



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

417th General Meeting (2003-03)

06 February 2003

AGENDA

Call to Order at 1930 hours

Moment of Silence

The tragic loss of the seven astronauts and the STS-107 Columbia last Saturday is a reminder of the price that is paid in our quest for greater knowledge. The crew of Colombia knew the risks. They went anyway. That makes them heroes.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines on duty in Afghanistan and those who are about to go into battle in the middle east as well as the 37,000 U.S. Troops in Korea need our prayers.

Introduction of Guests, New Members, and Visitors.

Freda Carmack

Announcements

Annual Paardeberg Dinner to be held at the Drill Hall
Saturday, 22 February, 2003 – 1830 for 1930 hours.
\$55 CDN per person – respond by 08 February

Trip to Vietnam – Last call
(Bob P.)

President's Remarks
(W. Carmack, USMC)

As Veterans, the 37,000 American Servicemen on duty in the Republic of Korea should be on our minds from time to time. They are on guard and undermanned against a sawed off lunatic desperate to cling to power. A man presently actively engaged in the production of nuclear weapons. And mooning the world will do it, if you will. All this while our team is getting ready to bitch slap Saddam. If one of my children was on duty in Korea tonight, I'd be one upset father.

It is my understanding that Kim IL Sung sleeps in a different location every night. Apparently he's worried about his army. A 2,000,000 man Army. Apparently some of the top officers may be growing weary of watching the little sawed off pampered wacko live the good life while the average citizen starves. His old man started the first Korean War. If he has the several nukes they already acknowledge they think he has he'll likely use them.

I'm just expressing concern for what would be horrific circumstances for anyone on our team presently stationed in Korea – not to mention the millions of Koreans, South and North. Got to be a lot of puckered butts peeking over the 38th in Korea as we speak. It would be hell trying to hold that line. CNN was reporting that Korean Commanders are calling for addition forces and assets.

So I thought I'd remember those men and women in Korea tonight.
God Bless each and every one of them.

I don't think there are any reinforcements to send to Korea, in the numbers they may need, if the shit hits the fan there. The Army is busy elsewhere. Who's left to send to Korea? The National Guard?

I don't know why but Korea just keeps popping into my head. It just seems to me that the little North Korean wacky turd in elevated shoes might not be able to resist the chance he thinks he has while Uncle Sammy is putting the boots to Saddam (who'll then be busy setting his oil wells on fire).

Hopefully China, who is making a good living selling stuff to the world, will bitch slap some sense into the wacko. They don't want a war on their forehead. Do they? Then again, reason only goes so far with the delusional like the whacked out dude running North Korea.

And in the end, it's the Infantry that pays.

Where's James Bond when you need him?
It would save a lot of troops, on both sides, a lot of trouble.

Nothing in and of itself is wrong with being crazy, but being crazy, running a country, and playing with nuclear stuff, is definite cause to pay attention.
Remember our troops in Korea.

1st Vice President's Remarks
(K. Payne, USN)

2nd Vice President's Remarks
(G. Robinson, AUS)

Chief of Staff
(S. O'Grady, AUS)

Minutes

VVIC Meeting #416

23 January 2002

VVIC President W. Carmack chaired the meeting

Moment of Silence

8 Members in attendance

Announcements:

1. Death of Bill Mauldin, famous wartime cartoonist. Will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.
2. Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) will be holding a veteran's information and assistance fair on Friday Jan. 24th at the National Guard Armoury in Bellingham.
3. Peace Arch picnic area booked for summer picnic on 31 Aug. 2003 by member Larry MacKay.
4. First Vice-President Ken Payne informs us that volunteers are needed for various functions at the B.C. Regiment armoury.

Aid + Comfort

1. A VVIC loan of \$200.00 was given to member Dave Crockett to assist in his travels to visit his ailing father in Virginia.
2. Non-Vietnam Veteran Juan Aguilar to visit psychiatrist in his quest for military compensation.

Administrative Items

1. UBC Peacekeeper counseling program update.

Old Business

1. Veterans Honour Ride Foundation to be held on Sat., June 7th 2003 at the Toronto Buttonville Airport. Press release attached to the agenda handed out by VVIC President.
2. Rundown on Member Gerry Flowers trip to Ontario given by VVIC President.
3. Announced a growing support for a "National Registry" for Vietnam Veterans.

