

USARA Bylaws Revision

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

As of July 31, 2010 7:00 PM EST

Section 1, Categories of membership shall consist of Regular; Associate; Affiliate; Honorary and Guest categories with specific qualifications for each category of membership. The eligibility criteria for each category of membership are prescribed below:

A. Regular Members are:

1. Those who have been awarded the Ranger Tab, on Orders by the Department of the Army.
2. Those who have served in a combat arms capacity, in a recognized U. S. Army Ranger unit, for at least one year, or, if less, were awarded the CIB (Combat Infantryman Badge) or the CMB (Combat Medical Badge) while serving in that unit.
3. The following organizations comprise the definition of a recognized U. S. Army Ranger unit.
 - a. Any of the World War II Ranger Battalions,
 - b. The 5307th Composite, "Merrill's Marauders" during WWII,
 - c. The Alamo Scouts during WWII,
 - d. The 29th Ranger Battalion during WWII,
 - e. Any of the Ranger Infantry Companies (Airborne) during the Korean War,
 - f. The Eighth Army's "8000 Series" units during the Korea War,
 - g. Any of the lettered Ranger companies of the 75th Infantry, or their immediate LRRP predecessor units, during the Vietnam War,
 - h. Any officially designated U. S. Army Ranger unit, to include E/65th Inf (PRNG), D/151st INF (IN NG), A/75th and B/75th Ranger (V and VII Corps LRP), or their immediate LRP predecessor units.
 - i. The 1st or 2nd Ranger Battalion, during the period 1974 to 1984; the 75th Ranger Regiment and all subordinate units, since 1984.
4. **Regular Member Classes** for membership:
 - a. **Regular (Annual):** Regular Members who fully meet the requirements for Regular membership and who have paid the appropriate annual dues.
 - b. **Regular (Life):** Regular Members are those who fully meet the requirements for Regular membership and who pay the appropriate dues for a Life membership.

Membership dues and fees are waived for those who otherwise qualify for Regular membership and who have been found 100% disabled from a service-connected disability by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or from one of the US Military Services of this nation. Foreign Nationals who have been found 100% disabled by a national agency of his home nation also qualify for this waiver.

B. Associate Members are those individuals, military and civilian, who do not meet the qualifications for Regular membership but who having served for a minimum of one year with SOF and:

1. Are, or have been, directly assigned by Department of the Army orders to the Ranger Training Brigade (or predecessor) or the 75th Ranger Regiment in a administrative, training or training support role. Documentary proof of this assignment is required.
2. Are serving, or have served, proficiently as a member (assigned or attached) to a U.S. or Allied Special Operations Forces (SOF) unit. Documentary proof of this SOF assignment is required.
3. Are graduates of the Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC) and have been directly assigned by Department of the Army orders to a modern U.S. Army TO&E Long Range Surveillance Company (LRSC). Documentary proof of graduation from RSLC and assignment to an LRSC is required.
4. Have undoubtedly supported the Ranger tradition and/or this association through act or deed over an extended period of time. Documentary proof of long-term support and justification for membership must be submitted by a USARA member.

5. **Associate Member Category Classes** for membership:
 - a. **Associate (Annual):** Associate Members who fully meet the requirements for Associate membership and who have paid the appropriate annual dues.
 - b. **Associate (Life):** Associate Members who fully meet the requirements for Associate membership and who pay the appropriate dues for a Life membership.

C. Affiliate Members are spouses, parents or children (age 18 or older) of any Regular Member in good standing (the sponsor) who demonstrate a particular interest in supporting Rangers and this association. The Affiliate Member category has only the annual class of membership.

Upon the death of the sponsor Regular Member, the Affiliate membership shall continue as long as the sponsor member status was in good standing, upon approval of the Board of Directors, and by continued payment of dues.

If a Regular member is terminated in accordance with the association's bylaws or fails to maintain current annual dues, all Affiliate members connected to the said sponsor are no longer eligible for membership and will be notified. In addition, Regular member sponsors may request in writing that any Affiliate memberships connected to his membership be terminated.

