



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

427th General Meeting (2003-13)

26 June 2003

AGENDA

Call to Order at 1930 hours

Moment of Silence

Military Casualties since the last VVIC Meeting.

Spc. John K. Klinessmith Jr., 25, of Stockbridge, Ga., was killed June 12, in Al Fallujah, Iraq. Klinessmith was last seen wading in the lake on the palace compound in Al Fallujah on June 12. A search was launched and Klinessmith's body was discovered at the lake. Klinessmith was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Andrew R. Pokorny, 30, of Naperville, Ill., was killed on June 13, in Al Asad, Iraq. On the way back from patrol, Pokorny's M113 armored personnel carrier, threw a track causing the vehicle to roll over. Pokorny was assigned to 3rd Air Defense Artillery, 3rd Armor Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo. The incident is under investigation.

Pfc. Ryan R. Cox, USMC, 19, of Derby, Kan., died June 15 as a result of wounds received from a non-combat weapon discharge near An Najaf, Iraq. Cox was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. The accident is under investigation.

Pvt. Shawn D. Pahnke, 25, of Shelbyville, Ind., was killed on June 16, in Baghdad, Iraq. Pahnke was on patrol when he received a fatal gunshot wound. Pahnke was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

Spc. Joseph D. Suell, 24, of Lufkin, Texas, was killed on June 16, in Todjje, Iraq. Suell died from a non-combat related cause. Suell was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Battery, 5th Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Sill, Okla. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Michael L. Tosto, 24, of Apex, N.C., died on June 17, at Camp Wolf, Kuwait. Tosto died from a non-combat related cause. Tosto was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Smith Barracks, Germany.

Pvt. Robert L. Frantz, 19, of San Antonio, Texas, was killed on June 17, in Baghdad, Iraq. Frantz was on guard duty when a local resident threw a grenade over the wall. Frantz died of his injuries. Frantz was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armored Division, Ray Barracks, Germany.

Pfc. Michael R. Deuel, 21, of Nemo, S.D., was killed on June 18, in Baghdad, Iraq. Deuel received fatal gun shot wounds while on guard duty at a propane distribution center. Deuel was assigned to Company B, 2nd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Staff Sgt. William T. Latham, 29, of Kingman, Ariz., died of wounds on June 18, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in Washington, D.C. Latham was participating in a raid at a suspected arms market in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on May 19 when he was hit with shrapnel. Latham was evacuated back to the United States where he died of his wounds. Latham was assigned to Troop E, 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo.

Spc. Paul T. Nakamura, 21, of Santa Fe Springs, Calif. died on June 19 in Al Iskandariyah, Iraq. Nakamura was part of an ambulance crew transporting an injured soldier when the vehicle was hit by an RPG. Nakamura was assigned to 437th Medical Company, based in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Spc. Orenthial J. Smith, 21, of Allendale, S.C., was killed on June 22, in Baghdad, Iraq. Smith was in a convoy that was ambushed by small arms fire. Smith was assigned to Company A, 123rd Main Support Battalion, Dexheim, Germany.

Spc. Cedric L. Lennon, 32, of West Blocton, Ala., died on June 24, in Baghdad, Iraq. Lennon died from a non-combat related cause. Lennon was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Polk, La. The incident is under investigation.

Additionally, 6 British Soldiers were killed in an ambush on 24 June.

And CNN is reporting new casualties as of 0300 hours this date.

The names and details provided above come from official Department of Defense Press releases. (No. 422-03 Jun 16, 2003, No. 423-03 Jun 16, 2003, No. 424-03 Jun 17, 2003, No. 433-03 Jun 18, 2003, No. 436-03 Jun 19, 2003, No. 437-03 Jun 19, 2003, No. 441-03 Jun 20, 2003, No. 444-03 Jun 23, 2003, No. 454-03 Jun 26, 2003)

Introduction of Guests, New Members, and Visitors.