New Business

1. Resolution 2003-1, creation of an Internet domain to present people with the story of Canadians who served in the Vietnam War. Name of domain will be "canadianvietnamveterans.ca"
2. Resolution 2003-2, creation of a Canadian Vietnam veterans National Registry. On the internet as "vietnamveteransregistry.ca"
3. Resolution 2003-3, Commission of a formal VVIC Business plan for Outreach + Operations.
4. Resolution 2003-4, acquisition of proper business accounting software.

Meeting adjourned 2040

Steve O'Grady, Chief of Staff.

Finance Report

1. Financial reports for November 2002.
2. Financial reports for December 2002.
3. Annual Financial Report – Year 2002.

Mail Call

Aid & Comfort

Dustoff 2003-01 / Dustoff 2003-02

Administrative Items

UBC Peacekeeper Counseling program update (Member D. Sinclair)

Choose Representative for Vancouver Remembrance Day Committee.

Collection (Chief of Staff)

Unfinished Business

The Veterans Honour Ride Foundation / Veterans Honour Ride
Saturday June 7th, 2003
Toronto Buttonville Municipal Airport
Markam, Ontario

Sergeant At Arms G. Flower's trip to Ontario.

Internet Operations VVICR 2003-01, 02
Vietnamveteransregistry.ca (R2)
Canadianvietnamveterans.ca (R1)

VVIC Picnic – Saturday 30 August – Peace Arch Park – U.S. Border

VVIC status with Victoria

VVIC Business plan for Outreach + Operations (R3)

Business accounting software (R4)

New Business

Proposal - Appointment of VVIC Inspector General.

It would be the primary duty of the VVIC Inspector General to inspect the military credentials of persons applying for membership in the organization. The IG would also have an

active interest in the military credentials of others publicly purporting to be Vietnam veterans in particular, and/or military Veterans in general.

And the Inspector General would also deal with other matters that might arise shrouded in the mist of bullshit from time to time.

Such a position, in conjunction with the Intelligence Officer, should help provide more sound and considered actions in our dealings with other organizations.

And the fact that we have taken steps to set up:

vietnamveteransregistry.ca

means that we should have someone

who inspects everything on that website and in our records for accuracy.

We can't afford to fuck up.

What should be of great concern to every Vietnam Veteran is that the story of Canadians serving in Vietnam be told ACCURATELY. Films live forever. Our children's children will be watching them in the coming decades. We NEED to pay attention, where we can of course, to the accuracy of the story. Having an IG would aid in weighing the facts, I hope, in a balanced and reasonable (heh heh) manner. An IG would help in times of "doubt" such as we have witnessed in recent times.

I think a set of eyes (and hands) dedicated to these matters is a most prudent thing for a group such as ours. Especially since we now live in a digital world. Just having such a position as Inspector General will give some folks pause.

But we have a Sergeant At Arms.

True – but his function is to *take care of business when business needs to be taken care of.*

The IG would investigate the facts. Then we release the hounds, err, the Sergeant At Arms and the 5,000 clones of WO Rupert.

But we have an Intelligence Officer.

True – but his function is *find out* what is going on so the Inspector General can *determine the facts*. After which, we are back to releasing the hounds. (Chronic PTSD being what it is.)

And one more thing, as we grow older and some are getting more feeble, wouldn't it be nice if someone in this group made sure you aren't being abused and your compensation/pension money used for someone else's enjoyment? I think it is a prudent way to evolve for a Band of Brothers (that's Certified Brothers) such as ourselves. Peeking in on you could be just the thing that keeps the vultures from picking your butt clean before you are dead. Yes sir Gents, you get screwed up enough and we'll monitor your care (eventually) through the Inspector General. You might get your depends changed more often if someone knows the VVIC is coming by.

(All the more reason to book space in OPERATION VALHALLA you geezers-to-be.)

There are three ways to address the Inspector General Issue:

1. Point out to the President that he is out of his gourd and move on to other business.
2. Think having an Inspector General is basically a good idea and that it should join the ranks of the appointed positions, such as Chaplain, Consul Generals, Counter Intelligence, Special Representatives, Medic, etc.
3. Think it is a real good idea and enshrine the idea in the new VVIC Constitution and Bylaws – using one of the two untitled seats as Inspector General. By placing the position on the Board, the Inspector General is in a better position politically. More insulated if you will. Harder to get rid of should he/she ruffle feathers. The position could be added in five minutes modeled on the language used for the Intelligence Officer position several years ago.

END OF RANT/MOTION

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 20 February 2003 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.