



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

455th General Meeting (2004-16)

AGENDA

05 August 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 Military Casualty Reports Reported since 22 July 2004

(Reading of the Names)

Lance Cpl. Mark E. Engel, 21, of Grand Junction, Calif., died July 21 at Brook Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, of wounds he received as result of enemy action on July 6 in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Spc. Danny B. Daniels, II, 23, of Varney, W.V., died July 20, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his patrol vehicle came under attack by small arms fire and hit an improvised explosive device. Daniels was assigned to the Army's 630th Military Police Company, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Bamberg, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Pfc. Nicholas H. Blodgett, 21, of Wyoming, Mich., died July 21, in Abdalluyah, Iraq, when his patrol vehicle hit an improvised explosive device. Blodgett was assigned to the Army's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, Schweinfurt, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Pvt. 1st Class Torey J. Dantzler, 22, of Columbia, La., died July 22, in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated on the side of the road near his convoy vehicle. Dantzler was assigned to the Army's 66th Transportation Company from Kaiserslautern, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Tatjana Reed, 34, of Fort Campbell, K.Y., died July 22 in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near her convoy vehicle. Reed was assigned to the 66th Transportation Company from Kaiserslautern, Germany. The incidents are under investigation.

Spc. Nicholas J. Zangara, 21, of Philadelphia, Pa., died July 24 in Tikrit, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy vehicle. Zangara was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Infantry Division from Schweinfurt, Germany. The incidents are under investigation.

Lance Cpl. Vincent M. Sullivan, 23, of Chatham, N.J., died July 23 due to injuries received from enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 24, of Charleston, W.Va., died July 27 in Baladruc, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Talbert was assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 150th Armor Regiment from Beckley, W.Va. The incident is under investigation.

Lt. Col. David S. Greene, 39, of Raleigh, N.C., died July 28 due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was a reservist assigned to Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3D Marine Air Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif.

Pfc. Ken W. Leisten, 20, of Cornelius, Ore., died July 28, in Taji, Iraq, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. Leisten was assigned to the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry, Corvallis, Ore. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Joseph F. Herndon, II, 21, of Derby, Kan., died July 29, in Hawijah, Iraq, when he was shot while on guard duty. Herndon was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The incident is under investigation.

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn A. Lane, 33, of Corning, N.Y., died July 28 due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Spc. Anthony J. Dixon, 20, of Lindenwold, N.J. Dixon died Aug. 1, in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his guard post. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Armando Hernandez, 22, of Hesperia, Calif. Hernandez died Aug. 1, in Samarra, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his guard post. He was assigned to the Army's 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Juan Calderon Jr., 26, of Weslaco, Texas, died Aug. 2 due to enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Sgt. Tommy L. Gray, 34, of Roswell, N.M., died Aug. 3 in Taji, Iraq, when he became caught between two motor pool vehicles. Gray was assigned to the Army's 215th Forward Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Capt. Gregory A Ratzlaff, 36, of Olympia, Wash., died Aug. 3 due to a non-combat related incident at Forward Operating Base Duke, Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 166, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, San Diego, Calif. The incident is under investigation.

Spc. Justin B. Onwordi, 28, of Chandler, Ariz. Onwordi was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was traveling in while on patrol. Spc. Onwordi died on Aug. 2 from injuries sustained from the incident. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 12th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation.

Pfc. Harry N. Shondee, Jr., 19, of Ganado, Ariz. Shondee was killed in Baghdad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was traveling in while on patrol. Pfc. Shondee died on Aug. 3 from injuries sustained from the incident. He was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 12th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The incident is under investigation.

This brings the total U.S. deaths to 940 plus the number who died prior to 29 May 2003.

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

No. 702-04 Jul 22, 2004, No. 703-04 Jul 22, 2004, No. 704-04 Jul 22, 2004, No. 707-04 Jul 24 2004, No. 710-04 Jul 26, 2004, No. 712-04 Jul 27, 2004, No. 723-04 Jul 29, 2004, No. 724-04 Jul 29, 2004, No. 729-04 Jul 30, 2004, No. 730-04 Jul 30, 2004, No. 727-04 Jul 30, 2004, No. 735-04 Aug 02, 2004, No. 740-04 Aug 04, 2004, No. 742-04 Aug 04, 2004, No. 743-04 Aug 04, 2004, No. 744-04 Aug 04, 2004

Introduction of Scheduled Guests, New Members, and Visitors.

Announcements and Acknowledgements

President's Remarks

(W. Carmack, USMC, Ret.)

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

VVIC General Meeting #454

22 July 2004

VVIC President W. Carmack USMC chaired the meeting.

Moment of silence

Names of 33 U.S. Soldiers killed in Iraq read out.

15 Members present

Handouts: Agenda for #454th General meeting.

Announcements and Acknowledgements:

- 1: The passing of Vietnam veteran Harold "Woody" Woodruff on 21 July 2004.
- 2: Son of VVIC member Greg Schraeder of Ontario has been deployed to serve in Afghanistan. Master Corporal Mathew Schraeder is serving in the Canadian Armed Forces. VVIC Chaplain Bob Peragallo says prayer for Mathew's safe return.
- 3: Discussion follows on the drama concerning CPL USMC W.A. Hassoun and his mysterious reappearance in Lebanon after his capture in Iraq.