Announcements

The Canadian Vietnam Veterans Quebec (Les Veterans Du Vietnam Quebec) has extended an invitation to their Vigil Celebration on 11 July 2003 at the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Melocheville, Quebec. Details are available under separate cover for those interested.

Chief of Staff S. O'Grady is attending a school function with his son this evening. Therefore I need to draft an Acting Chief of Staff for tonight's meeting.

President's Remarks

(W. Carmack, USMC)

1st Vice President's Remarks

(K. Payne, USN)

2nd Vice President's Remarks

(G. Robinson, AUS)

Chief of Staff

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

Collection & Auction

(Chief of Staff)

Minutes

The Minutes of the 426th Meeting are available under separate cover.

Finance Report

The 2nd Quarter 2003 reports are due to be released on 10 July.

Mail Call

Aid & Comfort

(No public details-26 June)

Administrative Items

1. Consul General Reception.
2. New Vet – John Baker (via email)
3. BC Coalition for the disabled.

Briefings:

The Veterans Honour Ride Foundation After Action Report
(G. Flowers)

Internet Operations

Vietnamveteransregistry.ca (R2)
Canadianvietnamveterans.ca (R1)
Vietnamveterans.ca
VVIC.ORG

Hand Outs

Point Man International Ministries - Reveille Volume 13, Issue 1
Point Man International Ministries - Reveille Volume 14, Issue 1
Salute Newsletter from Veterans Affairs Canada

Attachments

1. Retired General nominated to be next Army Chief of Staff.
2. NY Times article brought to our attention by VVIC member.
3. Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - Administration

VVIC Inspector General Report

Unfinished Business

VVIC status with Victoria – Finalization of the Constitution of 2003

New Business

- 1.

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 10 July 2003 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment

Retired General nominated to be new Army Chief of Staff.

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 17, 2003

President Bush has nominated retired Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker to be the next Army chief of staff.

Schoomaker retired in November 2000 as the commander U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.

The Senate must confirm Schoomaker before he can take up his new duties.

This is only the second time that a president has reached into retired ranks for a high-ranking military position. Army Gen. Maxwell Taylor was retired when President John F. Kennedy asked him to serve as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1962.

Schoomaker was commissioned via ROTC in June 1969. Early in his career, he served in Germany and Korea. In 1978, he became commander, 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment (Airborne) at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He was part of the unsuccessful rescue attempt of the American hostages taken by radical students in Iran in 1980. Eight Americans died and five were wounded at the Desert One refueling site in Iran. In a 1999 Soldiers magazine article, Schoomaker said that the failures of that rescue attempt led to the formation of the U.S. Special Operations Command.

Schoomaker had several assignments with the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg throughout the 1980s and served on the Long Commission to investigate the October 1983 terrorist bombing of the Marine Barracks in Beirut.

He was appointed commander of U.S. Special Operations Command in 1997.

Among his decorations he has received the Distinguished Service Medal (with Oak Leaf Cluster), the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit and two Bronze Stars.

Schoomaker, 57, is a master parachutist and has received the Combat Infantryman Badge.

(Based on biographical data from the Department of the Army.)

June 25, 2003

Expert Said to Tell Legislators He Was Pressed to Distort Some Evidence

By JAMES RISEN and DOUGLAS JEHL

WASHINGTON, June 24 — A top State Department expert on chemical and biological weapons told Congressional committees in closed-door hearings last week that he had been pressed to tailor his analysis on Iraq and other matters to conform with the Bush administration's views, several Congressional officials said today.

The officials described what they said was a dramatic moment at a House Intelligence Committee hearing last week when the weapons expert came forward to tell Congress he had felt such pressure.

By speaking out, they said, the senior intelligence expert, identified by several officials as Christian Westermann, became the first member of the intelligence community on active service to make this sort of admission to members of Congress.

The House Intelligence Committee was examining questions concerning the Bush administration's handling of prewar reports on evidence that Iraq had illegal weapons and ties to terrorist groups.

Mr. Westermann, officials said, is an analyst in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, a small but important office at the State Department that is intended to provide the secretary of state with intelligence analysis independent of the C.I.A. and other agencies.

