



# Vietnam Veterans In Canada

## General Meeting (2006-14)

# AGENDA 502

06 July 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 22 June 2006

**Cpl. Christopher D. Leon, 20, of Lancaster, Calif.** Leon died June 20 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 5th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

**Lance Cpl. Brandon J. Webb, 20, of Swartz Creek, Mich.** Webb, White, and Williams all died June 20 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. They were all assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Pfc. Christopher N. White, 23, of Southport, N.C.** Webb, White, and Williams all died June 20 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. They were all assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Staff Sgt. Benjamin D. Williams, 30, of Orange, Texas.** Webb, White, and Williams all died June 20 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. They were all assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti, 30, of Raynham, Mass.** Monti died in Gowardesh, Afghanistan, on June 21, when he encountered enemy forces using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades during combat operations. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

**Staff Sgt. Patrick L. Lybert, 28, of Ladysmith, Wis.** Lybert died in Gowardesh, Afghanistan, on June 21, when he encountered enemy forces using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades during combat operations. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 71st Cavalry, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

**Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Whyte, 21, of Brooklyn, N.Y.,** died June 21 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**Sgt. Jason J. Buzzard, 31, of Constantinople, Calif.,** died in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 21 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HEMTT cargo truck during combat operations. Buzzard was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Sgt. Sirlou C. Cuaresma, 25, of Chicago, Ill.,** died in Baghdad, Iraq on June 21, from a non-combat related cause. Cuaresma was assigned to the 68<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company, 62nd Engineer Battalion, 13th Containment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood, Texas. This incident is under investigation.

**Pfc. Brian J. Bradbury, 22, of Saint Joseph, Mo.,** died in the vicinity of Naray, Afghanistan, when he encountered enemy forces using small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades during combat operations. Bradbury was assigned to the 71st Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y. The incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Heathe N. Craig, 28, of Severn, Md.,** died when his UH-60 helicopter hoist malfunctioned while attempting to evacuate Pfc. Bradbury during combat operations. Craig was assigned to the 159th Air Ambulance Medical Company, Wiesbaden, Germany. The incident is under investigation.

**Cpl. Riley E. Baker, 22, of Pacific, Mo.,** died June 22 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

**Staff Sgt. Mario J. Bievre, 34, of Constantinople, Ill.** Bievre died on June 23 in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Pfc. Paul A. Beyer, 21, of Jamestown, N.D.** Beyer died on June 23 in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Cpl Ryan J. Buckley, 21, of Nokomis, Ill.,** died in Baghdad, Iraq on June 23 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Buckley was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

**Staff Sgt. Virrueta A. Sanchez, 33, of Houston, Texas,** died in Balad, Iraq on June 24 of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations. Sanchez was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

**Pfc. Devon J. Gibbons, 19, of Port Orchard, Wash.,** died on June 23, in the Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of injuries sustained on April 11 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his Bradley Fighting Vehicle during combat operations in Taji, Iraq. Gibbons was assigned to the 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Spc. Channing G. Singletary, 30, of Sylvester, Ga.,** died in Baghdad, Iraq on June 23, from a non-combat-related cause. Singletary was assigned to the Army National Guard's 122nd Support Center, Savannah, Ga. The incident is under investigation.

**Master Sgt. Thomas D. Maholic, 38, of Bradford, Pa.,** died on June 24 in Ghecko, Afghanistan, when his patrol unit came in contact with enemy forces using small arms fire during a cordon and search mission. Maholic was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Sgt. Benjamin J. Laymon, 22, of Mount Vernon, Ohio.** Laymon died on June 24 in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when he encountered enemy forces small arms fire, and an improvised explosive device which detonated during a dismounted patrol. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Sgt. Justin D. Norton, 21, of Rainier, Wash.** Norton died on June 24 in the vicinity of Baghdad, Iraq, from injuries sustained when he encountered enemy forces small arms fire, and an improvised explosive device which detonated during a dismounted patrol. He was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Cpl. Paul N. King, 23, of Tyngsboro, Mass.** King died June 25 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to Marine Forces Reserve's 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Ayer, Mass.

**Staff Sgt. Raymond J. Plouhar, 30, of Lake Orion, Mich.** Plouhar died June 26 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Cpl. Jason W. Morrow, 27, of Riverside, Calif.,** died June 27 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq, on June 26. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Sgt. Terry M. Lisk, 26, of Fox Lake, Ill.,** died on June 26 of injuries sustained in Ar Ramadi, Iraq when his unit received indirect fire from enemy forces during combat operations. Lisk was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Friedberg, Germany.