D. Honorary Members are persons, military or civilian, the President may nominate to the Board, for their approval, who have accomplished a particular task of some acknowledged value to this association, or have made a contribution to the U. S. Army Rangers of such extraordinary magnitude, or in such an exemplary manner that it shows the nominee to be of Ranger caliber. No person who could qualify as a Regular member may be an Honorary member. Honorary Members do not pay dues

All Honorary memberships shall be reviewed annually to assure continuing interest and status of the Honorary Members.

E. Guest Members include a limited, specific group of active duty U.S. Army Rangers including the Commanders and Command Sergeants Major of the following units:

1. **75th Ranger Regiment** to include all subordinate battalions.
2. **Ranger Training Brigade** to include all subordinate battalions.

Each Commander and Command Sergeant Major of the above list will be included, by position only in the association roster for coordination and communication purposes.

F. Change of Membership Status. The member category of all "Ranger members" prior to September 10, 2010 will be moved to the appropriate new member category based on eligibility criteria for Regular, Associate or Affiliate membership and upon review by the Board of Directors.

All members classified as "Honorary members" prior to September 10, 2010 shall either retain Honorary Member status or be moved to the correct and appropriate member category based upon a complete review by VP Personnel and approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Application for Membership.

All applicants for **Regular, Associate and Affiliate** categories of membership must complete an online or written application to this Association to join. Membership will be approved only upon receipt of the appropriate dues and proof of eligibility as specified in this section. The following specifies application requirements for membership categories:

A. Regular Member Requirements.

1. Applicants applying for membership in the Regular category under ARTICLE III, Section 1, A. 1 (award of the Ranger Tab) must provide the following:
 - a. A copy of DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (The DD214 is not required for Active Duty military personnel). Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD, and the NAVCG 553.
 - b. A copy of Department of the Army orders awarding the Ranger Tab to the applicant; or a copy of DA Form 1059 - Service School Academic Evaluation Report for the Ranger Class attended.
 - c. Ranger Class Number (or month and year of completion/graduation if class number is unknown)
2. Applicants applying for membership in the Regular category under ARTICLE III, Section 1, A. 2 (served in a Ranger unit) must provide the following:

- a. Documents as cited at preceding Section 2.A.1.a.
 - b. A copy of official military service orders showing assignment to one of the units specified in ARTICLE III, Section 1, A. 3 for at least one year.
 - c. If service identified in 2 is less than one year; the applicant must submit a copy of orders awarding the CIB (Combat Infantryman Badge) or the CMB (Combat Medical Badge) while serving in that unit.
3. Applicants applying for membership in the Regular category under ARTICLE III, Section 1, A. 4.
- b. (Regular (Life) waiver of dues because of 100% disability must provide the following :
 - a. All documents stated in 1 or 2.
 - b. One of the following:
 - 1) An official letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs stating the applicant has a 100% service-connected disability; or,
 - 2) Chapter 61 Medical Retirement Orders from the military department (in which he served) showing a 100% disability determination at the time of separation.
 - 3) In the case that the applicant is a Foreign National, one of the above from his home nation proving a 100% service-connected rating.

The above documents are easily obtainable; no substitutions will be recognized.

B. Associate Member Requirements.

- 1. Applicants applying for membership in the Associate category under ARTICLE III, Section 1, B. 1; Section 1, B. 2; and Section 1, B. 3 (specific unit affiliation) must provide the following:
 - a. Documents as cited at preceding Section 2.A.1.a.
 - b. A copy of official military service orders showing assignment to one of the units specified in ARTICLE III, Section 1, B. 1; Section 1, B. 2; and Section 1, B. 3
- 2. Applicants applying for membership in the Associate category under ARTICLE III, Section 1, B. 4 (supported the Ranger tradition and/or this association) must provide the following:
 - a. A letter from the applicant outlining support of the Ranger tradition and/or this association proving justification for membership.
 - b. Letter(s) from organizations or individuals that show proof support of the Ranger tradition and/or this association.

C. Affiliate Members Requirements. Affiliates are spouses, parents, children (at least 18) of a Regular Members and must be sponsored by said Ranger. Special consideration may be made by the Board for Kin of deceased Rangers wishing membership.