Mr. Westermann told lawmakers last week that while he felt pressure, he never actually changed the wording of any of his intelligence reports.

He did not immediately provide lawmakers with details about his complaints, and it remains uncertain the degree to which his concerns related to Iraq or other regional issues.

Administration officials said his most specific complaints concerned issues related to intelligence on Cuba, and he has not yet provided similar specific complaints about the handling of intelligence on Iraq.

Mr. Westermann, who is in his mid-40's, has worked as a State Department expert on unconventional weapons for the last several years and is viewed within the department as a careful and respected analyst of intelligence.

An administration official said he had served previously as a Navy officer and had not worked for the C.I.A. or other intelligence agencies.

Mr. Westermann's decision to speak out has caused a stir inside the House and Senate intelligence committees, even though he did not go into details and indicated he was not comfortable doing so in front of the large group of officials around him in the House hearing. But he said he was prepared to discuss the matter further.

In a second hearing last week with the Senate Intelligence Committee, he made it clear that he had felt pressure from John Bolton, the under secretary of state for arms control and international security, that originally dated to a clash the two had over Mr. Bolton's public assertions last year that Cuba had a

biological weapons program. Mr. Westermann argued those assertions were not supported by sufficient intelligence.

Mr. Bolton declined to comment on the matter. Mr. Westermann also declined to comment.

The State Department spokesman, Richard A. Boucher, said tonight, "We don't comment on closed hearings, but I can tell you that the secretary and deputy secretary have full confidence in John Bolton."

A number of analysts at the C.I.A. and other agencies have privately complained over the past few months that they felt pressure from administration officials to write reports that they believe overstated evidence that Iraq had illegal weapons programs and terrorist links.

Mr. Westermann was one of a large group of officials from several intelligence agencies who had been summoned to appear at the opening session of the House intelligence panel's review on Iraq last week.

Addressing the group, Representative Silvestro Reyes, a Texas Democrat, asked whether any of them had felt political pressure in the development of their intelligence reports, which are supposed to be objective. All of the intelligence officials remained silent — except for Mr. Westermann. Staff members from the House and Senate committees have begun to pursue the matter in greater detail with him, Congressional officials said.

Representative Jane Harman, a California Democrat and a ranking member on the House panel, declined to discuss the matter.

A spokesman for Mr. Reyes, Kira Maas, said, "The congressman does not comment on closed hearing information."

The failure of the United States to find evidence of Iraq's weapons programs or its links to Al Qaeda has raised questions about whether the administration overstated the threat posed by Baghdad as it made the case for going to war. Both the House and Senate intelligence committees have begun investigations into the matter, and the C.I.A. has begun an internal review of its prewar intelligence reports.

Pressure to politicize intelligence is often subtle and extremely difficult to corroborate or quantify. A number of analysts have said that the pressure they felt came in the form of intensive questioning from senior administration officials, particularly about reports that concluded that there was little evidence of links between Iraq and Al Qaeda.

A number of analysts have suggested that they felt less direct pressure on reports concerning the status of Iraq's unconventional weapons, but were angered that senior Bush administration officials selectively disclosed classified intelligence reports that supported the worst-case scenario concerning Iraq's weapons programs, making it seem as if there was an imminent threat to the United States.

The analysts believe that in some cases, White House and Pentagon officials made public statements about Iraq's weapons based on intelligence that was far from definitive.

An administration official said that Mr. Westermann had clashed repeatedly with Mr. Bolton.

A State Department official sympathetic to Mr. Bolton's views said of Mr. Westermann, "He doesn't have anything that he can point to, and he doesn't have anything more recent than Cuba." That official added,

"We're in a period where people are looking for particular evidence of intelligence being altered, and he's talking about mood swings."

But other administration officials said there had been ongoing tensions between the two since the Cuban issue first came up, to the point that Mr. Bolton has unsuccessfully sought to have Mr. Westermann reassigned.

