

## WE ARE ...

The **Special Guerrilla Units (SGU) Veterans and Families of USA** was established in 2004 in Minnesota by Hmong veterans of the Secret War as a non-profit organization. The organization's mission is **to service and provide social and emotional supports to the veterans, widows, and their families**. Also, SGU continues to advocate state and federal political leaders to pass legislation to gain access to VA benefits for its members.

From 1961 to 1975, our Hmong SGU veterans played a crucial role in the U.S. war efforts in Laos during the Vietnam War era. **Our veterans were employed by the CIA as a secret army known as the SGU to fulfill the U.S. military objectives inside Laos: approximately 35,000 SGU soldiers died in assisting the U.S.**

---

### 40,000

Estimated number of Hmong SGU soldiers served during the course of the Secret War. The highest recruitments occurred from 1968-1972. (In most cases, when fathers were killed or injured, sons and brothers were recruited as replacements).

### 35,000

Estimated number of Hmong SGU soldiers killed defending and protecting the U.S. foreign military objectives inside Laos during the war. **This number represented 11% of the Hmong population in Laos** (out of 300,000).

### 20,000

Number of CIA-backed Hmong soldiers who fled Laos to Thailand to escape persecution by the communist North Vietnamese Army and Pathet Lao troops for aiding the U.S. during the war. Majority of these soldiers had immigrated to the U.S.

### 5,000-7,000

Out of the 20,000, between **5,000 and 7,000 Hmong soldiers along with their families had immigrated to Minnesota** following the conclusion of the Vietnam War era.

### 3%

Out of the 5,000-7,000 Hmong soldiers who have resettled in Minnesota, **less than 3% of their legacies and stories are recorded, documented, and preserved for educational, historical, humanitarian, and research purposes.**





“For 10 years, Vang Pao’s soldiers held the growing North Vietnamese forces to approximately the same battlelines they held in 1962. And significantly for Americans, the 70,000 North Vietnamese engaged in Laos were not available to add to the forces fighting Americans and South Vietnamese in South Vietnam.”

--- William Colby, CIA Director, 1973-1976  
*Born in St. Paul, MN in 1920*  
(National Archives)

Hmong had the largest numbers of soldiers in the CIA’s secret army, the Special Guerrilla Units, around 40,000, throughout the Secret War. In Laos’ Military Region 2, the SGU forces were commanded by Gen. Vang Pao.

*Right photo*, during “Operation About Face” in Xieng Kouang Province, Laos in 1969, the Hmong SGU soldiers had defeated the North Vietnamese Army and captured some of their rocket launcher and supplies.  
(SGU Collection)

