

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

POLICY OR PRECEDENT

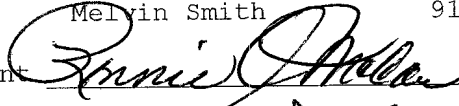
SUBJECT:
Membership Guidelines

DATE: 1 January 2010

POLICY NUMBER	ORIGINATING SECTION	ORIGINATOR	PHONE NUMBER
SFA-01	Secretary	Melvin Smith	910-485-5433

APPROVED: Ronnie A. McCan, President

Melvin H Smith, Secretary



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- 1) **PURPOSE:** To establish the Special Forces Association policy for applying for membership in the SFA.
 - 2) **SCOPE:** This policy applies to all members within the Association and is governed by Article IV, Membership, Section II, Qualifications for types of membership.
 - 3) **NEW MEMBERS:** With the increase in the number of individuals claiming to be SF qualified, it has become increasingly important to verify eligibility to join the Special Forces Association. The SFA Constitution requires that individuals applying for membership in the Special Forces Association provide supporting documentation when applying for membership. Personal statements by the applicant do not constitute supporting documentation. The following guidelines are provided:

1) Decade Membership (completed application):

- a. Must include documentation that reflects award of SF Skill Identifier ("3", "S", "5G", or SF Tab). This can be found on DD-214, Form 20, Officers Record Brief (ORB), Enlisted Records Brief (ERB), or award orders. Documentation provided should leave no doubt that the applicant is SF qualified.
- b. Must include documentation that reflects ten (10) years of SF assignments or a combination of SF assignments and SFA membership. SF assignments begin after award of SF Skill identifier or SF Tab. This can be found on Form 20, Officers Record Brief (ORB), Enlisted Records Brief (ERB), and assignment orders.

2) General Membership (Completed application):

- a. Must include documentation that reflects award of SF Skill Identifier ("3", "S", "5G", or SF Tab). This can be found on DD-214, Form 20, Officers Record Brief (ORB), Enlisted Records Brief (ERB), or award orders. Documentation provided should leave no doubt that the applicant is SF qualified.
- b. Deployed SF applicants (applicant does not have access to records) may submit applications with a request that the SFA asks for records stating applicant is deployed. Applications will not be processed until documentation is obtained but this will allow submission of applications. It normally takes 3-4 weeks to get records. Again, this will delay processing of application.

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

3) Associate Membership (Completed application):

- a. Associate membership may be granted to those individuals who contributed significantly to the accomplishment of the mission supported in the opinions of those who were there.
- b. Significant contributions can be defined as any verifiable actions or activities taken by a non-SF qualified individual who has served as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces while assigned or attached as an integral part of an SF unit that has a significant effect on the accomplishment of and that influences the overall outcome of that unit's mission.
- c. Associate membership is awarded based on individual actions, support, and must be substantiated. Simply being assigned or attached to an SF unit is not the sole determinant of an applicant's contribution to the SF mission.
- d. The Center of Military History, United States Army list the following units as lineage to all SF Groups
 - (1) The 2d Company, 1st Battalion, First Regiment, 1st Special Service Force, a combined Canadian-American organization
 - i. Activated 9 July 1942 at Fort William Henry Harrison, Montana
 - ii. Disbanded 6 January 1945 in France
 - (2) Service in accordance with the activation and deactivation history for each Special Forces Group.
 - (3) Also included are various Special Forces Companies and Detachments, USAJFKSWCS, and USASFC(A).
- e. Applications should include
 - (1) Verification of service and proof of assignment/attachment to an SF unit (DD214/Form 20 or ERB, ORB, plus orders, etc...). A copy of orders assigning or attaching applicant to a Special Forces Group is highly recommended.
 - (2) Affidavits or letters of recommendation from two SF Soldiers (preferably SFA members in good standing) which clearly define the significant contribution provided by the individual (for example, a mechanic assigned to a Group and served on a Forward Operation Base who was involved in combat operations with the ODA as a .50 cal gunner). The affidavit must be a detailed first-hand account of the contribution. An affidavit format is provided in the President's Reference Handbook (Section L), but a clearly written letter of recommendation will suffice. An affidavit does not replace documentation otherwise available through military records.

SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION

- f. Due to the limitations for membership of 501(c)(19) rules, and current membership numbers all associate member applicants must have been a member of the U.S. Armed Forces (a U.S. veteran currently serving or has served). Under 501(c)(19) guidelines, only 2.5% of SFA members can be non-US Armed Forces Veterans. A veteran is defined as anyone who is serving or has served in the U.S. Armed Forces.
 - g. The following time guidelines will be used by the membership committee when evaluating applications for SFA Associate Membership:
 - (1) Performance while assigned or attached to an SF unit for a minimum of two years unless the "significant contribution" is unique and definable.
 - (2) Performance while assigned or attached to an SF unit in a combat zone for a minimum of six months unless the applicant was wounded in action and medevaced, or the contribution was unique and definable.
 - h. Any changes in policy will not affect the status of current Associate members of the SFA.
 - i. Widows/NOK are the only exceptions under the current Constitution.
- 4) Please insure that a social security number is provided on all applications. The applicant signs a statement allowing release of information and records bearing on their military service for the purpose of validating membership (a social security number is required to do so.)
 - 5) Applications for general and decade membership may be processed as a general or associate member application if sufficient documentation is not provided to substantiate general/decade eligibility. The applicant's status may be changed when additional documentation is provided. Final eligibility determination is the responsibility membership committee.
 - 6) New member applications submitted without documentation will be returned as incomplete or disapproved.
 - 7) Member eligibility (Decade, General, and Associate Membership) will be in accordance with the SFA Constitution.
- 4. RENEWALS/REINSTATEMENTS:** Applicants must provide member numbers with all dues paid and include address, telephone number, and email address if changed since the previous year. If applicants did not receive their last Drop, the SFA probably does not have a good address on them. The SFA has numerous membership cards and a few hundred Drops returned each year as undeliverable or unable to be forwarded. The dues renewal form is published in the fall and winter Drops and available on the SFA web site.