



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2006-13)

AGENDA 501

22 June 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 08 June 2006

Spc. Issac S. Lawson, 35, of Sacramento, Calif., died in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 5, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Lawson was assigned to the National Guard's 49th Military Police Brigade, Fairfield, Calif.

Sgt. Travis A. Vanzoest, 21, of Larimore, N.D. Vanzoest died in Khogyani, Afghanistan, on June 6, when their HMWWV struck two anti-tank mines during combat operations. He was assigned to the National Guard's, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, Grand Forks, N.D.

Spc. Curtis R. Mehrer, 21, of Bismarck, N.D. Mehrer died in Khogyani, Afghanistan, on June 6, when their HMWWV struck two anti-tank mines during combat operations. He was assigned to the National Guard's, 1st Battalion, 188th Air Defense Artillery, Grand Forks, N.D.

Sgt. Mark T. Smykowski, 23, of Mentor, Ohio, died June 6 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

1st Lt. Ryan T. Sanders, 27, of College Station, Texas. Sanders died in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 6, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their M1A2 tank during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Daniel R. Gionet, 23, of Pelham, N.H. Gionet died in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 6, when an improvised explosive device detonated near their M1A2 tank during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Jaime S. Jaenke, 29, of Bay City, Wis., died June 5 as a result of enemy action when her HMMWV was struck by an improvised explosive device in Al Anbar province, Iraq. She was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25, Fort McCoy, Wis. The incident also resulted in the death of Petty Officer 1st Class Gary Rovinski.

Staff Sgt. Richard A. Blakley, 34, of Plainfield, Ind., died in Al Khalidiyah, Iraq, on June 6, when he was shot by enemy small arms fire during dismounted combat patrol operations. Blakley was assigned to the National Guard's 38th Main Support Battalion, Indianapolis, Ind.

1st Lt. Scott M. Love, 32, of Knoxville, Tenn. Love died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 7, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Baumholder, Germany.

Pfc. David N. Crombie, 19, of Winnemucca, Nev. Crombie died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 7, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, Baumholder, Germany.

Spc. Luis D. Santos, 20, of Rialto, Calif., died in Buritz, Iraq, on June 8, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Santos was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

Sgt. Carlos E. Pernell, 25, of Munford, Ala. Pernell died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 6, when his camp received indirect enemy fire during combat operations. He was assigned to the 46th Engineer Battalion, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, of Falls Church, Va. Anderson died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 6, when his camp received indirect enemy fire during combat operations. He was assigned to the 46th Engineer Battalion, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Sgt. Jose M. Velez, 35, of Bronx, N.Y., died in Kirkuk, Iraq, on June 9, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Velez was assigned to the Army Reserve 773rd Transportation Company, Fort Totten, N.Y.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel B. Crabtree, 31, of Canton, Ohio, died in Al Kut, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Crabtree was assigned to the Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group, Columbus, Ohio.

2nd Lt. John S. Vaughan, 23, of Edwards, Colo., died in Mosul, Iraq, on June 7, when he encountered enemy small arms fire during a dismounted combat operation. Vaughan was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

Sgt. 1st Class Clarence D. McSwain, 31, of Meridian, Miss., died in Baghdad, Iraq on June 8, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy vehicle during combat operations. McSwain was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Pvt. Benjamin J. Slaven, 22, of Plymouth, Neb., died on June 9, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Slaven was assigned to the Army Reserve 308th Transportation Company, Lincoln, Neb.

Seaman Apprentice Zachary M. Alday, 22, of Donalsonville, Ga., died June 9 from injuries sustained earlier in the day when the vehicle in which he was riding struck a land mine. His unit was conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. Alday was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 7th Regimental Combat Team, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Salvador Guerrero, 21, of Los Angeles, Calif., died June 9, of wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Lance Cpl. Brent B. Zoucha, 19, of Merrick, Neb., died June 9, of wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Cpl. Bernard P. Corpuz, 28, of Watsonville, Calif., died in Ghanzi, Afghanistan, on June 11, from wounds sustained when his convoy came under enemy small arms fire and an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations. Corpuz was assigned to the 303rd Military Intelligence Battalion, 504th Military Intelligence Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Lt. Col. Charles E. Munier, 50, of Wheatland, Wyo., died on June 12 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., from a non-combat related cause, which occurred on June 5 in Kabul, Afghanistan. Munier was assigned to the Wyoming Army National Guard's training site in Guernsey, Wyo.

Sgt. Roger P. Pena Jr., 29, of San Antonio, Texas died in Musa Qulah, Afghanistan, on June 14, when his convoy came under enemy small arms fire during combat operations. Pena was assigned to the 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Cpl. Michael A. Estrella, 20, of Hemet, Calif., died June 14 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Capt. Patrick D. Damon, 41, of Falmouth, Maine, died in Bagram, Afghanistan, on June 15, from a non-combat related cause. Damon was assigned to the Army National Guard's 240th Engineer Group, Augusta, Maine. This incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Russell M. Durgin, 23, of Henniker, N.H., died on June 13, in Korengel, Afghanistan, when his unit took small arms fire. Durgin was assigned to the 32nd Infantry Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

Spc. Jeremiah S. Santos, 21, of Minot, N.D., died in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 15 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Santos was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Brent W. Koch, 22, of Morton, Minn., died on June 16, in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV. Koch was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 136th Infantry Combined Arms Battalion, Hutchinson, Minn.

1st Lt. Forrest P. Ewens, 25, of Washington state. Ewens died in Pech River Valley, Afghanistan, on June 16, when his all terrain vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Sgt. Ian T. Sanchez, 26, of Staten Island, N.Y. Sanchez died in Pech River Valley, Afghanistan, on June 16, when his all terrain vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Sgt. Reyes Ramirez, 23, of Willis, Texas, Ramirez died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 17, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 40th Engineer Battalion, Baumholder, Germany.

Spc. Robert L. Jones, 22, of Milwaukie, Ore. Jones died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, on June 17, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 40th Engineer Battalion, Baumholder, Germany.

Spc. David J. Babineau, 25, of Springfield, Mass. On June 16, in Baghdad, Iraq, the soldier was manning a checkpoint when they came under enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Pfc. Kristian Menchaca, 23, of Houston, Texas. On June 16, in Baghdad, Iraq, the soldier was manning a checkpoint when they came under enemy small arms fire. Menchaca was captured and killed by insurgent forces. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Pfc. Thomas L. Tucker, 25, of Madras, Ore. On June 16, in Baghdad, Iraq, the soldier was manning a checkpoint when they came under enemy small arms fire. Tucker was captured and killed by insurgent forces. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

This brings the total U.S. deaths to 2665 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

Christian Bruyere

From an email:

I enjoyed talking with you this morning and I look forward to further discussions with you about the Our Way Home Reunion event. As I mentioned, I would like to come to the next VVIC meeting and speak a bit about my intended documentary and the importance of having Vietnam War veterans adequately represented at this event. I just had a brief discussion with Michael Klein. He has a previous engagement and will not be available for this meeting. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions or any further information.

All the best,
Christian Bruyere

Announcements and Acknowledgements

President's Remarks

(W. Carmack, USMC)

1st Vice President's Remarks

(K. Payne, USN)

Ken is in Black Foot, Idaho for the Western Conference of the National Trapper's Association.

2nd Vice President's Remarks

(K. Lang, AUS)

Chief of Staff's Remarks

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

Sergeant At Arms Remarks

(G. Flowers, USMC)

Gerry is still in the vicinity of Saipan. From email received 17 June he writes:

Hello All: I am writing from Rota, one island north of Guam in the Marianas. The expedition is just over, and it has been one of the most rewarding trips of my life. We arrived in Saipan, all separately and I had met only one of the 18. They drifted in up to the day before departure. Two of us were six days early to hang out, explore the island, go to Red Beach, the museums, the suicide cliffs etc, did that, then we were asked to build something. A float that incorporated a ramp to get a jeep off a 115' boat onto the float, have the thing floated to shore without tipping at the surf line, and use the ramp (twenty feet long) to get it to shore.

I was the scrounge and builder, and for about a grand, we built this thing during the next four days. I find Saipan to be like a giant Indian reserve, money and government jobs, more money and local run. So, basically, it is messy, poorly run and the Chamorro's have forgotten the U.S. saved them from an organized, Japanese run genocide of the entire bunch.

I was here for Memorial Day, and they have a beautiful memorial for those that fought here. The respect for the United States Army and of course the Marines...is huge. Having said that, the Museum portion of the memorial was closed on Memorial Day, as it was Monday, and Monday is the day off and they, the staff were having a barbeque. I raised so much shit, got into the middle of the BBQ, which does start early and spoke my mind. Although it was a mixed crowd, I think I got my point across, which was basically, "you fucks live off the United States and are alive because of who we are honouring on Memorial Day. I don't give a flying fuck what day you have off, but on Memorial Day, change your fucking day off. I am going into that museum in ten minutes to look at the contents and watch the movie, either thru the front door with a brick, and wait for the press and police, or you can let me in, start the movie, then when I am done, let me out. They chose the latter, I enjoyed the museum, got my small point across, and they are making a motion at the next meeting to be more flexible.

The must have thought I was crazy, yelling swearing, frothing, spitting, but hey, you do what you have to. Imagine, closed, a Memorial Day museum, in Saipan, a huge battle ground, because it is their day off.

Directly after that, I joined the Saipan branch of the VFW, went there for free Memorial Day beer and food, and took all the Marauders that were here. I told them they were all vets (they were not) and we all raised hell about the memorial. Since I am a voting member, I wrote the motion I wanted about following up on my tirade and getting them to ensure it would be read. If not, the letter to the National chapter would be sent. Anyway, pause for now, going diving with a Doc that was with the group who lives here on Rota.

Pagan island...Full of tunnels, bunkers, airstrips, Betty bombers, gun emplacements, more tunnels, laved right up to the airstrip from the eruption, monitor lizards, wild boars (not wild bores like Mr) wild cows and bulls, ten inch long centipedes, ants, boonie bees and more Japanese installations than you can shake a stick at.

I now know what Mark Thomson felt, although it was not as dangerous, what it is like to be two hundred and fifty feet into a small tunnel with passages, ante rooms and the smell of urine from the tusked boars that live there during the eat of the day. That is also when we explored them, dumb huh. I carried a machete and a flashlight. The machete was to slit my throat if a boar came at me, and the flashlight was to blind the fucker. This Marine lore is what got me into the tunnel....They are not afraid to do it....duh...

"Who would volunteer? was the question, an army guy, said hey, the Marines like that sort of shit, and the next thing, I am on my knees, with kneepads, a flashlight and machete heading in, thinking, what the fuck over. Those slaves the Japanese had were sure little diggers, dig or die crew. Glad I am not claustrophobic, but a few times, I did wonder if I could get out if the light died...well, I had two.

Later guys

Hope this finds you all okay, getting along and solving the issues that are confronting the world. The camera crew was from the crew that does the reality show...."survivor" and they had a great time.

Gerry

Service Officer's Remarks

(L. MacKay, USMC)

General Collection

Minutes of the previous VVIC General Meeting

Chief of Staff.

Not available.

Administrative Items (S-1)

1. VA Medical ID cards (PH)
2. Service Team.
3. Bank signing authority
4. Service Team
5. Web site Issues Section.

Veterans Affairs Update

Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission:

The Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is holding a public meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2006, at the LaQuinta Inn & Suites, located at 1425 East 27th Street in Tacoma from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.

The purpose of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is to carry out a study of the benefits that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service, and to produce a report on the study. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.vetscommission.org>

Quartermaster Activities

(Senior Chief Mac McInnes, USN Ret)

There is inventory of all items.

Veteran Outreach

1. Michael Sweeney (Persian Gulf War)
2. Gary & Patricia Griffith (Korean Era)
3. Ann Lee

Constitutional Tweaks.

Adjusting the Constitution to allow for more than one Past President on the Board.
This is not complete yet.

Attached Articles:

1. Iraq War may add stress for Vets
2. Has this become the Marine way?

Handouts:

American Legion

New Business:

New business from the floor:

The next General Meeting is 06 July 2006 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.

Iraq War May Add Stress for Past Vets

Trauma Disorder Claims at New High

By Donna St. George
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, June 20, 2006; A01

More than 30 years after their war ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans are seeking help for post-traumatic stress disorder, and experts say one reason appears to be harrowing images of combat in Iraq.

Figures from the Department of Veterans Affairs show that PTSD disability-compensation cases have nearly doubled since 2000, to an all-time high of more than 260,000. The biggest bulge has come since 2003, when war started in Iraq.

Experts say that, although several factors may be at work in the burgeoning caseload, many veterans of past wars reexperience their own trauma as they watch televised images of U.S. troops in combat and read each new accounting of the dead.

"It so directly parallels what happened to Vietnam veterans," said Raymond M. Scurfield of the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast campus, who worked with the disorder at VA for more than 20 years and has written two books on the subject. "The war has to be triggering their issues. They're almost the same issues."

At VA, officials said the Iraq war is probably a contributing factor in the rise in cases, although they said they have conducted no formal studies.

PTSD researcher John P. Wilson, who oversaw a small recent survey of 70 veterans -- nearly all from Vietnam -- at Cleveland State University, said 57 percent reported flashbacks after watching reports about the war on television, and almost 46 percent said their sleep was disrupted. Nearly 44 percent said they had fallen into a depression since the war began, and nearly 30 percent said they had sought counseling since combat started in Iraq.

"Clearly the current Iraq war, and their exposure to it, created significantly increased distress for them," said Wilson, who has done extensive research on Vietnam veterans since the 1970s. "We found very high levels of intensification of their symptoms. . . . It's like a fever that has gone from 99 to 104."

Vietnam veterans are the vast majority of VA's PTSD disability cases -- more than 73 percent. Veterans of more recent wars -- Iraq, Afghanistan and the 1991 Persian Gulf War -- together made up less than 8 percent in 2005.

VA officials said other reasons for the surge in cases may include a lessening of the stigma associated with PTSD and the aging of the Vietnam generation -- explanations that veterans groups also suggest.

