

SHAPE Officers' Association Newsletter

November 2016



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

SOA President

Gen John Shaud, US AF (Ret)

SOA Executive Committee 2016

MGen Joseph Guastella, USA F, Chairman
BGen Richard Laurent, BEL F (Ret.), Co-Chairman
Lt. Col. Claus Richter, DEU F, Secretary
Col John Haas, USA F (Ret.), US Chapter Liaison
LtCol Miroslaw 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. Jürgen Walter, NATO CIV (Ret.), DEU,
Web Manager / Publications
Mr. Scott Sunquist, US CIV (Ret.), SOA Scholarships
Col Raymond Healy, USA F, (Ret.), Volunteer

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Assistant Treasurer
Cdt Jean-Marie Boulet, BEL A (Ret.), Data Base
Manager
Mr. Jack Smits, NATO CIV (Ret.), NLD, Asst. Data Base
Manager
Mr. Jürgen Walter, NATO CIV (Ret.), DEU, Web
Manager / Publications
Col Benoît Davin, BEL F (Ret.), SOA Scholarships
Col Raymond Healy, USA F, (Ret.), Volunteer

General Shaud's Message to the SOA

November 28, 2016

Dear Fellow SOA Members,

Our alliance has not faced such serious challenges since the era that was ended by the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Warsaw Pact. Even with the current adventurism of Russia and the continuing challenges in the Mideast, the alliance has had the resilience to adapt.

During the 56th Symposium, we learned NATO (and SHAPE) has continued to stand firm on its principles and to formulate new strategies to meet the changing threats. We find participation in the Symposium provides insights into the realities of the world as we find it, not as we wish it. This sharing of ideas and the recollections of duties performed in the past help keep us grounded in what NATO stands for and why we found the honor of serving to be of such lasting value. The new members of SHAPE have this same dedication to peace through cooperation and the same belief in our mission of deterrence.

The EXCOM prepared an inspiring event, and the EXCOM Chairman, Major General Gustella, gave us an outstanding overview of the challenges and the current operations to meet them. He also provided insight into the joint training and exercises designed to prepare the alliance to meet its commitments. The presentation on our partnerships was enlightening and encouraging. It provided a way ahead, building bridges through communication and cooperation.

During these days, when some even question the relevance of NATO, it is imperative for us to keep informed and to speak for the values we share. The Alliance is as germane today as it was when General Eisenhower became the first SACEUR. As we learned during the Symposium, our current SACEUR, General Scaparrotti, is well prepared to lead SHAPE in these challenging times. I am very pleased that he also accepted the role as our honorary president and know that he is dedicated to helping our association.

I look forward to seeing you at our future events and entrust you to be proponents for supporting and sustaining The Alliance. It's important that we continue to speak up and share our views with our friends and associates.

All the best this holiday season,

General John A. Shaud, USAF (Ret.)
President, SOA

Recap of 2016 SOA Activities

SOA CALENDAR OF 2016 ACTIVITIES

Jan 13, 2016 - Happy Hour Hosted by SOA at 1500 hours at the SHAPE Club
February 2, 2016 – Celebration of Candlemas – Pancakes at the SHAPE Chalet
March 18-20, 2016 - Florida Fun Weekend, Tampa, Florida, SOA US
April 7, 2016 - SHAPE 65th Anniversary event at the Alliance Auditorium at SHAPE
May 25, 2016 – US Chapter Luncheon
June 17, 2016 - Visit of Soignies Bluestone quarry and of a Casteau micro-brewery
July 25, 2016 – US Chapter visit to General George Marshall Home in Leesburg, Virginia
Sept 17, 2016 - Field trip to the Ardennes –“The Battle of the Bulge”
Sept 21, 2016 – US Chapter Luncheon with guest speaker
October 6-8, 2016 - 56th SOA Symposium and General Assembly at SHAPE
December 2, 2016 – US Chapter Holiday Dinner

In addition, seven ExCom meetings were held throughout the year for event planning, SOA development and reconciliation.

Below examples of initiatives/efforts conducted this year:

- Welcome letters to incoming Flag/General Officers
- Continued engagement with like-minded associations
- Reactivation of national SOA chapters (DEU as a test case)
- Collecting SHAPE memories in support of SHAPE Historian (access via SOA Member Forum)
- Development of a digital SOA repository
- Update of the SOA flyer
- Request for the SOA to be recognized as a SHAPE MWR Group 2 Activity

SOA 56th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SOA had a tremendously successful 2016 Symposium from 6-8 Oct 2016. The majority of members that traveled to SHAPE stayed at the Lido Hotel in Mons. All were very pleased with the accommodations and closeness of the Lido to Mons activities and restaurants. The Welcome/Happy Hour on Thursday at “Le Manège” (Mons) was fantastic. The highlight of Friday was the Symposium where the members reviewed the yearly progress of SOA and the initial plans for 2017. In addition, the proposed amendments to the Constitution related to SOA becoming a SHAPE Group 2 activity were approved. At that meeting, the General Assembly also:

- Encouraged the SOA membership to contribute to the SHAPE Memories initiative
- Agreed, subject to an annual assessment, to use the SOA General Fund:
 - ✓ to supplement the SOA Scholarship Fund in order to allow the awarding of two SOA Scholarships per year

- ✓ to cover (parts of) the costs of SOA activities (e.g. transportation)
- Endorsed the awarding of the SOA Scholarship 2016 to Ms Alexa Medina
- Encouraged more SOA membership participation in the SOA Scholarship Program, both financially and in providing applicants
- Agreed to hold the 57th SOA Symposium on 05-07 Oct 17 at SHAPE
- Expressed its appreciation to the ExCom for the practical organization of the 56th SOA Symposium
- Noted the suggestions made during the General Assembly, to be further considered by the ExCom:
 - ✓ Expand the SOA Scholarship Program to increase the number of applications out of which the most deserving High School students will be selected
 - ✓ Partner with the NATO Defence College (NDC) Anciens to possibly co-host a Symposium/Reunion at the NDC
 - ✓ 2017 activities: visit of the new NATO HQ, possibly in conjunction with the SOA Symposium
 - ✓ Establish a working group to identify ways to enhance the membership drive
 - ✓ Seek the support of CHoDs (through NMRs) for the establishment of national SOA Chapters and invite them to send a representative to the SOA Symposium
 - ✓ Expand the use of the SOA General Fund to cover expenses such as: key note speaker during the SOA Symposium; establishment of a national SOA Chapter in new member countries; participation in the SHAPE 50th Anniversary in Mons events
 - ✓ Open the SOA Scholarship to graduate students

Friday afternoon, following an excellent lunch at the SHAPE Club, we received two superb briefings. The first was from our Chairman and SHAPE DCOS OPI, MGen Guastella on the current and evolving situations within NATO - how times have changed since we served at SHAPE! This was followed by a very interesting briefing by SOA member Kathy Smith on the complex and extensive mission of NATO Military Partnerships. On Saturday some members enjoyed a spirited round of golf at the Royal Golf Course of Hainaut and others went on a cultural trip to Chimay/Biercée.

Saturday night, the traditional Symposium Dinner was held at Ecole Provinciale Hôtelière. The menu and service, provided by the students of the culinary school were fantastic. General Scaparrotti (SACEUR) attended in his first function as the Honorary President of the SOA. Photos can be seen on the SOA Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/SHAPE.OA.US>.

CHAPTER REPORTS AND ACTIVITIES:

U.S. Chapter:

2016-2017 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 (Acting)	Carroll Schmidt-Mitchell
Public Affairs Lead	Rick Fuller
IT/Web Lead	Jim Stiles
ELO/NDC Liaison	Jeff Dienno

Gene Gay, Chairman, U.S Chapter: Our Chapter had a very busy and successful 2016. One of the highlights of the year was celebration of the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Chapter Florida Fun Weekend (FFW) meetings that took place in Tampa, Florida March 18-20, 2016. We were once again hosted by John and Vicki Doble at their new Tampa Bay Brewing Company location in Westlake, Florida. Forty members and their spouses attended the 2016 FFW. In July, twenty-two members of the U.S. Chapter of SOA and NATO Defense College Anciens enjoyed a tour of the home of General George Marshall in Leesburg, Virginia followed by lunch at the nearby Tuscarora Mill restaurant. Several attendees expressed pleasant surprise at the beauty of the Marshall House grounds and the rather unadorned home of the Marshalls. Even those who had previous knowledge of Marshall's contributions to world history in the 20th century came away with renewed appreciation for his efforts as Army chief of staff, secretary of state, secretary of defense, envoy to China and president of the Red Cross. Several enjoyed new and renewed contacts at the lunch and expressed hope that the chapter could schedule more such activities in the future. The visit to the Marshall house was led by docent and SOA member Tom Bowers. In September we hosted a luncheon with guest speaker, Dr. William Hill, professor at the National War College, who spoke about the state of affairs in Russia. Then, in October, 20 U.S Chapter members and their spouses traveled to Mons for the 56th SOA Symposium and General Assembly. We are now finalizing plans for the December 2nd holiday dinner at Fort Myer, Virginia. For a look ahead at US Chapter activities planned for 2017 please see the reports below from committee members:

U.S. Chapter Historian - Memories of NATO/SHAPE Project - Report from Tom Bowers:

We have responses from 50 people who have shared their memories of SHAPE, including several from non-U.S. personnel. Tom Bowers continues to seek more memories. Please tell him about the following:

- Your name
- The years you were at SHAPE
- Your nationality and service branch (e.g., U.S. Army)
- Highest rank or grade you held at SHAPE
- Duty assignment at SHAPE
- SACEUR while you were at SHAPE
- Memories, including more details about your assignments, where you lived, where you shopped, activities you enjoyed, etc.

Send them to tbowers@live.unc.edu. (No period at the end of his address).

We want to preserve personal histories for a more comprehensive history of SHAPE in its 50th year at Mons (2017).

Tom Bowers
 44358 Oakmont Manor Square
 Ashburn, VA 20147-5539
[703.723.7909](tel:703.723.7909) (H)
[919.606.6126](tel:919.606.6126) (M)

U.S. Chapter Vice-Chairman for Support and IT/Web Manager -Report from Jim Stiles –

A SOA Member Forum has been established at this link: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/soa-member-forum>

This group shall be a virtual meeting place for members of the SHAPE Officers Association. In addition to providing a forum for interaction, access will be provided to a central repository/archives of files pertinent to the SOA, including a collection of member provided SHAPE history and memories. To view these, simply click on and open the "SHAPE History - Invitation to view" message at the top of the queue, and then click on the "Open" button. We welcome you, and hope you will check in often. Invitations were sent to all members in early August. If you did not receive one, or wish to have it resent, please send us a request to our new email address: members@us-soa.com This address may also be used for all membership inquiries."

U.S. Chapter – Lead for Public Affairs - Rick Fuller:

Any member who is looking to discuss current issues on SHAPE with external or civic groups can contact Rick Fuller at [714 969-2556](tel:714.969.2556) or [714 454-1564](tel:714.454.1564) or by e-mail at: rickannf@aol.com.

He can help provide some current information on SHAPE issues and operations.

Arpad Szurgyi – Vice Chairman of Operations

Activities planned for the US Chapter in 2017 include:

- Florida Fun Weekend 10-12 March I Tampa, Florida
- Mt. Vernon House tour and lunch – February/April
- Luncheon at Spates Community Club, Fort Myer, Virginia – May/June
- Marine Museum visit and lunch – April/August
- Visit to Vint Hill Farms Army Museum – September
- Annual US Chapter Dinner – Date TBD

SOA PLANS FOR 2017 :

- 11 January: new Year Happy Hour (SHAPE Club)
- 02 February: Candlemas Celebration at “Le Chalet” (SHAPE)
- 10-12 March: US Chapter Florida Fun Weekend
- Quarterly US Chapter luncheons with guest speakers
- Throughout the year: US Chapter visits to local military historical locations
- End of March: Co-sponsoring of a “50 years of SHAPE at Casteau” event
- May: visit of the Louvignies Castle
- 05-07 October: 57th SOA Symposium at SHAPE

56th SOA Symposium and General Assembly Memories

For a library of photos from the 56th SOA Symposium and General Assembly see the following web site established by SOA member Ron Love: <http://loveshots.phanfare.com/14367846>

Photo Credits: Special appreciation goes to Ron Love for sharing the pictures he took during the SHAPE Officers’ Association 2016 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>
<https://www.facebook.com/SHAPE.OA.US>

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 2016

US Members:

General William Y. Smith, USAF Retired
Former SHAPE Chief of Staff

Jane Taylor, wife of Life Member, Colonel
Reede Taylor, USAF Retired