



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

442nd General Meeting (2004-03)

AGENDA

05 February 2004

*British Columbia Regiment (DCO)
Beatty Street Armoury
620 Beatty Street
Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*

**Call to Order at 1930 hours
(Sergeant at Arms)**

Moment of Silence

**United States and Canadian Military Casualty Reports
since 22 January 2004**

(Reading of the Names)

Spc. Gabriel T. Palacios, 22, of Lynn, Mass. Palacios was killed in a mortar attack on a forward operating base near Ba'qubah the evening of Jan. 21. Palacios was assigned to the 588th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. This incident is under investigation.

Pfc. James D. Parker, 20, of Bryan, Texas. Parker was killed in a mortar attack on a forward operating base near Ba'qubah the evening of Jan. 21. Parker was assigned to the 588th Engineer Battalion (Heavy), 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. This incident is under investigation.

Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) Michael T. Blaise, 29, from Tenn. was killed Jan 23 when his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed on its way back from a combat mission near Mosul in northern Iraq. Blaise was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 101st Aviation Brigade based at Fort Campbell, Ky. The incident is under investigation

Chief Warrant Officer (CW2) Brian D. Hazelgrove, 29, of Fort Rucker, Ala., was killed Jan 23 when his OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter crashed on its way back from a combat mission near Mosul in northern Iraq. Hazelgrove was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 10th Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) based at Fort Drum, N.Y. The incident is under investigation

Pfc. Ervin Dervishi, 21, Fort Worth, Texas, died Jan. 24 in Baji, Iraq, during a combat patrol when a rocket-propelled grenade hit the Bradley Fighting Vehicle in which he was traveling. He was evacuated to the 28th Combat Support Hospital where he later died. Dervishi was assigned the Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Jason K. Chappell, 22, of Hemet, Calif. Chappell was killed when a vehicle-based improvised explosive device detonated in Khalidiyah, Iraq, Jan. 24. Chappell was assigned to Company B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, Fort Hood Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. William R. Sturges Jr., 24, of Spring Church, Pa. Sturges was killed when a vehicle-based improvised explosive device detonated in Khalidiyah, Iraq, Jan. 24. Chappell was assigned to Company B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, Fort Hood Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Randy S. Rosenberg, 23, of Berlin, N.H. Rosenberg was killed when a vehicle-based improvised explosive device detonated in Khalidiyah, Iraq, Jan. 24. Chappell was assigned to Company B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, Fort Hood Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Keith L. Smette, 25, of Fargo, N.D. Smette died as a result of his injuries on Jan. 24 after the convoy he was in was attacked with an improvised explosive device north of Fallujah, Iraq. Smette was assigned to 957th Engineer Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, North Dakota National Guard, Bismarck, N.D. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth W. Hendrickson, 41, of Bismarck, N.D. Hendrickson died as a result of his injuries on Jan. 24 after the convoy he was in was attacked with an improvised explosive device north of Fallujah, Iraq. Hendrickson was assigned to 957th Engineer Company, 130th Engineer Brigade, North Dakota National Guard, Bismarck, N.D. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Bunda, 29, of Washington State. On Jan. 25 Bunda's boat capsized during a river patrol on the Tigris River. He is assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry, Fort Lewis, Wash. Bunda has been listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN). This incident is under investigation.

Cpl, Jamie Brendan Murphy, 26, Conception Harbour, Newfoundland. Murphy was killed by a suicide bomber while on patrol near the Canadian Base, Camp Juilien. Murphy was a member of The Royal Canadian Regiment (RCR) based in Camp Petewawa near Ontario.

1st Lt. Adam G. Mooney, 28, of Cambridge, Maryland. Mooney's OH-58 Kiowa helicopter went down in the Tigris River during a search. Mooney was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. Mooney has been listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN). This incident is under investigation.

Chief Warrant Officer Patrick D. Dorff, 32, of Minnesota. Dorff's OH-58 Kiowa helicopter went down in the Tigris River during a search. Dorff was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. Dorff has been listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown (DUSTWUN). On 30 January the Department of Defense announced today it has changed the status of Chief Warrant Officer Patrick Dorff, 32, of Minnesota from duty status whereabouts unknown to killed in action. Dorff's helicopter went down in the Tigris River during a search on Jan. 25 after four soldiers' watercraft capsized. On Jan. 29, his remains were recovered. Dorff was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation (Fort Drum); however, in support of mission requirements, he was attached to the 3rd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. The incident is under investigation.