**Staff Sgt. Joseph F. Fuerst, III, 26 of Tampa Fla.,** died in Panjway District, Afghanistan, on June 24, when his HMMWV came in contact with enemy forces using rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire during combat operations. Fuerst was assigned to the Army National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade, Pinellas Park Fla.

**Sgt. 1st Class Terry O.P. Wallace, 33, of Winnsboro, La.,** died on June 27, of injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations in Taji, Iraq. Wallace was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Pfc. Rex A. Page, 21, of Kirksville, Mo.,** died June 28 from wounds received while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Pfc. Michael J. Potocki, 21, of Baltimore, Md.,** died on June 26, of injuries sustained in Al Asad, Iraq, when his unit came in contact with enemy force's small arms fire during combat operations. Potocki was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany.

**Cpl. Jeremy S. Jones, 25, of Omaha, Neb.,** died on June 27 of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device during dismounted combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. Jones was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Cpl. Aaron M. Griner, 24, of Tampa, Fla.,** died in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, on June 28, of injuries sustained when his vehicle struck a mine during combat operations. Griner was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

**Cpl. Ryan. J. Clark, 19, of Lancaster, Calif.**, died on June 29 in the Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, of injuries sustained on June 17 when an improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV during combat operations in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Clark was assigned to the 40th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Baumholder, Germany.

**Spc. Christopher D. Rose, 21, of San Francisco, Calif.**, died on June 29 of injuries sustained from an improvised explosive device during combat operations in Baghdad, Iraq. Rose was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 67th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Pfc. Justin R. Davis, 19, of Gaithersburg, Md.**, died in Korengal Outpost, Afghanistan (near Kunar Province), on June 25, when he came in contact with indirect fire while on patrol during combat operations. Davis was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y. The circumstances of the soldier's death are under investigation as a possible friendly-fire incident.

**Sgt. Bryan C. Luckey, 25, of Tampa, Fla.**, died on June 29, in Mosul, Iraq, when he was shot by enemy forces while on mounted patrol. Luckey was assigned to the 562nd Engineer Company, 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

**This brings the total U.S. deaths to 2700 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**

**President's Remarks**

(W. Carmack, USMC)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President's Remarks**

(K. Payne, USN)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Remarks**

(K. Lang, AUS)

**Chief of Staff's Remarks**

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

**Sergeant At Arms Remarks**

(G. Flowers, USMC)

(In Castlegar/Nelson)

**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)**

**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**

2006.07.02:

Dear Mr. Carmack,

I am a Registered Clinical Counselor in Rossland B.C.. I am working with a US veteran living in Canada who is eligible for VA benefits. I am in the process of getting approval from the VA to continue working with this fellow, who needs PTSD treatment badly. There are several other US Vietnam vets in the area who have quietly contacted me for similar help, who are waiting to see what happens. I don't want to keep them waiting, as some of their treatment needs are urgent. I could use someone to consult from your organization to help me navigate the Bureaucracy on their behalf, and maybe speed things along.

Can you help, or let me know who can?

Sincerely

BarryWilliscroft M.A., R.C.C.  
Registered Clinical Counsellor  
Box 523 Rossland B.C. V0G 1Y0  
250 364 3994  
Fax 250 362 7113

2006.07.03 via email:

Good Morning,

My name is Peter Williams. I am member of the Noosa Vietnam Veterans on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia.

We formed this club in 2002 after finding that a number of vets were retiring in the area. At our last meeting it was suggested that we work towards acquiring a sister club with the same ideals and aims in the US. However a

friend of ours came by your Canadian website last week so we decided we would make contact. If you would like to take up this offer we will link your website into ours and we would assist any of your members who might decide to visit Australia. Just in case you were not aware, Australians served in Vietnam between the years of 1962 - 1972 with a total commitment of 49,000 men. Australians commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day on 18th August, each year by holding a short march and service at the local memorials. This year is a significant anniversary for us as it is 40 years since the battle of Long Tan in which we lost 18 young Australians and approx 30 wounded.

