



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2006-03)

AGENDA 491

02 February 2006

British Columbia Regiment (DCO), Vancouver, B.C.

Ten Minute Warning

1920 Hours

(Sergeant At Arms)

Call to Order

1930 Hours

(Sergeant at Arms)

Moment of Silence

United States Military Casualty Reports

Received since 19 January 2006

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Rex C. Kenyon, 34, of El Segundo, Calif. Kenyon died in Baghdad, Iraq, on Jan. 16 when his AH64D (Apache) helicopter was shot down while conducting aerial patrols. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment (Attack), Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ruel Mamaril, 34, of Wahiawa, Hawaii. Mamaril died in Baghdad, Iraq, on Jan. 16 when his AH64D (Apache) helicopter was shot down while conducting aerial patrols. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 4th Aviation Regiment (Attack), Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Pfc. Adam R. Shepherd, 21, of Somerville, Ohio, died in Baghdad, Iraq, on Jan. 17 from a non-combat-related illness. Shepherd was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Rickey Scott, 30, of Columbus, Ga. Scott died in Al Huwajah, Iraq on Jan. 20, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Sgt. Dennis J. Flanagan, 22, of Inverness, Fla. Flanagan died in Al Huwajah, Iraq on Jan. 20, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Spc. Clifton J. Yazzie, 23, of Fruitland, N.M. Yazzie died in Al Huwajah, Iraq on Jan. 20, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Spc. Matthew C. Frantz, 23, of Lafayette, Ind. Frantz died in Al Huwajah, Iraq on Jan. 20, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Tech. Sgt. Jason L. Norton, 32, of Miami, Okla. Norton was killed Jan. 22, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device while conducting convoy escort duties in the vicinity of Taji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Security Forces Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Staff Sgt. Brian McElroy, 28, of San Antonio, Texas. McElroy was killed Jan. 22, when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device while conducting convoy escort duties in the vicinity of Taji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 3rd Security Forces Squadron, Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska.

Cpl. Carlos Arrelanopandura, 22, of Los Angeles, Calif. Arrelanopandura died Jan. 20 from a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Pvt. Lewis T. D. Calapini, 21, of Waipahu, Hawaii. Calapini died Jan. 23 from a non-hostile vehicle accident near Al Taqaddum, Iraq. He was assigned to Anti-Terrorism Battalion, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The accident is currently under investigation.

Lance Cpl. Brandon Dewey, 20, of San Joaquin, Calif. Dewey died Jan. 20 from a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations in Haqlaniyah, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

Lance Cpl. Joshua A. Scott, 24, of Tunnel Hill, Ga. Scott died Jan. 23 from a non-hostile vehicle accident near Al Taqaddum, Iraq. He was assigned to Anti-Terrorism Battalion, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The accident is currently under investigation.

Sgt. Matthew D. Hunter, 31, of Valley Grove, W.Va., died in Baghdad, Iraq, on Jan. 23, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol during combat operations. Hunter was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Staff Sgt. Lance M. Chase, 32, of Oklahoma City, Okla. Chase died in Baghdad, Iraq on Jan. 23, of wounds sustained that day when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M1A2 Abrams tank during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Pfc. Peter D. Wagler, 18, of Partridge, Kan. Wagler died in Baghdad, Iraq on Jan. 23, of wounds sustained that day when an improvised explosive device detonated near his M1A2 Abrams tank during patrol operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Sean H. Miles, 28, of Midlothian, Va., was killed in action Jan. 24 from small arms fire while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Al Karmah, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Sgt. Joshua A. Johnson, 24, of Richford, Vt., died in Ramadi, Iraq on Jan. 25, when a rocket propelled grenade struck his vehicle during combat operations. Johnson was assigned to the Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), Jericho, Vt.

Staff Sgt. Jerry M. Durbin Jr., 26, of Spring, Texas, died in Baghdad, Iraq on Jan. 25, when an improvised explosive device exploded near his dismounted patrol during combat operations. Durbin was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Pfc. Brian J. Schoff, 22, of Manchester, Tenn., died in Baghdad, Iraq on Jan. 28, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV. Schoff was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Sgt. David L. Herrera, 26, of Oceanside, Calif., died in Baghdad, Iraq on Jan. 28, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Herrera was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky.

