

SHAPE Officers' Association Newsletter

December 2015



<http://www.aco.nato.int/shapeofficerassociation.aspx>

SOA Executive Committee 2015

Mr. Stephen Covington, NATO CIV, US, Chairman
LtCol Günter Bretschneider, DEU AF, (Ret.),
Co-Chairman
Mr. Allan Jeavons, NATO CIV (Ret.), UK, Secretary
LtCol Mirosław Ochyra, POL A, SHAPE PAO Liaison
Mrs. Veronique Leroy, NATO CIV, (Ret.), BEL,
Treasurer
Mrs. Christiane Hermant, NATO CIV, BEL, Assistant
Treasurer
Cdt Jean-Marie Boulet, BEL A, (Ret.), Data Base
Manager
Mr. Jürgen Walter, NATO CIV (Ret.), DEU,
Communications/Internet Manager
Mr. Scott Sunquist, US CIV (Ret.), Scholarships
Mr. Jeaan Vanderwal, NATO CIV (Ret.), BEL, MONS
2015 Project

The SOA membership is very appreciative for the service provided by the 2015 ExCom and wishes to thank those members who are leaving the committee for their contribution to sustaining the SOA.

SOA Executive Committee 2016

MGen Joseph Guastella, US AF Chairman
BGen Richard Laurent, BEL AF, (Ret.) Co-Chairman
Lt. Col. Claus Richter, DEU AF Secretary
Col John Haas, US AF, (Ret.) US Chapter Liaison
LtCol Mirosław Ochyra, POL A, SHAPE PAO Liaison
Mrs. Véronique Leroy, NATO CIV (Ret.), BEL,
Treasurer
Mr. Jean Vanderwal, NATO CIV (Ret.), BEL,
Assistant Treasurer
Cdt Jean-Marie Boulet, BEL A, (Ret.), Data Base
Manager
Mr. Jack Smits, NATO CIV, (Ret.), Assistant Data Base
Manager
Mr. Jürgen Walter, NATO CIV (Ret.), DEU,
Web Manager / Publications
Mr. Scott Sunquist, US CIV (Ret.), Scholarships
Col Raymond Healy, US AF, (Ret.) Volunteer

General Shaud's Message to the SOA

Let me start by saying that, on behalf of the SHAPE Officers' Association, I want to express our sincere sympathy to our French colleagues regarding the tragic events in Paris on 13 November. I also wish to extend our heartfelt support to our friends residing in Belgium, the home of SHAPE and NATO.

With regard to our SOA organization, it is with renewed energy that we focus our efforts at recruiting new members. Working with the SHAPE senior staff and the NMRs by participating in the welcoming process for newly assigned staff will be a useful approach to the recruiting challenge.

I believe that another way we can build SOA and assure its continued relevance is by encouraging and endorsing professional development activities at SHAPE. We should join with other SHAPE-based organizations to study the SHAPE mission and remain aware, in depth, of the ever changing security environment in Europe and how SHAPE has adapted in the past and is adapting now to these changes.

We can also assure the resiliency of SOA by supporting established and building new national chapters. The strength of SOA is based on the active participation and continued involvement of our members when they return to their home nations.

All of these efforts, in combination, will contribute to fulfilling the basic purpose of SOA: Support and Sustain the Alliance! Thank you for your continued personal support of this worthy endeavor.

General John Shaud, USAF (Ret.)
President, SHAPE Officers' Association

Recap of 2015 SOA Activities

SOA CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

2015

January 14, 2015 - Happy Hour /New Year Welcome Drink at SHAPE Club
March 27-29, 2015 - Florida Fun Weekend, Tampa, Florida, SOA US
May 9, 2015 - SOA US Annual Dinner
October 8-10, 2015 - 55th SOA Symposium and General Assembly
December 10, 2015 – SOA U.S. Chapter Luncheon – Fort Myer, Virginia

2016

January 13, 2016 - Happy Hour Hosted by SOA at 1500 hours at the SHAPE Club
February 2, 2016 – SOA Candlemas get-together at 1700 hours at “Le Chalet” (SHAPE)
March 18-20, 2016 - Florida Fun Weekend, Tampa, Florida, SOA US
April (date still to be determined), 2016 – SHAPE 65th Anniversary event (SHAPE)

May (date still to be determined), 2016 – F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Briefing (SHAPE)
October 6-8, 2016 - 56th SOA Symposium and General Assembly at SHAPE

SOA 55TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The SOA 55th General Assembly was successfully held in Mons, Casteau and Valenciennes, France 8-10 October with more than 70 participants. This year's event was punctuated by an energy and fellowship which is the glue for the Association.