I trust this gives you some idea of our activities and the following is our website [vietnamvetsnoosa.com.au](http://vietnamvetsnoosa.com.au) or I can be contacted on [bigpete47@lagunacom.com.au](mailto:bigpete47@lagunacom.com.au)

All the Best  
Peter Williams  
Management Committee  
Noosa Vietnam Vets

### **Constitutional Tweaks.**

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

### **Attached Articles:**

1. Airman Missing from Vietnam War is Identified
2. A Vietnam Veteran's opinion
3. War debate waged mostly by civilians
4. Stolen VA laptop recovered
5. Vets to test stress treatment
6. Cartoon
7. Personality Disorder

### **American Legion**

### **New Business:**

**New business from the floor:**

*The next General Meeting is 20 July 2006 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.*

## **Airman Missing from Vietnam War is Identified**

The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced on 22 June 2006 that a U.S. Air Force officer missing in action from the Vietnam War has been identified and is being returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

He is Maj. John F. Conlon III, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. His funeral is tentatively scheduled for Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C., in the fall.

On March 4, 1966 Conlon and another crewmember took off from Qui Nhon Air Field, Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam, in their O-1E Bird Dog light observation aircraft. They were on a visual reconnaissance mission to Cheo Reo, an airstrip approximately 60 miles southwest of Qui Nhon. The last radio contact with the crew was with a U.S. Special Forces Camp about 30 minutes after take-off. The crew reported the aircraft's position but made no mention of problems. When the aircraft failed to arrive at Cheo Reo, a search and rescue effort was initiated, but failed to find the aircraft or crew after six days of searching.

Between May of 1993 and August of 2005 teams from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) conducted six investigations in the Binh Dinh Province. They developed leads which took them to a site which was later scheduled for excavation.

In February of 2006 a joint JPAC-Vietnamese team excavated that site and found aircraft debris, personal effects, human remains and a dog tag that related to Conlon's crew. JPAC scientists used Conlon's dental records to confirm his identity from those remains excavated at the site.

Of those Americans unaccounted-for from all conflicts, 1,803 are from the Vietnam War.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO web site at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> [<http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo>] or call (703)-699-1169.

NEWS RELEASES from the United States Department of Defense  
No. 586-06 IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A Vietnam Veteran's Opinion

Source: [Baltimore Sun](#)

Published: June 23, 2006 Author: Gordon Livingston

**For Education and Discussion Only. Not for Commercial Use.**

In any discussion of the war in Iraq and its consequences, it is obligatory for everyone to acknowledge the sacrifices required of the men and women who have been sent there. More than 2,500 of them have died and about 18,000 have been wounded. The rate of post-traumatic stress disorder among those who have returned has been estimated to be as high as 20 percent.

I was a soldier once in a war similar in many respects to this one. Like members of our current military, I was a volunteer. I remember that when I returned from Vietnam, I was struck by how little society knew or cared about what was happening there. I didn't expect anyone to understand or be grateful for what I had done because it was apparent to me that the nation had not benefited from my service. No one was any safer. Our freedoms were no more secure. I never felt that the lives of the Vietnamese had been materially improved by our efforts. Quite the contrary, our primary gifts to that small country had been death, destruction and a flourishing sex industry. I came away from the experience believing that the American lives I had seen lost were wasted sacrifices. We who had served had been betrayed. Why would I expect a grateful homecoming?

When I saw what the war in Vietnam was really like, I wrote to my wife in a "letter to be opened in the event of my death" that she was not to accept any medals and, above all, I was not to have a military funeral. I could not abide the prospect that my flag-draped coffin might serve as a justification for further bloodshed.

Now I see this pattern repeated. The difference from Vietnam is that we appear determined to reassure our troops of our continued support and gratitude.

As with Vietnam, we try to avoid the obvious question: Which of our liberties are at stake in Iraq? The stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction weren't found, and al-Qaida made an appearance there only after we invaded. Does anyone really believe that we are about to witness a flowering of democracy in the Middle East? Is Osama bin Laden now less likely to attack us here?

The troops who are fighting this war are volunteers who freely chose the military for reasons that seemed adequate to them and who are now doing what soldiers do. A small number of them have, in fact, disgraced us all with their cruelty and contempt for the Iraqi people. Some of them, it appears, have committed war crimes.

The majority, no doubt, have acquitted themselves bravely in the performance of their duty. Whether this has contributed in any way to the welfare of either this country or Iraqis is doubtful. They are men and women doing their dangerous jobs as well as they can, like firefighters or police officers. Each of their deaths is a tragedy, but not more so because they were wearing a uniform when they died. I am a parent twice bereaved, so I know this: Death is