



Special Operations Fund

Founded in 1992

"the quiet fund for quiet warriors"

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DAVID C. MILLER, JR. AWARDS

Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr., has had a distinguished career in public service, diplomacy, business and management of non-profit organizations. An American Field Service Scholarship to Japan, a Harvard College undergraduate degree, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School, and a White House Fellowship prepared him for a life of leadership and contribution at the national and international levels.

After a year in Vietnam working with a group of Harvard and MIT professors primarily for the Advanced Research Projects Agency (now known as DARPA), Ambassador Miller was selected as a White House Fellow in 1968-69, serving with the Attorney General of the United States, who asked him to remain another year as a Confidential Assistant. He continued to serve in the White House from 1970-71 as the Director of the President's Commission on White House Fellows while also working with the Counsel to the President.,

Ambassador Miller was the United States Ambassador to Tanzania from 1981-84 and to Zimbabwe from 1984-86. After two years in business he returned to the White House as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on the National Security Council (NSC) from 1989-90. His NSC portfolio included counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, low intensity conflict, Africa, the United Nations, refugees and public diplomacy.

He held a variety of international positions with Westinghouse Electric Corporation for 10 years and has served on a number of corporate boards, both public and private. He is one of the founding members of Torch Hill Investment Partners, a private equity firm that provides growth capital for companies that work in the defense and intelligence markets.

He is currently serving as the Brent Scowcroft Fellow at the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Studies at the Atlantic Council. He recently led studies on the reform of the National Security Council and restructuring of the Department of State.

Ambassador Miller is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Council of American Ambassadors, the District of Columbia Bar, and is the founder of the Special Operations Fund. He was co-author, with Howard Wolpe and David Gordon, of [The United States and Africa: A Post-Cold War Perspective](#), and has contributed chapters to three books on low intensity conflict. He received an honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Lewis and Clarke College in 1991 in recognition of his public service.

HONORING AMBASSADOR MILLER

In recognition and appreciation for Ambassador Miller's vision and thoughtful guidance of the Special Operations Fund since 1992, including his critical role as founder and Board Chairman; in respect for his life-long commitment to nurturing future public servants through the power of higher education and distinctive educational experiences, the Board of Directors of the Special Operations Fund in 2015 established the Ambassador David C. Miller, Jr. Fellowship. To complement that fellowship, in 2017, the Board of Directors created the Miller Scholarship Award to engage eligible undergraduate students in the Special Operations community in educational opportunities that connect each student to international topics to be studied abroad.

MILLER FELLOWSHIP PARAMETERS

The Special Operations Fund will select one Miller Fellow annually to receive a \$20,000 post-graduate fellowship from eligible applicants who expect to graduate in 2018 from a four-year college prior to the fellowship, or who are currently pursuing a graduate degree, or who have successfully completed a graduate program. Applicants will submit proposals to study, work, or participate in charitable or research activities in another country for up to two years. Proposals should illustrate what applicants intend to do, what they expect to learn, the potential impact they expect to have on the community, and how the Fellowship will help prepare them for a career in international public service, including the Foreign Service, the intelligence community, the military, or non-profit international development activities. Applications will be evaluated based on several criteria. They include a review of the applicants' undergraduate (and where applicable, graduate) academic rigor, including grade point average and academic honors received. Weight will be given to a candidate's demonstrated or intended public service with the overall objective being to provide the Fellow an opportunity to live and work in a foreign culture while simultaneously advancing his or her foreign language skills. Evidence of pre-existing or intended foreign language proficiency will be given added credit.

Candidates for this fellowship will be drawn from a pool of sons or daughters of deceased, current, and veteran Special Operations Force members supported by the following benevolent Special Operations organizations: the Special Operations Fund, Rangers Scholarship Fund, Unit Scholarship Fund, Night Stalker Foundation, Development Group Scholarship Committee of the Navy SEAL Foundation, and The Association (USAF). As with other programs provided by the SOFund that benefit the Special Operations community, the SOFund will rely upon the above organizations to assist with tracking and identifying qualified applicants.

The winning candidate will have graduated from college or graduate school within the previous three years of applying to this program, or can apply in his/her senior year of undergraduate college or university for the following year; have attained a college or university grade point average (or equivalent) of 3.2 cumulative or higher; have demonstrated academic honors; and have displayed a sincere interest in the careers mentioned above. Applicants with cumulative GPA's below 3.2 must show an unusually strong record of leadership and achievement in and outside the classroom, as well as proposing a compelling project idea.

Finalists will be required to identify and connect to an organization, agency, educational institution or defined foreign partner (examples include but are not limited to an NGO partner, Rotary International, TechnoServe, the Peace Corps, or a foreign university) to serve as the official fellowship host for each Fellow and each Fellow is responsible for obtaining necessary visas.

The Miller Fellowship strongly urges each fellow to retain an academic advisor to provide counsel on evaluating possibilities and selecting the proposal's objective, shaping it, and guiding it to completion. Advisors can come from academia, government, the military, the defense or intelligence business community, or the research community.

Finalists will be interviewed and required to submit a 1,000-word proposal for the fellowship experience they seek, including the topic to be studied or the work, research or charitable activities to be accomplished, and the proposed geographic location. Proposals will describe what applicants plan to do, expected impact, and the expected benefits.

Proposals should also illustrate how the Fellowship experience will help prepare Fellows for a career in international public service, including the Foreign Service, the intelligence community, the military, or non-profit international development activities.

Proposals will be evaluated on clarity and practicality; the degree of cultural knowledge to be gained by the applicant; the quality and quantity of relationships developed in the foreign country where the study, research, or charitable activity will take place; and current or potential usefulness to our nation's understanding of that country and its history, culture, issues, and aspirations.

The Selection Committee of the Miller Fellowship will be chaired by Ambassador Miller, and will be comprised of at least four Directors of the Special Operations Fund, two retired military members of the Joint Special Operations Command community, and two faculty members from a distinguished college or postgraduate international affairs program.

One David C. Miller, Jr. Fellow will be announced in March and the Fellow must begin carrying out his or her proposal within three months. The first Miller Fellowship was awarded in 2016.

Within three months of concluding the Miller Fellowship work or study, the Fellow will write a paper describing his or her efforts and assessing the Fellowship, its educational value, and any implications for the future and the country. Research papers will be submitted to the Fellow's advisor and to the Susan Grant, SOFund's Executive Director, as a demonstration of the impact of the investment made in that specific Fellowship. These papers shall also be made available for future Fellows and for other distribution, as deemed appropriate.

Below is the timeline we hope to execute:

Guidelines/Application released to local scholarship funds -- October 2, 2017

Completed application suspense to local scholarship funds - (TBD by local scholarship funds)

Local scholarship funds notify top three candidates - (TBD by local scholarship funds)

Local scholarship funds (RSF/USF/160/SEAL/USAF) redact and submit their top three candidate applications to SOFund – December 7, 2017

SOFund notifies local scholarship funds of the top five finalists and local funds contact their finalist(s) to inform them to submit 1,000-word written Project Proposal – January 30, 2018

Top five finalists provide written Project Proposal to local scholarship funds – February 13, 2018

Local scholarship funds redact and submit finalists' written Project Proposal to SOFund – February 15, 2018

SOFund assessment of written Project Proposal of top five finalist – February 16 – March 1, 2018

SOFund announces winner of the David C. Miller, Jr. Fellowship – March 13, 2018

Fellowship winner presentation at SOFund annual event, Willard Hotel, Washington, DC April 29/30, 2018

MILLER SCHOLARSHIP PARAMETERS

The Special Operations Fund will also select one or more Miller Scholars annually to receive a stipend of \$5,000 each to support studies and internships abroad. The Miller Scholarship is directed at talented undergraduate applicants who are drawn from a similar pool of candidates identified in the Miller Fellowship. Miller Scholars will serve in a summer slot between the applicant's first and second years or between the second and third years as an undergraduate.

Applicants will submit proposals to study, work or participate in charitable activities for a period of no less than eight weeks, preferably longer, within the confines of a typical college or university summer break. In the spirit of the Miller Fellowship, applicants should be interested in international public service, including Foreign Service, the intelligence community, the military, or non-profit international development programs, or related careers.

The focus of this scholarship is international. Given the complexities of arranging such studies and internships overseas, i.e., obtaining a visa, etc., applicants must begin their international inquiries months in advance. The Miller Scholarship application deadline is in the first week of November each year. Miller Scholars will be announced mid-December each year for programs that will take place the following summer.

The winning candidate or candidates will have demonstrated academic success early in their college career, as indicated by college GPA, strength of curriculum, extracurricular activities, and any examples of leadership.

Applicants will be required to confirm an accredited course of study and an internship partner, whether a college or university, an NGO, a business, or an agency related to some aspect of the Miller Fellowship and Scholarship mission.

Each year's Scholars(s) will provide a summary paper describing his or her internship or study abroad, its value to the intern, their educational and other lessons learned. That paper must be submitted within two months of the Scholar's return from this opportunity to the SOFund's Executive Director, Susan Grant, who will pass it along to the Selection Committee.

The Selection Committee of the Miller Fellowship shall also serve as the deciding committee for Miller Scholarships.

While the Miller Fellowship and the Miller Scholarship programs are separate initiatives, with different eligibility requirements, they are motivated by the same purpose: provide international educational and research opportunities for well-performing higher education students from the Special Operations communities whose career interests may be in international public service, the intelligence community, the military, or non-profit international development activities.

Even though there can be no promise that a Miller Scholar will someday become a Miller Fellow, there is certainly an opportunity for that outcome based on performance and strength of proposal.

Below is the Scholarship timeline we hope to execute:

Guidelines/Application released to local scholarship funds -- October 2, 2017

Completed application suspense to local scholarship funds - (TBD by local scholarship funds)

Local scholarship funds (RSF/USF/160/SEAL/USAF) redact and submit their top three candidates to SOFund – November 9, 2017

SOFund notifies local scholarship funds of the top five finalists and asks for 500-word proposal – November 16, 2017

Top five finalists' written Project Proposals sent to their local scholarship funds, and redacted Project Proposals will be emailed to the SOFund - December 16, 2017

SOFund announces winner of the David C. Miller, Jr. Scholarship – January 2, 2018

Miller Award Applications will be available October 2, 2017; eligible candidates can request applications through their local scholarship fund: Rangers Scholarship Fund, Unit Scholarship Fund, Night Stalker Foundation, Development Group Scholarship Committee of the Navy SEAL Foundation and The Association (USAF).