Aid and comfort

- 1: Member Ken Payne still debating what to do concerning his kidney stone.
- 2: Veteran Bob Birchett USMC home from Hospital after suffering a heart attack.
- 3: Short update on VVIC member Ski Noniewicz. Nothing changed since last update.

Current Business

- 1: Discussion on how much money can be earned while a vet is receiving 100%. VVIC President to print amount in next VVIC agenda.
- 2: Long discussions on SSD1-SS1- and CPP.
- 3: From member L. McKay- If medical shots are needed by a veteran they can be gotten from Dr. Bokan in Bellingham if arrangements are made
- 4: Discussion on effects of Vietnam service and PTSD on a serviceman's teeth.
- 5: Member S. Tencarre to contact Christine Lecuyer at Foreign Countries Operations, Veterans Affairs Canada in Ottawa regarding getting psychiatric treatment in Edmonton.
- 6: Question asked if Vietnam veterans in Alaska can be flown to Seattle for treatment why not veterans living in B.C.?
- 7: Suggestion from Member Bob Peragallo to donate full set of South Vietnamese medals to the South Vietnamese Soldiers Association of Vancouver on the next Nov. 11th Veterans parade. Motion accepted.
- 8: Discussion led by member K. Lang on Property tax grant for veterans.
- 9: From member W. Turpin. Three mental health films to be shown at the Pacific center on the 19th of Aug. Presentation put on by the UBC Dept. of Psychiatry. The films are A; Shock Corridor B; Let there be light C; Battle of San Piedro.
- 10: Discussion on receiving educational benefits for veteran's children over the age of 26. It apparently can be done.

During the meeting donations were collected towards the outstanding \$340.00 VVIC telephone bill. The amount owed was paid by VVIC President. Amount collected was \$160.00 Can., and \$20.00 US. VVIC President thanks all who donated. Operations have returned to normal.

Meeting Adjourned 2119

Steve O'Grady
Chief of Staff

Finance Reports

Next scheduled report – early October.

Mail Call

Aid & Comfort

Bob Birchett, USMC, Vancouver Island, B.C. Canada

Bob Peragallo, USMC, Maple Ridge, B.C. Canada

Alan Stanchi, USMC, Florida

Alan Stanchi is one of the original VVIC members. He is a former Finance Officer of the group, now residing in Florida with his wife Janet. She writes in an email:

Dear Friends and Family

Well it has been four months since Alan's last cat scan so next week on Wednesday August 11 he goes up to the Bay Pines VA for another cats can. We are praying the tumors will still be undetectable and our miracle will continue. He is feeling very good so we are very hopeful that the doctor will call with good news.

Of course Alan also has all his other lab work for the carcinoid cancer and the doctors are also doing blood work for his Hep C. He will have all these tests on August 11 as well as his monthly shot for the cancer.

This is all in preparation for Alan's checkup with Dr. Kvols at Moffitt Cancer Center on September 7.

So please pray for our family and for good results.

Yours in Christ
Love
Janet

Administrative Items

1. VVIC Annual Picnic – Peace Arch Park, U.S. Border, Blaine 05 Sept 2004
2. VA Compensation and employment.

Legislative Issues

1. **Concurrent Receipt for Disabled Military Retirees with less than 20 years service.**
2. **Full Medical & Dental Benefits for U.S. Veterans living in Canada.**
3. **Citizenship for Non Citizen Vietnam Veterans**

Current Business

1. VVIC.ORG moved to Canaca.ca and is up and running.
 - A. www.vvic.org is up and running – somewhat. Although in crude form a visit there will show you where we are headed. Certain sections just sprung up. The Archives section will contain our group documents like agendas, minutes, resolutions and other relevant documents. As well, we are beginning to post documents such as “The Reciprocal Agreement” and “The Stretch Report”. These are all in Adobe PDF format and readable on any computer. We intend to expand the site, under a military type format, laid out in the classic S-1, S-2, S-3, S-4, S-5 format. I can see any form any Veteran ever needs placed in an area for easy access.

B. Email addresses. They are now available. (See attachment for instructions.)

C. Sub-domains. What are subdomains? www.saigonsally@vvic.org is an example. This example was put forth by VVIC Member D. Sinclair. It will be a separate website dedicated to Saigon Nightlife during the Vietnam War. Why not? Don spent YEARS as an MP in Saigon. As did others. But if you are going to do it Don-san, do it in all the way. Why not?

Another subdomain would be www.vetcenter.vvic.org where everything we know about Vets getting help will be able to be found.

And others we might do are:

www.members.vvic.org where VVIC members can be profiled if they so choose. I think of this section as "The Military Order of Canadian Vietnam Veterans". The world should see who you ugly fuckers are. After all, you are the real thing. Most of you are disabled from the experience. Carmack wants the world to see what some of our members look like and what they did. Why? Because Canadians served when they did not have to serve. I want that remembered. Forever.