A foot note:

"I am proud to say that I steered young Mister Christian towards a military career way back in the 70s. He enlisted in the Navy, qualified on nuclear subs, was sent to college on the Navy's dime, got a BA and a commission, and retired a few years ago as a Lt. Cdr.

He was picked up immediately by the Department of State. I may have mentioned on the Guard before that he has the most peculiar name card in my collection:

*Christian P. Westermann
Chemical and Biological Affairs.*

Christian taught me a good lesson: be very careful when you give advice to the young, they might take it. In his case, he worked out his life just fine. We speak on the phone once a week or so, and he mentioned last week that he had just spoken before a congressional committee.

A truly good man, husband, and father."

*Philip Whitman Knauth
Infantry Airborne Ranger
Sai Kung, Hong Kong, China
VVIC Member*

Via email posted to "The Guard Channel"

Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - Administration

INFORMATION PAPER
DAPE-RSO
11 June 2003

SUBJECT: Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) - Administration

1. PURPOSE: To provide information on program administration pertaining to Section 636, Public Law 107-314, 2 December 2002.

2. FACTS:

a. The 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) established a new form of special compensation, payable to certain disabled retirees. To be eligible, a military retiree must have at least 20 years of active duty or a combination of active duty and Reserve points comprising the equivalent of 20 years of full-time active duty (7200 points). The retiree must also have either a disability rating of 10 percent or higher associated with award of a Purple Heart; or a disability rating of 60 percent or higher for other illnesses or injuries attributed to combat, combat-oriented training, or hazardous duty.

b. Army's lead agent for CRSC is the U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency (PDA). PDA's CRSC adjudicators are available at 1-866-281-3254.

Mail applications to:

U.S. Total Army Personnel Command
U.S.S Army Physical Disability Agency (CRSC)
c/o The Adjutant General Directorate
2461 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22331-0470

c. More detail on CRSC is available as follows:

- DoD implementation program guidance 21 May 2003 and the application for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), DD Form 2860 Test, May 2003 is available at <http://www.defenselink.mil/prhome/crsc.html>; form also at <http://www.dior.whs.mil/forms/DD2860.pdf>.
- Information Paper(s) are available at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>.

d. CRSC is separate and distinct from another special compensation program enacted several years ago, known as "severely disabled special compensation." Retirees do not apply for that program. DFAS and the VA determine eligibility based on records available to them and make monthly payments ranging from \$50-\$325. With the creation of CRSC, if a retiree qualifies under both of these compensation programs, DFAS will chose the program providing the highest amount to the retiree.

e. With such a complex program, details will continue to be released.

Watch: <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/retire>; and <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/crsc/> for information.

http://www.armyg1.army.mil/Directorates/retire/retiree_information/CRSC_19Dec02.doc

Hotline assistance.

Army 1-866-281-3254

Retired soldiers can also submit through Army installation Retirement Services officers.

The Army is sending it's first approvals to DFAS this week, and is setting up a system that will lead to faster processing of the 5000 applications it has received.

Retired Veterans should understand that an electronic interface between DFAS, VA and the Services is about a month away, so it is vital to have all backup material with the early applications.

Common errors with CRSC applications: 6-17-'03

Get specific with your combat event - buddy letters or news clips will suffice!

Most were submitted with improper VA codes...take your time and avoid delay

Purple Heart with no evidence or citation...even a picture of the actual battlefield award suffices

Multiple disabilities of 40-10-10, or 20-10-10-10-10 added up to 60%

disability. (Both cases yield 50%)

6-7 events noted in block 13, with documentation failed to qualify all but one or two...credibility is the issue here.

If you have hearing loss....tie it to something specific. No prizes given for flight line, tank and ship noise...again credibility.

The unemployability (UI) issue for CRSC is not yet resolved...however it's clear that POW's will be a slam dunk approval

Hotline assistance will improve with time

Army 1-866-281-3254

Navy and USMC 1-877-366-2772

USAF 1-866-229-7074