



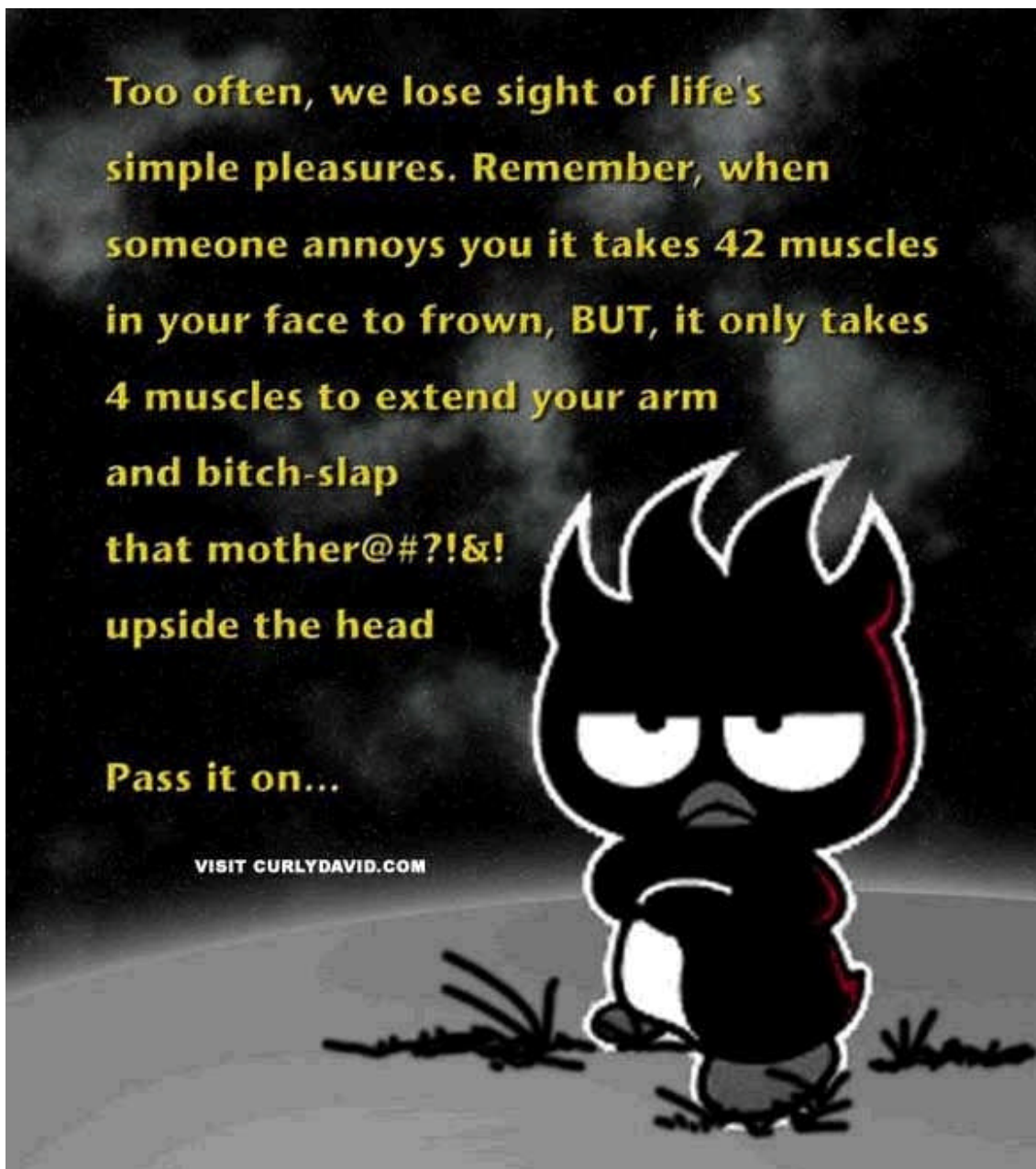
# Vietnam Veterans In Canada

## General Meeting (2007-18)

# Agenda 531

**30 August 2007**

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



## Moment of Silence

### United States Military Casualty Reports Received since 15 August 2007

**Pfc. Shawn D. Hensel, 20, of Logansport, Ind.,** died Aug. 14 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds during an enemy attack. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash. The circumstances surrounding the death are under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Alicia A. Birchett, 29, of Mashpee, Mass.,** died Aug. 9 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related accident Aug. 8 in Baghdad. She was assigned to the 887th Engineer Company, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky. The incident is under investigation.