We have watched for 18 years while time and again people claiming to have service in Vietnam have appeared in the press telling stories of places they never were, and contaminating history with their crap. We have seen journalists buy into this time and again. Is this not the time to provide people access to true Veterans? Let's do this!

And,

www.frauds.vvic.org where we can have a "Hall of Shame" containing every document concerning every phony Vietnam Veteran we have ever come across. Imagine that. Can you be sued for telling the truth?

www.travel.vvic.org where stressed out Vets can find appropriate travel information. (g)

www.anything.vvic.org could be yours for the asking.

www.ontario.vvic.org might give voice to a lone outpost or two in the east. Of course we wouldn't want make anyone nervous that the "Mongol Horde" in the west was getting restless again.

Y'all get the idea I think.....

D: Mailing Lists.

There are two kinds of mailing lists available. One type is designed to be a back and forth "message traffic" operation between subscribed members. The other is a type designed for the mass distribution of information. A test list is currently in operation.

- E: Commercial operation:
The web site is "commercial operation" capable, meaning we could easily began to sell patches, pins, etc if we so choose.

New Business from the floor:

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

Stressed soldiers to be treated with cannabis

Date: August 5 2004

Israeli soldiers suffering from combat stress after tours of duty in the Palestinian territories could soon be treated with cannabis to relieve their symptoms, the Ma'ariv daily reported.

The mental health department of the Medical Corps is set to begin tests in the next few days on volunteers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after reserve duty, the paper said.

A scientist who will help conduct the experiment heads a research team, which discovered that cannabis helped mice that had suffered physical stress and even reduced the risk of stroke.

Hundreds of Israelis have been treated for combat stress after performing their mandatory national service in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There was no immediate comment on the report from the Israeli military.

AFP

cf <http://www.smh.com.au/text/articles/2004/08/04/1091557927241.html>

Via email (VVIC Member via Guard Channel)

VVIC.ORG Email Address Policy – 2004.08.01

Every VVIC member in good standing can receive email addresses free of charge from the group. In addition, all family members of a VVIC Member can do the same.

Question: How do I get a VVIC email address?

Answer: Simply request one. Pick an email name and a temporary password.
Examples are: firstname.lastname@vvic.org
anything@vvic.org

Question: How do I access my email?

Answer: You have two ways to access your email.

1. Access www.vvic.org/webmail from any computer. Enter your email address and your password. You are in. The beauty of this method is that you have access to your mail from any computer in the world with an internet connection.
2. Using an email program such as Microsoft Outlook, Microsoft Outlook Express or Eudora you set up an account in those programs. In the setup routine, your Incoming mail server is listed as vvic.org. In the Outgoing mail server you list your Internet provider, such as shawmail or telus.net, or vvic.org.

Question: How do I configure my email account and change my password when I want to?

Answer: Log into www.vvic.org/user and enter your email address and password. A menu will appear allowing you to change passwords and do other things to customize your account.

Question: Is my email private?

Answer: Once you change your password from the temporary one that you gave us in order to activate your account, your account is absolutely private.

Question: Are there any strings attached to this offer?

Answer: No. It is a benefit of membership.

Question: Are there any limitations on my use of this service?

Answer: No. We would hope that a person's use of this service would be governed by some degree of common sense. Using the service in a manner that would bring discredit upon the membership of the group would not be amusing.

Question: In the unlikely event of a serious dispute, who decides, for the VVIC, what happens?

Answer: The Board of Directors. No one person can make a decision regarding a member's right to use membership services.

Question: If I fail to pay my dues will my email be terminated?

Answer: We would not terminate your email account until a long time had passed. However, we would hope that if you had a VVIC address it would occur to you to respond to our notices. Sooner or later though we will sic the resident Navy SEAL on you.

VA Disability Compensation and Employment Information

Response (Department of Veterans Affairs)

02/12/2004 08:52

In reference to your inquiry about employment for veterans receiving IU and those that are 100%, we have some information for you. There really is not a lot of information for presentation purposes.

Veterans awarded 100% disability compensation based upon IU, can work on a limited basis. The veteran cannot have an income over the poverty threshold, which is currently \$9,183.00. Also if veteran works on a regular basis of 40 hours a week then they can lose their unemployable status~ Another issue that we look at is what the veteran is disabled for and what type of work are they doing. An example would be a veteran whose has a back condition, who works in construction carrying heavy materials around. This is not acceptable and could be considered fraud.

Veterans who are awarded 100% service connection without IU are generally given 100% because their disability prevents them from working on a regular basis. An example would be a veteran who is 100% for PTSD. The veteran is awarded 100% due to the fact he or she is unable to work around other people or in a pressured work environment. I have not found any evidence to prevent a veteran with 100% from doing odd jobs (i.e. moving lawns, home improvements, etc.). Again if the veteran is 100% for a specific physical injury then they cannot do work which would require using that particular part of the body.

We hope this answers you and your group's questions about employment. If you need further information please contact us. We would prefer to answer your questions on veterans disability issues to dispel any misinformation that may have been put out by non-VA people who are not familiar with the VA. One thing that you may want to tell your group is that all cases have different issues to evaluate. We handle Veterans issues on a case by case basis.

Sincerely;

E. Hutchinson
Veterans Service Center Manager