will not reflect negatively on the SOA". Vendors and Exhibitors agree to withdraw from display and/or sale of any items deemed unacceptable and/or not in good keeping with SOA policy. Unless previously approved, items bearing the SOA Logo will not be displayed, nor offered for sale. No Vendor or Exhibitor shall assign, sublet, or share allotted space with another Vendor or Exhibitor unless prior approval has been obtained. Vendors and/or Exhibitors are solely responsible for their wares. Neither the Orleans Hotel/Casino or the Special Operations Association will assume responsibility for any lost or stolen items.

- B. **ADVERTISEMENTS:** The SOA has a policy relating to any Advertisement placed in either the SOAR AAR or SOAR PRP. Any prospective Advertiser desiring to place an Advertisement in either the AAR or PRP must ensure that the Advertisement is in "good taste", "not of questionable moral value", and "will not reflect negatively on the SOA, or any of its members".

- C. **SOA RESPONSIBLE AGENT:** The Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee is the responsible "Agent", acting on behalf of the SOA Board of Officers and Directors in all matters relating to acceptance, or rejection of prospective Vendor/Exhibitor requests, or Placement of Advertisements in either SOA annual publications.

- D. **SOA BOARD:** Finally, in the event a prospective Vendor/Exhibitor or Advertiser does not agree with the decision of the Chairman, SOA Fund Raising Committee, the SOA Board is the final arbitrator. Anything that it deems is inappropriate will not be allowed for display or publication.

Special Operations Association Advertising Rates

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

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

For more information contact: Linda Leavitt, SOA Administrator
 PO Box 335461 N. Las Vegas, NV 89033. adm17soa@gmail.com



Anheuser-Busch

The SOA wishes to express its deepest gratitude for the incredible support that Anheuser-Busch has provided over the past 16 years. Looking ahead, we are excited about the prospect of continuing this remarkable partnership.



Once again, thank you, from the bottom of our hearts, for 16 years of partnership, generosity, and shared commitment to making a positive difference for veterans. We look forward to many more years of collaboration and success.

MAC V SOG

TEAM HISTORY OF A CLANDESTINE ARMY

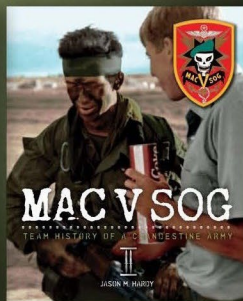
NOW AVAILABLE FROM HARDY PUBLICATIONS

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



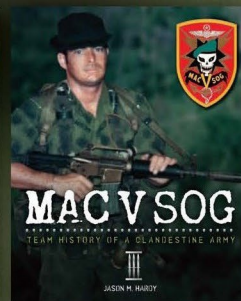
VOLUME 1

RT Arizona (CCC)
RT California (CCC)
RT Iowa (CCC)
RT North Carolina (CCN)



VOLUME 2

RT Krait (CCN)
RT New Mexico (CCC)
RT Ohio (CCC)
RT Washington (CCC)



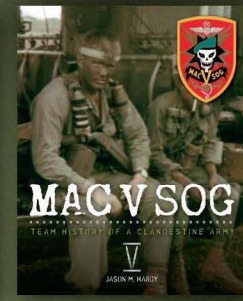
VOLUME 3

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



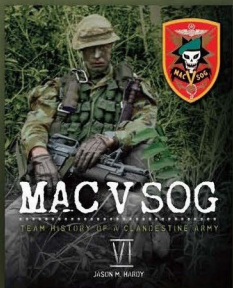
VOLUME 4

RT Auger (CCS)
RT Illinois (CCC)
RT Le Loi (CCN)
RT New Hampshire (CCC)



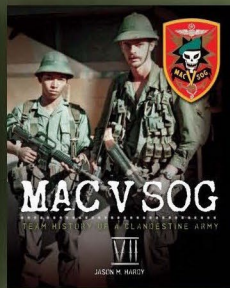
VOLUME 5

RT Alabama (CCN/CCC)
RT Habu (CCN)
RT Michigan (CCN)



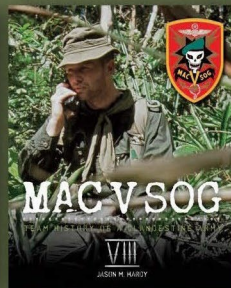
VOLUME 6

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



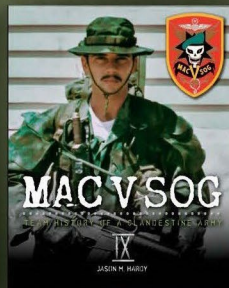
VOLUME 7

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



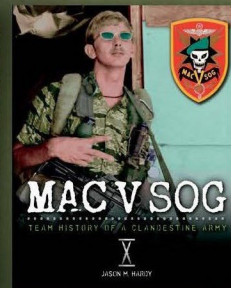
VOLUME 8

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



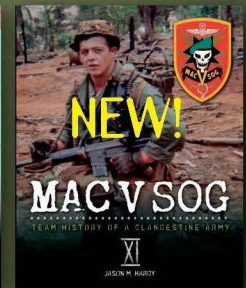
VOLUME 9

RT Arkansas (CCC)
RT Moccasin (CCN)
RT Ohio (CCN)
RT Rattler (CCN)



VOLUME 10

RT Alaska (CCN)
RT Asp (CCN)
RT Diamondback (CCN)
RT Virginia (CCN)



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RT Hotcake (CCC)
RT Kentucky (CCC)
RT New Jersey (CCN)
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