**Chief Warrant Officer Christopher C. Johnson, 31, of Michigan.** Johnson died Aug. 14 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The incident is under investigation.

**Chief Warrant Officer Jackie L. McFarlane Jr., 30, Virginia Beach, Va.** McFarlane died Aug. 14 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Sean P. Fisher, 29, of Santee, Calif.** Fisher died Aug. 14 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Stanley B. Reynolds, 37, of Rock, W. Va.** Reynolds died Aug. 14 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Steven R. Jewell, 26, of Bridgeton, N.C.** Jewell died Aug. 14 in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, Alaska. The incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Eric D. Cottrell, 39, of Pittsview, Ala.** Cottrell died Aug. 13 in Qayyarah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Pfc. Juan M. Lopez Jr., 23, of San Antonio, TX.** Lopez died Aug. 13 in Qayyarah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Pfc. Paulomarko U. Pacificador, 24, of Shirley, N.Y.** Pacificador died Aug. 13 in Qayyarah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 5th Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Spc. Alun R. Howells, 20, of Parlin, Colo.,** died Aug. 13 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from enemy direct fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

**Staff Sgt. Robert R. Pirelli, 29, of Franklin, Mass.,** died Aug. 15 in Iraq of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Carson, Colo.

**Pfc. Willard M. Kerchief III, 21, of Evansville, Ind.,** died Aug. 16 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from enemy small arms fire during combat operations in Taramiyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

**Sgt. Princess C. Samuels, 22, of Mitchellville, Md.** Samuels died Aug. 15 in Taji, Iraq, when the enemy attacked using indirect fire. She was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Spc. Zandra T. Walker, 28, of Greenville, S.C.** Walker died Aug. 15 in Taji, Iraq, when the enemy attacked using indirect fire. She was assigned to 4th Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, 1st Aviation Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**1st Lt. Jonathan W. Edds, 24, of White Pigeon, Mich.,** died Aug. 17 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his vehicle using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Benning, Ga.

**Capt. Michael S. Fielder, 35, of Holly Springs, N.C.,** died Aug. 19 in Baghdad, Iraq, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 248th Medical Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44th Medical Command, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Paul B. Norris, 30, of Cullman, Ala.**, who died in Balad, Iraq. Norris died Aug. 16 of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 401st Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Spc. Kamisha J. Block, 20, of Vidor, Texas**, who died in Baghdad, Iraq. Block died Aug. 16 of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. She was assigned to the 401st Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Spc. George V. Libby, 23, of Aberdeen, N.C.**, died Aug. 20 near Khowst, Afghanistan, of injuries suffered from a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Cpl. Willard M. Powell, 21, of Evansville, Ind.**, died Aug. 16 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when the enemy attacked using small arms fire during combat operations in Taramiyah, Iraq. He was assigned to the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash. His legal name as was formally changed by the soldier.

**Pfc. Donovan D. Witham, 20, of Malvern, Ark.**, died Aug. 21 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Pfc. Omar E. Torres, 20, of Chicago, IL** died Aug. 22 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Capt. Corry P. Tyler, 29, of Georgia.** Tyler died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Chief Warrant Officer Paul J. Flynn, 28, of Whitsett, N.C.** Flynn died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Sgt. Matthew L. Tallman, 30, of Groveland, Calif.** Tallman died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Rickey L. Bell, 21, of Caruthersville, Mo.** Bell died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Capt. Derek A. Dobogai, 26, of Fond du Lac, Wis.** Dobogai died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Jason L. Paton, 25, of Poway, Calif.** Paton died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Sgt. Garrett I. McLead, 23, of Rockport, Texas.** McLead died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Cpl. Jeremy P. Bouffard, 21, of Middlefield, Mass.** Bouffard died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Cpl. Phillip J. Brodnick, 25, of New Lenox, Ill.** Brodnick died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Cpl. Joshua S. Harmon, 20, of Mentor, Ohio.** Harmon died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Cpl. Nathan C. Hubbard, 21, of Clovis, Calif.** Hubbard died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Michael A. Hook, 25, of Altoona, Penn.** Hook died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Jessy G. Pollard, 22, of Springfield, Mo.** Pollard died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Spc. Tyler R. Seideman, 20, of Lincoln, Ark.** Seideman died Aug. 22 in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

**Staff Sgt. Sandy R. Britt, 30, of Apopka, Fla.,** died Aug. 21 near Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Sgt. 1st Class Adrian M. Elizalde, 30, of North Bend, Ind.** Elizalde died Aug. 23 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, Wash.