Capt. Matthew J. August, 28, of Rhode Island. August was killed on Jan. 27 in an improvised explosive device attack in Khalidiyah, just east of Ar Ramadi, Iraq. August was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Riley, Kan. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. 1st Class James T. Hoffman, 41, of Whitesburg, Ky. Hoffman was killed on Jan. 27 in an improvised explosive device attack in Khalidiyah, just east of Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Hoffman was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Riley, Kan. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Travis A. Moothart, 23, of Brownsville, Ore. Moothart was killed on Jan. 27 in an improvised explosive device attack in Khalidiyah, just east of Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Moothart was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Riley, Kan. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Sean G. Landrus, 31, of Thompson, Ohio, died on Jan. 29 at the 28th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. He died as a result of injuries sustained on Jan. 27th when a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in Khalidiyah, Iraq. Landrus was assigned to Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Riley, Kan. The incident is still under investigation.

Pfc. Luis A. Moreno, 19, of Bronx, N.Y., died on Jan. 29, 2004, at the Lakenheath Medical Treatment Facility, United Kingdom. Moreno was shot on Jan. 23 while he was guarding a gas station in Baghdad, Iraq. He later died of his injuries. Moreno was assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, based at Fort Riley, Kan. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Shawn M. Clemens, 28, of Allegany, N.Y. Clemens was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Robert J. Cook, 24, of Sun Prairie, Wis. Cook was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Adam G. Kinser, 21, of Sacramento, Calif. Kinser was assigned to the 304th Psychological Operations Company, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Sacramento, Calif. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Mancini, 43, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Mancini was assigned to the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Broken Arrow, Okla. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. James D. Mowris, 37, of Aurora, Miss. Mowris was assigned to the 805th Military Police Company, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Raleigh, N.C. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Justin A. Scott, 22, of Bellevue, Ky. Scott was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Danton K. Seitsinger, 29, of Oklahoma City, Okla. Seitsinger was assigned to the 486th Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, based in Broken Arrow, Okla. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and an additional soldier, whose status is currently being listed as Duty Status Whereabouts Unknown, were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Benjamin L. Gilman, 28, of Meriden, Conn. Gilman was assigned to the 41st Engineer Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, based at Fort Drum, N.Y. On Jan. 29, 2004, seven soldiers and Gilman were working around a weapons cache west of Ghazni, Afghanistan when there was an explosion. On Feb. 2 his remains were recovered. Three other soldiers and an interpreter were injured and evacuated to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital at Bagram Air Base. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Eliu A. Miersandoval, 27, of San Clemente, Calif. Miersandoval's vehicle was hit on Jan. 31 by an improvised explosive device during convoy operations in Kirkuk, Iraq. Miersandoval was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation

Cpl. Juan C. Cabralbanuelos, 25, of Emporia, Kan. Cabralbanuelos' vehicle was hit on Jan. 31 by an improvised explosive device during convoy operations in Kirkuk, Iraq. Cabralbanuelos was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation

Pfc. Holly J. McGeogh, 19, of Taylor, Mich. McGeogh's vehicle was hit on Jan. 31 by an improvised explosive device during convoy operations in Kirkuk, Iraq. McGeogh was assigned to Company A, 4th Forward Support Battalion, 4th Infantry Division (Mech), Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation

Staff Sgt. Roger C. Turner Jr., 37, of Parkersburg, W.Va., died Feb. 1 in Anaconda, Iraq. Turner was in his sleeping quarters when the logistical support area came under mortar attack. He died as a result of his injuries. Turner was assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Pfc. Armando Soriano, 20, of Houston, Texas, died on Feb. 1 in Haditha, Iraq. Soriano was traveling in a two-vehicle convoy on a supply route when weather conditions caused his vehicle to slide off the road and roll over. He died as a result of his injuries. Soriano was assigned to the howitzer battery, 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Carson, Colo. The unit is currently attached to the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

2nd Lt. Luke S. James, 24, of Oklahoma. James was killed in an improvised explosive device attack on Jan. 27 near Iskandariyah. James was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Lester O. Kinney II, 27, of Zanesville, Ohio. Kinney was killed in an improvised explosive device attack on Jan. 27 near Iskandariyah. Kinney was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 505th Infantry, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

Cory R. Mracek, 26, of Hay Springs, Neb. Mracek was killed in an improvised explosive device attack on Jan. 27 near Iskandariyah. Mracek was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 319th Field Artillery, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

The Information of U.S. Casualties is taken from the following DOD Press Releases:

No. 043-04 January 22,2004, No. 048-04 January 25, 2004, No. 050-04 January 26, 2004, No. 053-04 January 27, 2004, No. 054-04 January 27, 2004, No. 052-04 Jan 27, 2004, No. 059-04 Jan 29, 2004, No. 062-04 Jan 30, 2004, No. 064-04 Jan 30, 2004, No. 065-04 Jan 31, 2004, No. 066-04 Jan 31, 2004, No. 068-04 Feb 02, 2004, No. 072-04 Feb 03, 2004, No. 071-04 Feb 03, 2004, No. 070-04 Feb 03, 2004. No. 060-04 Jan 29, 2004

The Information on Cpl. Jamie Murphy of the Royal Canadian Regiment was obtained from CBC.