Prior to the start of the gathering Gen Shaud and members of the Executive Committee (EXCOM) met with the NMRs with the purpose of re-establishing a solid working relationship. Initial reports indicate the NMRs are interested in working with us in the future.

The Happy Hour was held at THANKS GALLERY in Mons. Good wine, good snacks and a great opportunity to meet and mingle. Many of us continued to party after the Happy Hour ended.

Friday started with a foggy bus tour of SHAPE with the highlight being a view of the new school buildings. The fog made us feel like we were truly back in Belgium, even though we had no rain during the week or so most of us were there.

The General Assembly included the awarding of the SOA Scholarship to an outstanding graduate of the SHAPE School, Gloria Zarco Lens, whose father is a Spanish officer assigned to SHAPE. She is already studying at The University of Mons. Scott Sunquist, head of the scholarship committee presented the SCHOLARSHIP.

The EXCOM had an active year and continues to work toward getting new members among serving officers and establishing relationships at SHAPE and within the local community.

Günter Bretschneider, Vice-Chairman, reported the following during the Assembly.

- SOA EXCOM reported the following activities for the past year:
 - Six ExCom meeting since the 54th General Assembly;
 - Social functions for members: a. Wine tasting event; b. New Year reception; c. Visit to Van Gogh Museum; and, d. Hiking tour of St. Denis;
 - Liaison established to NMR echelon;
 - Joint beer call with SCAOA on 17 September. Gunter also reported that as of 1 October 2015 there were a total of 470 active members which included 342 life members.

250 USA	12 NLD
55 BEL	11 CAN
52 GBR	45 Others
45 DEU	

- The Association is in sound financial condition with adequate funds and solid leadership.
- Membership remains basically stable. One new member, LtCol Claus Richter, DEU AF has taken over duties of Secretary and will be a key new addition to the EXCOM.
- The General Assembly unanimously approved the establishment of "Associate Membership." Amendment language follows:

Associate membership is open subject to the conditions below (Section 2) to:

1. The survivor (e.g., widow/widower or equivalent) of a member.
2. Dependents of members.
3. Military officers or civilians of equivalent grade who are serving or who have served at SHAPE under a Partnership Programme.
4. Members of other military and civilian associations as recognized by the SOA Executive Committee
5. SHAPE contractor employees with an officer equivalent grade / position.

Associate membership does not entail any right to vote on Association business.

Our President, General John Shaud, provided an update on the health of our organization. His meetings with SACEUR, Gen Breedlove, and with the NMRs have caused him to be optimistic about our future. General Shaud emphasized that the SOA mission is to support and sustain the Alliance. With this as the basis for our principal mission, General Shaud acknowledged the importance of the endorsement by SACEUR accepting the honorary presidency of SOA to help sustain the Alliance. He further acknowledged that the EXCOM is working hard to deliver this message to both those presently assigned to SHAPE as well as those who were assigned in the past. We think the best way to approach this mission is to be visible participants in the total SHAPE assignment experience. General Shaud indicated that the SOA concept is to be part of the welcoming on arrival, professional development during the time at SHAPE (of special interest to the junior officers), and then work to maintain contact after departure through National SOA Chapters. During this annual meeting, initial steps were made with the National Military Representatives to encourage the support of the NMRs. We also began an evolving partnership with the SHAPE Armour and Calvary Officers' Association and made contact with the newly assigned SHAPE historian. The General reported that he detected a renewed vigor within SOA, as evidenced by the increased attendance by the members as well as by some currently serving SHAPE officers at the Symposium.

Following lunch in the SHAPE Club we were privileged to have an outstanding update briefing on SHAPE current operations by Major General "Gus" Guastella, USAF. The scope of the roles and missions SHAPE has responsibility for today makes it a certainty that the alliance is still a major player in the world as we find it today.