**Sgt. 1st Class Michael J. Tully, 33, of Falls Creek, Penn.** Tully died Aug. 23 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, Wash.

**Pfc. Edgar E. Cardenas, 34, of Lilburn, Ga.,** died Aug. 22 in Abu Ghraib, Iraq, of wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

**Sgt. 1st Class David A. Heringes, 36, of Tampa, Fla.,** died Aug. 24 near Tikrit, Iraq, of wounds sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his unit during combat operations in Bayji, Iraq. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Sgt. 1st Class Daniel E. Miller, 43, of Rossford, Ohio.** Miller died of wounds sustained from a non-combat related incident in Herat, Afghanistan. He was assigned to 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Sgt. 1st Class Scott M. Carney, 37, of Ankeny, Iowa.** Carney died of wounds sustained from a non-combat related incident in Herat, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2d Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division of the Iowa Army National Guard. The circumstances surrounding the incident are under investigation.

**Lance Cpl. Matthew S. Medicott, 21, of Houston, TX** died Aug. 25 from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Sgt. Joshua L. Morley, 22, of Boise, Idaho.** Morley died Aug. 26 in Samarra, Iraq, of wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Spc. Tracy C. Willis, 21, of Marshall, Texas.** Willis died Aug. 26 in Samarra, Iraq, of wounds suffered when the enemy attacked his unit during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

**Staff Sgt. Nicholas R. Carnes, 25, of Dayton, Ky.,** died Aug. 26 in Orgun-e, Afghanistan, from wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using small arms fire in Lewanne Bazaar, Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery Regiment, Kentucky Army National Guard, Carrollton, Ky.

**Lance Cpl. Rogelio A. Ramirez, 21, of Pasadena, Calif.,** died Aug. 26 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Casualty Count is now 4213**  
**Since 10 November 2001**

# **VVIC Meeting Business**

## **Guests Present**

## **Announcements and Acknowledgements**

### **President's Remarks**

(D. Sinclair, AUS)

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

(G. Flowers, USMC)

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

(T. O'Malley)

### **Chief of Staff's Remarks**

(S. O'Grady, AUS)

### **Master At Arms Remarks**

(K. Payne, USN)

## **General Collection**

## **Minutes of the previous meeting**

## **Finance Officer's Report**

## **Intelligence Officer's Report**

## **Service Officer's Report**

### **1. P. Knauth, AUS**

Obtaining medical reports from the Bellingham Vet Center for his service officer located in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

2. Dave Drysdale

3. George Robinson

## **Inspector General's Report**

## **Quartermaster's Report**

### **Legislative matters:**

### **Administrative Items:**

1. VVIC-L & Vetrant-L renewal
2. Online membership records
3. Commander Flower's now gets Department of Washington correspondence from the Legion. The paperwork trail that comes with all this is being finalized to get the new table of Officers and the current membership roster in order discussions and comments at the meeting.

### **Old Business:**

1. Merging the meeting agendas of the VVIC and the American Legion Post for the purposes of conducting the business of Veterans and organizational efficiency. Don Sinclair writes:

"After discussion's between the presidents of both the American Legion and the VVIC it was decided to table a discussion and vote on combining the separate meetings into one with the business of both combined; for reasons of precision and brevity."

### **New Business:**

1. Effort to increase paid membership. A "new beginning."
2. On the table for discussion are the implementation of new group address's & phone numbers as past President Carmack has let us use his well past the time needed for getting new addresses.

**New Business from the floor:**

*The next General Meeting is 13 September 2007 at 1930 hours at the British Columbia Regiment.*



# Vietnam Veterans In Canada

## Minutes 530

### General Meeting held on 16 August 2007 British Columbia Regiment, Vancouver, B.C.

11 People on the sign-in sheet which includes family members S. Carmack and Jane Mella along with Associate Member Dave Holwill BCR, VVIC Barkeep.

Moment of Silence and the names of 45 U.S. Military Casualties read out. Total now at 4164.

#### Handouts:

- 1: VVIC Agenda #530 as compiled by VVIC's S-2 W. Carmack.

#### Attachments:

- 1: Minutes of VVIC General Meeting #529 as compiled by Ken Payne.
- 2: Airmen missing in action from the Vietnam War are identified- U.S. Dept., of Defense.
- 3: Soldiers MIA from Vietnam War are accounted for-U.S. Dept., of Defense.
- 4: Presidential Commission's Report on Walter Reed Scandal- by Col., David Hunt for Fox News.
- 5: Administration Fights Dem Plan to boost school aid for Vets- by A. Bahou and A. Schechter of ABC News.