D. Application for Membership

- 1. **Applicant Responsibility.** It is the responsibility of each applicant to provide the required documentation as specified herein for the category of membership for which is being applied.
- 2. **Application Review.**
 - a. Prior to membership approval each application and supporting documents will be reviewed by the VP Personnel. Upon determination that all eligibility criteria has been met; membership in the applied category will be approved by the VP Personnel.
 - b. If required supporting documents are missing or that they did not satisfactorily prove eligibility; the applicant will be advised to resubmit additional information, and membership will not be granted until such time all eligibility criteria is satisfied.
 - c. If the applicant does not provide the documentation required for eligibility for the membership category for which the application has been made, the application for membership will be rejected. The individual may reapply for membership at any time documentation is made available.
- 3. **Documentation Review/Audit.** To eliminate potential errors in approving membership to the association based on inadequate, unreadable or fraudulent documentation, the Board of Directors reserves the right to ask for additional information and/or verify eligibility of all pending applications as well re-verify eligibility of current members if a member's qualification is questioned through an annual audit/review process or a member's qualification for membership is challenged by another member or anyone outside the organization.

4. Application/Membership Limits

Memberships are limited to conform with Federal IRS requirements to maintain USARA's Tax Exempt status. Military Fraternal 501c19, Pub 557 limits are described as:

- 90% must be War Era Veterans, also
- 97.5% must be current/past Soldiers, Cadets, Spouses or lineal descendants.

Accordingly, the Board of Directors will annually review the maximum number of non-military, non-War Era Soldier members to insure these limitations are adhered to. This also insures Donors to USARA qualify for their allowed Income Tax deductions.

Section 3. Privileges of Members

- A. Every member may attend (this may not include the right to vote), when feasible, any meeting of or within this Association and/or of the Board of Directors, except that portion of a meeting which may be closed because of bona fide personal or sensitive considerations. While in attendance of a meeting in which the member has no vote, the member is encouraged, upon being offered the floor, to voice opinions, suggestions, advice, or recommendations. Visiting members, however, who, by their actions, attempt to disrupt a meeting, may be removed by the Board of Directors. Notice to the members of regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors shall be provided to the membership through the Association's internet website (ranger.org) and in **The Ranger Register**, when practical. Notice of special meetings of the National Headquarters (NHQ) shall be provided to members if practical, but lack of notice to the membership shall not limit in any way the carrying on of Association business. Members, upon request and for a nominal fee, may obtain minutes of all NHQ meetings, except for those portions of minutes of the portions of a meeting which may be closed because of bona fide personal and/or sensitive consideration.
- B. Each **Regular** member is entitled to one vote per question and per each elected office of the National Headquarters during elections. In addition, each Regular member is entitled to one vote for election of the Regional Director of the region in which the member resides.
- C. Each **Regular** member is eligible to hold office and appointments at any level, but may hold only one elected office per level at one time. There are no restrictions on the number of appointments which may be held at one time. Candidates must reside within the boundaries of, or belong to, the element to which they are seeking office.
- D. **Associate** members may be appointed to serve in special capacities by the President. However, an **Associate** member has neither voting power nor right to hold elected office.
- E. **Honorary** and **Guest** members are not eligible to hold office or appointment.
- F. Members in good standing have access to copies of all authorized publications of this Association through the Association's internet website (ranger.org).
- G. All **Regular** members are eligible to receive, when they first join or at any time, a current copy of the Association's Constitution and Bylaws; additional or current copies of those or of the Articles of Incorporation may be obtained from the National headquarters (NHQ) Office for a nominal fee. They shall be notified of all amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws through publication in the **Ranger Register** as each is approved. Members may, for a nominal fee, also receive copies of the Association's approved relevant current Standard Operations Procedures (SOPs), such as Ranger Base establishment procedures. Due notice of significant approved changes and amendments to USARA documents will be provided through the **www.ranger.org** and/or the Ranger Register. All members in good standing shall have access to the most current issue of The Ranger Register on-line at the USARA Website. Regular members will also have direct access to all Association publications, as described herein, through the Association's internet website. Placing required notices in the **Ranger Register** and then posting the **Ranger Register** on the USARA web site constitutes official notice of actions to be communicated through the **Ranger Register** to members as the Editor finds appropriate for publication.