Friday activities concluded with the SHAPE Band Friendship Concert at the Royal Theatre of Mons where SOA members were honored guests with reserved seats and an invitation to the post-concert reception. This remarkable musical group represents SHAPE through the international language of music.

Saturday started with participants taking part in the annual golf tournament or the now annual cultural tour (this year a tour of Mons and key locations highlighting the Battle of Mons and including the marvelous new Museum of Mons).

We were honored to have SACEUR and Mrs. Breedlove joining us for the reception at Grand Hotel Valenciennes prior to our Annual Dinner. General Breedlove thanked SOA for our support and challenged us to continue to seek ways where we can help sustain the alliance. He stated that, given the current world situation, Article 5 has become the cornerstone of NATO.

Following a marvelous dinner (and Champaign, and wine at the Grand Hotel) we were again happy to have our comfortable bus ride back to the hotel.

SOA US CHAPTER REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

Gene Gay, Chairman of the U.S. Chapter, gave an update of the U.S. Chapter 2015 events and upcoming 2016 events. He reported on SOA U.S. 2015 activities including the Ninth Annual Florida Fun Weekend (FFW) held in Tampa, Florida in March 2015 hosted at the Tampa Bay Brewing Company (TBBC) by Owners and SOA members John and Vicki Doble. Gene invited SOA members to attend the 2016 FFW in Tampa which will be the 10th Anniversary of this annual event and be held at the new TBBC brewery in Tampa on the dates of 18-20 March 2016. He also noted the recent election of U.S. Chapter officers and cited new U.S. Chapter initiatives including the creation of a SOA Blog to encourage crosstalk among SOA members and the formation of a U.S. Chapter history project to collect and document experiences at SHAPE by SOA U.S. members. Finally, in memoriam, Gene reported the passing of the following SOA U.S. members: General John Galvin; Colonel (Dr.) Seymour Levine; and, Lt. Col. Joseph Shupe.

2015-2016 SOA US Chapter Committee Members

President	GEN John Shaud
Chairman	Gene Gay
Vice Chairman for Operations	Arpad Szurgyi
Vice Chairman for Support	Jim Stiles
Secretary	John Craig
Treasurer	Charles Lymn
Public Affairs Lead	Rick Fuller
IT/Web Lead	Jim Stiles
Member-at-Large	Carroll Schmidt-Mitchell
EOL/NDC Liaison	Jeff Dienno

SOA PLANS FOR 2016

The “Way Forward” is exciting. Your EXCOM will continue to provide information to the NMRs about SOA and invite them to participate. EXCOM will also plan at least two social functions in Belgium for all members. The first will be a Happy Hour Hosted by SOA on Jan 13, 2016 at 1500 hours at the SHAPE Club. The 56th Symposium and General Assembly will be held 6-8 October 2016 at SHAPE. Details will be provided at a later date.

Due to the increased information technology security concerns at SHAPE, the majority of future email activity will be mostly done by the EXCOM. We do not anticipate any major issues but will soon be asking for an update of individual details for the SOA database.

55th SOA Symposium and General Assembly Memories

For a library of photos from the 55th SOA Symposium and General Assembly see the following web site established by SOA member Ron Love:

<http://loveshots.phanfare.com/7045101>.

Photo Credits: Special appreciation goes to Ron Love for sharing the pictures he took during the SHAPE Officers’ Association 2015 Symposium and General Assembly activities.

SHAPE Officers’ Association Communications Opportunities

SOA:

Web Site: <http://www.aco.nato.int/shapeofficerassociation.aspx>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SHAPE.OA.US>

Twitter: none

You Tube: none

Flickr: none

SHAPE HQ:

Web Site: <http://www.aco.nato.int>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/SHAPE?ref=ts>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/SHAPE_NATO (Twitter name: SHAPE_NATO)

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SHAPEACO>

Flickr: none, but links to NATO at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/n-a-t-o/>

Interested in more of the day-to-day activities at SHAPE? Try <http://www.shape2day.com>

IN MEMORIAM

Recognizing those SOA members who passed away during 2015

US Members:

General John Galvin

Colonel (Dr.) Seymour Levine

Lt. Col. Joseph Shupe

UK:

WCDR Stan Goodrum, RAF