Introduction of Scheduled Guests, New Members, and Visitors.

Anne Faulkner

Anne has moved to Vancouver from Windsor, Ontario. She specializes in Web sites and computer graphics. Ms. Faulkner has a long history of doing Veteran web sites and is well respected in several Vet groups. She will be doing our site.

It should be noted that Anne was instrumental in letting our organization know of a planned event honouring Veterans in Ontario in 2003 that we knew nothing out. Through this information Sgt. Flowers was invited to be the Vietnam Veteran speaker in which he made all of us proud. The untold story is that it could have been much different. The entire Canadian Vietnam Veteran community was well served by the outcome. The alternative was not all that attractive. She is to be commended for her actions.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

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 last meeting are unavailable.

Finance Reports

The Annual Financial Report for 2003 is released tonight. If the voting members present tonight agree we will not issue a 4th Quarter 2003 Report as it is redundant to the Annual report.

Mail Call

Aid & Comfort

Bob, Peragallo, serious illness
Steve Large, serious illness

Administrative Items

1. Proposed Changes to 38 CFR Part 5 (See or Handout)
2. Annual Financial Report Handout.
3. Freda Carmack is undertaking a project in her UBC History class on Vietnam Veterans and the effects of the war.

Legislative Issues

1. Concurrent Receipt for Disabled Military Retirees with less than 20 years service.

After many years of lobbying, last year Congress has passed and the President has signed into law the authority for military retirees to receive both their retirement pay and VA Compensation. Regrettably this Act falls short, because it applies only to those military retirees with twenty or more years of service.

Who does it leave out?

It leaves out those military retirees who have less than twenty years.

Who are the people? These are the men and women who, while on active duty, were so severely injured in the performance of their duties that they were deemed "unable to perform the duties of their grade" and were retired medically. Bing. Bang. Boom. Your career is over. Whether 3 years of service or fifteen years of service.

A wounded Private First Class would be retired based on his time in service and his degree of disability. It was never a staggering amount of money.

For the medical retiree to receive VA Compensation after separation, he/she had to waive entitlement to retired pay. Remember that retired pay is always based on length of service, and degree of disability, so it wasn't much.

And these medical retirees are left out in the cold on Concurrent Receipt.

Think about this:

Where is the fairness in the system when a person makes it through twenty or more years of military service and retires. Then, after twenty years of passing annual physicals and other requirements needed to remain on active duty, the person goes to the VA and obtains compensation for injuries sustained while in the service.

Meanwhile, the Veteran who was so severely injured that he is deemed physically unfit for further service was retired on the spot.

This rant is not to disrespect those many men and women who fully deserve every benefit, it is simply asking: Where is the fairness?

And why, during the debate and the lobbying effort, which was followed closely could no one ask about the most severely wounded of the lot?

The career oriented Veterans organizations were finally successful in their very just effort to receive compensation for both their injuries and their time in service. I would congratulate them on that if it were not for the fact they left some people behind.

I was always brought up to believe that the Senior Leadership did certain things like eat *after* the troops were fed.

As a medical military retiree myself, I am somewhat sensitive to the issue. But forget me, I was lucky and still have my major body parts. I am very grateful for that.

But, a man I served in the Marine Corps Infantry with, and talk to frequently, left his leg in Vietnam. What about him? There was Ron Davenport, not deceased from PTSD stress, who left his leg there as well.

Beyond that, there are many multiple amputees and others suffering from horrible disabilities, that because they had less than twenty years service, are still excluded, from receiving both their military retirement pay and their VA Compensation.

Since being retired from the Marine Corps, we have always enjoyed every benefit of military retirement, exactly the same as any other retiree because there never was any type of distinction made. Ever.

Then came a money issue.

And the medical retirees with less than twenty years of service were abandoned like yesterday's garbage. By people who should have known better.

2. Full Medical & Dental Benefits for U.S. Veterans living in Canada.

The "Reciprocal Agreement" between the U.S. and Canada concerning Veterans is being reviewed. Of note is that the agreement is dated 1956. We are wondering what occurred in 1987 when, we thought, some changes were made. More on this later

3. Citizenship for Non Citizen Vietnam Veterans

We are compiling a list of U.S. Military Veterans who want to obtain United States Citizenship. We understand there is a "waiver of fees" provision and the possibility of expedited treatment, on the order that active duty non citizens are now receiving.

Current Business

1. Motion to review accounting categories to better reflect expenses.
2. Motion to terminate all VVIC U.S. mail boxes.

New Business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 19 February 2004 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment