

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the service members of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam–Studies and Observations Group, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the service members of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam–Studies and Observations Group, in recognition of their bravery and outstanding service in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “MACV–SOG Congres-
5 sional Gold Medal Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Military Assistance Command Viet-
2 nam–Studies and Observations Group (referred to in
3 this Act as “MACV–SOG”) was established in Janu-
4 ary 1964 as a dedicated joint military task force to
5 conduct high risk and special activities in the denied
6 areas of North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia.

7 (2) MACV–SOG conducted deep-penetration re-
8 connaissance, sabotage, direct-action mission, rescue
9 missions for downed pilots, prisoner-of-war snatches,
10 bomb-damage assessments, wiretaps, psychological
11 operations, and maritime operations against the
12 North Vietnamese.

13 (3) MACV–SOG remains one of the most dis-
14 tinguished and elite special operations units in
15 United States military history, setting standards for
16 modern special operations forces. Twelve MACV–
17 SOG operators have been awarded the Congressional
18 Medal of Honor.

19 (4) Between 1964 and 1972, approximately
20 1,579 people of the United States are listed as miss-
21 ing or killed while serving with MACV–SOG. This
22 accounts for more than 1/2 of all Green Beret fatali-
23 ties during the Vietnam War and more than 50
24 MACV–SOG team members are still missing in ac-
25 tion.

1 (5) The innovative tactics of MACV–SOG, inte-
2 gration with indigenous forces, and mastery of direct
3 action and special warfare created a blueprint for
4 modern special operations. Many of the strategies,
5 technologies, and doctrines they pioneered are now
6 standard across elite military units, reinforcing their
7 legacy as a cornerstone of United States special op-
8 erations history.

9 (6) MACV–SOG created battlefield effects that
10 were vastly disproportionate to the small size of the
11 command. The impact of MACV–SOG on the North
12 Vietnamese logistics, troop deployment, and morale
13 was profound. The North Vietnamese diverted entire
14 divisions, as many as 50,000 troops, and numerous
15 other resources away from offensive operations to
16 defend against incursions by MACV–SOG and to in-
17 ternal security operations in North Vietnam.

18 (7) These covert operations remained
19 unacknowledged by military leadership and unknown
20 to the United States public, until their existence
21 began to be declassified decades later. This secret
22 war denied MACV–SOG members their just recogni-
23 tion and deprived the families of deceased and
24 wounded operators from knowing the full extent of
25 the sacrifice of their loved ones to the United States.

1 (8) MACV–SOG was a joint operations pro-
2 gram that included members of the Army Special
3 Forces, Navy SEALs, Force Reconnaissance Ma-
4 rines, the United States Air Force, and the Central
5 Intelligence Agency.

6 (9) MACV–SOG teams also relied heavily on
7 the indigenous population, including Montagnards,
8 Chinese Nung, Cambodian, and Vietnamese per-
9 sonnel, along with the 219th Vietnamese Air Force
10 King Bee helicopter pilots, who were actively engag-
11 ing in the fight against communist forces.

12 (10) Twelve Medal of Honor recipients have
13 been recognized for their gallantry during actions
14 while operating with MACV–SOG units.

15 (11) A Presidential Unit Citation was issued to
16 MACV–SOG by President George W. Bush in 2001.

17 (12) The bravery, sacrifice, and quiet profes-
18 sionalism of MACV–SOG units from 1964 to 1972
19 reflect favorably upon the highest traditions of the
20 United States military and the United States.

21 **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of
23 the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-
24 pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements
25 for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a single

1 gold medal of appropriate design to the service members
2 of MACV-SOG, in recognition of their bravery and out-
3 standing service in South Vietnam, North Vietnam, Laos,
4 and Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

5 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
6 presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary
7 of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
8 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
9 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
10 retary.

11 (c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Following the presentation
13 of the gold medal referred to in subsection (a), the
14 gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Insti-
15 tution, where it will be available for display as ap-
16 propriate and available for research.

17 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
18 Congress that the Smithsonian Institution should
19 make the gold medal awarded pursuant to this Act
20 available for display elsewhere, particularly at appro-
21 priate locations and events associated with MACV-
22 SOG.

23 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

24 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
25 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price

1 sufficient to cover the costs thereof, including labor, mate-
2 rials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

3 **SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.**

4 (a) NATIONAL MEDAL.—Medals struck pursuant to
5 this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51
6 of title 31, United States Code.

7 (b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections
8 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all medals
9 struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic
10 items.

11 **SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF**
12 **SALE.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is
14 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
15 Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be nec-
16 essary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under
17 this Act.

18 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
19 sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section
20 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public
21 Enterprise Fund.