



SACO

**SINO AMERICAN COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION
U.S. NAVAL GROUP CHINA VETERANS**

NOVEMBER 2020 SACO NEWSLETTER

SACO HISTORY

SACO (pronounced "Socko") stands for Sino-American Cooperative Organization established during WWII with the approval of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. Highly secret, originally known as U.S. Navy Group, it was placed under joint command of General Tai Li, (Head of BIS - Bureau of Investigation and Statistics, i.e. Intelligence), as Director of SACO and then Commander (later to become Vice Admiral) Milton Edward "Mary" Miles as Deputy Director. The Chinese and American members of SACO joined in combined effort to perform intelligence and guerrilla operations. The group became known by the sobriquet "The Rice Paddy Navy." SACO men were and are known as "SACO Tigers" who served hundreds of miles behind enemy lines in China, establishing vital weather stations to report to the Pacific Fleet, coast-watching to report on enemy shipping, intercepting Japanese code, rescuing downed allied airmen and being involved in numerous other military, medical and humanitarian endeavors. The American personnel numbering approximately 2,500, were volunteers from several branches of services, but for the most part, Navy and Marine men. Three books, "The Rice Paddy Navy", "A Different Kind of War" and "The Army-Navy Game" as well as one movie, "Destination Gobi" were the revelations of SACO. Note of Interest: This group probably held the distinction of being the first American Military Group to ever serve under a foreign leader in time of war.