Lance Cpl. Billy D. Brixey Jr., 21, of Ferriday, La., died Jan. 27 at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from wounds received as a result of an improvised explosive device while traveling in a convoy in Afghanistan on Jan. 25. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. During Operation Enduring Freedom, his unit was attached to 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

Lance Cpl. Hugo R. Lopezlopez, 20, of La Habra, Calif., died Jan. 27 at Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in Rawah, Iraq on Nov. 20, 2005. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif. During Operation Iraqi Freedom, his unit was attached to 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, (Forward).

Cpl. Felipe C. Barbosa, 21, of High Point, N.C., died Jan. 28 from a non-hostile vehicle accident in Fallujah, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The accident is currently under investigation.

This brings the total U.S. deaths to 2357 plus those who died prior to 29 May 2003.

Perimeter Check (Sergeant At Arms)**Call to Order (Sergeant At Arms)****Introduction of Scheduled Guests, New Members, and Visitors****Announcements and Acknowledgements**

The last meeting, GM390, scheduled for 19 January was disrupted by a “bomb scare” at the Regiment. It must’ve been an exercise but it killed the meeting. Nice light show though. Someone bagged some overtime on that gig. The Agenda for GM390 was held, sort of, standing in the opening to the Sky Train station. At least we got the Sign In sheet signed. And we caught the attention of the Transit Police. Therefore, this meeting will probably cover whatever wasn’t covered. Who the hell knows?

The names of the deceased military contained in the Agenda of the 390th Meeting will be read prior to the reading of tonight’s names.

1st Vice President’s Remarks

(K. Payne, USN)

2nd Vice President’s Remarks

(K. Lang, AUS)

Chief of Staff’s Remarks

(S. O’Grady, AUS)

Sergeant At Arms Remarks

(G. Flowers, USMC)

Service Officer’s Remarks

(L. MacKay, USMC)

General Collection**Minutes of the previous VVIC General Meeting**

Chief of Staff.

Yeah right.....

Administrative Items (S-1)

1. 2005 Annual Financial Report
2. 2006 Dues Report Update
3. 2005 Dues Review
4. American Legion Post 75 update
5. VVIC – Legion Reception 16 March

Veterans Affairs Update

Firebase Canada 2006?

Quartermaster Activities

(Senior Chief Mac McInnes, USN Ret)

Veteran Outreach

1. Rupert Case

Constitutional Tweaks.

Attached Articles:

1. Discarded Heroes. (PTSD or Readjustment Disorder)
2. VA Panel Hearing Change
3. CRDP Update

New Business from the Floor:

The next General Meeting is 16 February 2006 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.

DISCARDED HEROES -- WASHINGTON SENDS THEM OFF TO WAR, THEN... --

NOT ONE PENNY FROM THE VA FOR RICK AND MIRIAM CLASEN --

IS IT "READJUSTMENT DISORDER" OR PTSD?

Here is a great article from Cleveland Scene dot Com.

It was my pleasure to provide information about the VA for the article.

Story here... <http://www.clevescene.com/Issues/2006-01-18/news/feature.html>

Quote of note: **Rick Clasen has trouble remembering little things, like names, doctor's appointments, and where he put his hat. But the 25-year-old Iraq war veteran has no problem with the details of July 27, 2004.**

He emerged from the underground bunkers at Camp Steel Dragons to a clear Baghdad sky. It was 7 a.m., a comfortable 80 degrees, and he had a hot tip on where to find some powdered Gatorade -- a delicacy among infantrymen.

Clasen carefully placed the packets of lemon-lime powder atop the trunk of his Humvee, which he loaded up with water and ammo. To his right, 23-year-old gunner Mike Boozier stood in the turret of another Humvee. He slid his weapon onto the stabilizing pole and prepared his rounds. In the distance, speakers blared with the day's first reading of the Koran.

It was business as usual. Until the first blast.

Another quote of note: **The brunt of the bills has ended up with Miriam, who is not only eight months pregnant, but working 40-hour weeks as a receptionist -- all while beginning her doctorate in English literature. Clasen helps as much as he can by doing odd jobs at the Cleveland Armory for \$60 a day.**

He understands that his reactions to "civilian life" aren't normal, which only adds to his depression. "You can't live a civilian life as a soldier, but how do I deprogram myself? How do I stop these feelings from surging back? How do I erase these memories?"

