

## **ARTICLE IV Membership**

**Section 1. Types of Membership.** The Chapter consists of four types of individual membership: The Member (General and Decader), the Associate Member, the Auxiliary Member and the Chapter Honorary Member.

### **Section 2. Qualification for types of Membership.**

**A. General.** No person will be barred from the Special Forces Association or from the Chapter membership, because of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or political affiliation, except when that affiliation advocates and expresses the overthrow of the U.S. Government by overt or covert means. Except for these restrictions, the membership committee may refuse to approve the application of anyone it believes to be unable or unwilling to support the stated purposes of the Association.

**B. Member.** Membership may be granted to a person who is or has been a verifiable member of the United States Army Special Forces, "The Green Beret". This includes the Army Reserve Special Forces units and the Army National Guard Special Forces units, who has completed Special Forces Training and has been awarded a Special Forces prefix, suffix, and/or Special Forces Tab and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), and if discharged from the military services, has received an Honorable Discharge. Special Forces MOS's are those awarded upon completion of Special Forces Training. There is no time requirement for general membership. Membership qualification lineage includes all units officially listed on the First Special Forces lineage certificate are acceptable for membership. Also, acceptable, and grandfathered for general membership, are First Special Service Force, Office of Strategic Service (OSS), and UNPIK-8240 of Korea. The Ranger units of WWII and the Ranger Companies of Korea are acceptable for Associate membership. Supporting documentation must accompany applications for membership, which validate qualification as outline in this paragraph.

(1) **Decader Membership Status.** Decader membership may be granted to a person meeting the requirements as outlined in paragraph B of this section. Any school/duty assignment requiring a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) from any Special Forces unit (Must be in connection with Special Forces duty) is acceptable in acquiring time for Decader status. A member of the United States Special Forces may have either ten years active military service in a United States Army Special Forces unit or members not meeting the preceding time in Special Forces requirements for decader status may apply for that status upon reaching a combination of Special Forces service and Association membership (served non-concurrently) that total ten years. (Example: four years active Special Forces service and six years of Association membership.) Active duty time for decader status only includes time served after becoming Special Forces Qualified.

(2) **Life Member.** The Association may grant Life membership to a member in good standing upon written application and submitting required fees.

**C. Associate Member.** Associate membership may be granted to a person not meeting the membership requirements of a Member, as outlined in paragraph B of this section only if the following parameters are met; The applicant has contributed significantly to the support of Special Forces or its officially listed units of lineage in the accomplishment of its mission. Assignments to Special Forces units does not meet the requirements for Associate Member as outlined in this paragraph. Supporting documentation must accompany applications for Associate membership to validate qualification, if discharged from the military services proof of Honorable Discharge (DD-214) and required fees. All applications requesting Associate membership are subject to the approval of the Chapter members and the National Membership Committee.

**D. Auxiliary Member.** Auxiliary membership may be granted to a person not meeting the membership requirements of a Member or Associate member, as outlined in paragraph B and C of this section. Membership is open to female and male applicants. The applicant shall meet the following qualifications to be granted membership in the Auxiliary; be a current spouse, widow, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson of a current member or deceased member of Chapter LXXXVIII as outlined in paragraph B and C of this section.

(1) In addition, the immediate family members of Special Forces personnel Killed In Action (KIA), Missing In Action (MIA) or Prisoner of War (POW) are eligible for Auxiliary membership, in Chapter LXXXVIII, if they reside within the Chapter's area of influence. Immediate family is defined as a current spouse, surviving widow and children of Special Forces personnel Killed in Action (KIA), Missing in Action (MIA) or Prisoner of War (POW).

(2) To be an Auxiliary Member, the person must submit a membership application, with supporting documentation to validate qualification to the Adjutant. The Chapter Adjutant shall review the application and documents and forward it to the Membership Committee. The Committee shall validate and recommend approval or disapproval for the application and the final decision shall be a majority "Yes or No Vote" of the Board of Officers. All actions shall be completed and approved prior to an applicant becoming an Auxiliary Member.

(3) Auxiliary membership shall be local, within the Chapter's area of influence. and the Auxiliary membership fees shall stay with the Chapter.

**E. Chapter Honorary Member.** The chapter, upon majority approval by the board of officers and the members, may confer Honorary Membership status upon a person who has contributed significantly to the Chapter or who clearly would lend prestige to the membership. Honorary membership is normally in effect for life but may be cancelled by a majority approval of the Board of Officers. Honorary Members may attend any meetings or social gatherings of the chapter and will receive the chapter newsletter. Honorary membership does not confer any of the rights and privileges inherent in full Special Forces Association membership. Honorary membership shall not be granted to any person qualified to be a member as specified in Article IV, Section II, Paragraphs B, and C.