Section 4. Good Standing.

A member shall be considered to be in good standing when his dues are paid in full and are current; and the member has not resigned or been terminated.

Section 5. Dues.

Members shall be required to contribute dues to remain in good standing.

- A. The Board of Directors may recommend dues adjustments from time to time. Written Board documentation shall be written, including the names of all the Board of Directors members voting and their final individual votes.
- B. Such revisions shall be published the year before the year of change and be approved by the entire membership vote before the change goes into effect.
- C. Life dues, if being paid incrementally over a period of time, and, if begun before the change date, will remain at the initial amount at which the rate was begun, and, once paid, will be complete.
- D. Dues shall be payable by the end of the Fiscal Year. New members joining during at other than the end of the Fiscal Year shall pay a full year's dues for the first year as Application Fee for that year. Those new members joining during the last quarter of the year, however, shall be considered as have paid dues for the second year.

Section 6. Membership and Fiscal Year.

- A. Annual memberships are from the month of ACCEPTANCE through the end of the fiscal year, or to such anniversary as the Board of Directors decides. The Association shall communicate by appropriate means a timely renewal notice and invoice indicating the renewal membership fees then applicable, with terms of payment and any other conditions, as necessary.
- B. The fiscal year of this Association is 1 January through 31 December.

Section 7. Termination of Membership.

- A. A member may resign his membership by writing the President of this Association, and tendering his resignation. No unused dues or portions thereof shall be refunded except in extenuating and/or mitigating circumstances and the decision of the Board of Directors will final in this matter.
- B. Members may be involuntarily terminated, suspended, or expelled from this Association only for cause. Such termination, expulsion, or suspension, shall require two-thirds vote in the affirmative of the entire Board of Directors or by a majority of the members voting during an Annual Ranger Muster.
 - 1. Such action's procedure shall be fair and reasonable:
 - a. The Board shall provide that:
 - 1. Members considered for suspension or termination, shall be given at least a fifteen day prior written notice of the intended action and the reasons therefore before the date of the intended voting.
 - 2. A member being considered for adverse action shall be given the opportunity to be heard orally or in writing, before the effective date of suspension or termination, up through the moment of vote deliberations. The hearing shall be conducted by the Board, or by a person or persons authorized by the Board to decide the proposed suspension, or termination recommendation to the Board.
 - b. However, after taking into consideration all the facts and circumstances, the Board may use an alternative procedure, if fair and reasonable under those facts and circumstances. Such facts and circumstances may include, but are not limited to, implied or direct threat of potential violence or harm from the member considered for suspension, or termination, to other members or to normal operations of USARA as perceived by a reasonable and prudent person.
 - 2. Date of termination, suspension, or expulsion, shall occur on the date of the vote, on the minute of the declaration that the vote to suspend or terminate is official.
 - 3. Upon completing a vote for involuntary termination of a member, the Chairman of the Board of Directors, or the acting Chairman of the Directors participating in the vote, shall assure that the suspended or terminated member is officially notified of his termination and termination date by Certified U.S. Mail. Such official termination shall be sent to the member's last known address and be signed by the Chairman, a Director, the President, or the Secretary.

4. A member who has been suspended or terminated may be liable to USARA, Inc. for dues, assessments, or fees as a result of obligations incurred or commitments made, prior to or during suspension, or termination Hearings.
- C. Even though once terminated, upon meeting all qualifications, an ex-member may re-submit an application to rejoin this Association and, when found deserving and fully qualified, shall be re-admitted, upon payment of appropriate dues.

Section 8. Membership Rosters.

A Membership Roster/Directory is available at the Association's internet website (ranger.org) to all members in good standing. Any member can restrict parts of his/her personal contact information from being viewed by other members by editing their individual profile located on the internet site. Members are cautioned that the RESTRICTED access roster is not; repeat not, to be provided to persons or activities outside USARA's membership and control on penalty of expulsion.