These are questions that Veterans Affairs should be answering. But trying to get the VA's help has become his biggest battle yet.

Another quote of note: **He also met with a VA psychiatrist, who preferred to discuss Clasen's childhood, rather than the war. Vets say it's a common tactic the VA can use to avoid paying benefits.**

"By going back to his childhood," says Scott, "the shrink is trying to make a case that he came into the service with this emotional baggage, and that's what he's come back with, and it has nothing to do with his service, so we don't have to compensate him."

The psychiatrist diagnosed Clasen with "readjustment disorder," which means that he was simply struggling to readjust to civilian life, would get better in a few months, and would never be eligible for compensation.

Larry Scott

VA PANEL HEARING CHANGE:

An overhaul of legislative hearings announced by the chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee seems deliberately designed to marginalize the influence of the nation's veterans on funding levels for the Department of Veterans Affairs and other important public policy issues, according to the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Last November Committee Chairman Steve Buyer (R-IN.) decided to end a decades-long tradition that gave veterans groups the opportunity to present testimony regarding a wide range of legislative priorities before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. The DAV and other Military Coalition Organizations tried, unsuccessfully, to get Rep. Buyer to reinstate those joint hearings, which they viewed as an invaluable tool in formulating public policy toward America's veterans. DAV National Commander Paul W. Jackson (spokesman for 1.3 million disabled veterans) sent a letter of protest to Chairman Buyer when the new schedule of hearings and their format were announced in January and proved to be even more disappointing to veterans,

The first of those hearings is scheduled for 8 FEB, just two days after the anticipated release of the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2007 on 6 FEB, and copies of written testimony from veterans' service organizations must be submitted to the Committee by noon that very day. This makes it impossible for our veterans groups to analyze and comment on the President's budget request or provide diverse points of view regarding funding levels and policy initiatives in the President's budget at the hearing. The Chairman also imposed a three-minute limit on oral remarks by representatives from veteran's organizations making it virtually impossible for veterans advocates to have any meaningful dialogue on the issues. An additional change imposed by the chairman is to limit to five the number of guests that each advocate could invite to sit in the audience and view these OPEN hearings. The net effect of changes imposed by Committee Chairman Buyer indicates the House Veterans' Affairs Committee is no longer receptive to input from the veteran community. Shutting this important window of opportunity to air the veteran concerns before congress makes it even more important for each veteran to initiate dialogue with their Congressional representatives on issues that concern them and their peers. [Source: DAV News Release 23 Jan 06 ++]

RAO Bulletin Update

1 February 2006

Submitted by Tom O'Malley

CRDP UPDATE 39

A dozen military and veterans associations met with Rep. Mike Bilirakis' staff on 25 JAN to discuss concurrent receipt strategy for 2006 in light of last year's very modest progress. All present shared the same concern that the ongoing deliberations of the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (whose reporting deadline was just extended until October 2007) give Congress a ready-made excuse to put off action on Bilirakis' broad concurrent receipt bill (H.R. 303). There was general agreement that the best potential for progress lies in incremental actions to help disabled retirees suffering the clearest inequities. The organizations reached consensus that the causes with the most compelling arguments for immediate implementation are:

- 1) The need to provide immediate payments for retirees designated by the VA as "unemployable."
- 2) The need to extend eligibility for Combat Related Special Compensation to Chapter 61 (medical) retirees who were forced by their disabilities to retire short of attaining 20 years of service.

The FY2006 Defense Authorization Act makes unemployables eligible for full payment in 2009 (vs. the previous 2014), but that still discriminates against this group, considering that all other members paid at the 100% disabled rate have full concurrent receipt now. Rep. Bilirakis has introduced H.R. 1366 to include Chapter 61 retirees in CRDP. To urge your representative to cosponsor H.R. 1366 and H.R.303, visit <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/>, scroll down to "Retirement Issues" and click on the links to those bills. Then enter your zip code to send a MOAA-suggested message to your legislator. [Source: MOAA Update 27 Jan 06]

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