**VVIC President Don Sinclair's Remarks-** announces that VVIC 1st VP Gerry Flowers is still TDY in Honduras.

**2nd VP Tom O'Malley's Remarks-** comments on the U.S. monetary problems, present level of spending unsustainable.

**Chief of Staff's Remarks-** reminds group of work still to be done on the "VVIC Biography" form as designed by Don Sinclair.

**Quartermaster's Report-** Chief McInnes back from his trip to Europe. Money collected since his departure to be forwarded to him in Sooke B.C.

#### Administrative Matters:

- 1: Long time VVIC member Michael Hammell (USAF) has paid dues up to and including 2008. DD-214 on file.

- 2: VVAFCT Australia- Acting President Gerald Mapstone visiting the Vancouver area till the 24th of Aug. Prez Don Sinclair to meet up with him to swap information etc.
- 3: W. Carmack (S-2) has paid his dues up to and including 2008.

**Old Business:** Discussion on merging the meeting agendas of the VVIC and The American Legion for organizational efficiency.

**New Business:**

- 1: Motion to maintain a current year membership list of member you have paid up for the next year- motion accepted.
- 2: Motion to have a year to date detailed financial report- motion accepted.
- 3: To be tabled- formal signing of the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Legion Post 75 as amended and finalized at the July 2007 meeting.

VVIC General Meeting started at 2025 following The American Legion meeting which started at 1930. The next VVIC General Meeting will take place on the 30th of Aug 2007 at the BCR starting at 1930.

Meeting adjourned 2112.

**Steve O'Grady,**  
*Chief of Staff*



## **Unlawful use of military uniforms or certificates**

### **Criminal Code of Canada, 419**

Every one who without lawful authority, the proof of which lies on him,

(a) wears a uniform of the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force or a uniform that is so similar to the uniform of any of those forces that it is likely to be mistaken therefore,

(b) wears a distinctive mark relating to wounds received or service performed in war, or a military medal, ribbon, badge, chevron or any decoration or order that is awarded for war services, or any imitation thereof, or any mark or device or thing that is likely to be mistaken for any such mark, medal, ribbon, badge, chevron, decoration or order,

(c) has in his possession a certificate of discharge, certificate of release, statement of service or identity card from the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force that has not been issued to and does not belong to him, or

(d) has in his possession a commission or warrant or a certificate of discharge, certificate of release, statement of service or identity card, issued to an officer or a person in or who has been in the Canadian Forces or any other naval, army or air force, that contains any alteration that is not verified by the initials of the officer who issued it, or by the initials of an officer thereto lawfully authorized,

is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction.

R.S., c. C-34, s. 377.

## Broken Wing reports on VA hospital stay

28 August 2007

J. Miller, AKA Broken Wing, a member of the VVIC sponsored Vet-Rant, an email list posted the following observations on Vet-Rant on Tuesday, 28 August. He is referring to a VA hospital located in Pennsylvania.

Broken Wing writes:

"Hello, Gents.

Just arrived home from the VA today after a week long visit on the flight deck. Sally you would not believe the changes, I mean you would not believe it...!  
I enumerate:

- 1) No cigarettes, no smoking, no breaks, no outdoor trips for a smoke.
- 2) The entire unit is on lockdown status
- 3) Back basketball Court with the fence around it is closed off indefinitely
- 4) Pool table removed
- 5) No going down to Church on Sundays. For those who are religiously inclined, you can watch it on TV. ( Yeah right, five guys watching' a movie, and some dingbat walks in wanting to change the channel). This has to be un-Constitutional.
- 6) All pictures have been removed from off the walls. The hallway is stark blue now.
- 7) No more group therapy sessions, None. Any meeting we do have, is overlooked by the nursing assistants.
- 8) Barry "the "seal" Yaver was there. I throw that in as a side bar.
- 9) No going off ward with even an escort to attend Bingo or other Hospital activities,
- 10) They had a room search and a dope dog was brought in to sniff the premises. This happened my last night there but I think it is a bi-monthly thing.

So there ya go. Another Psych Ward from Hell popping up on the radar. Lucky me.

## Bush Speaking to the American Legion: Sign up!

Posted August 27, 2007 | 11:21 AM (EST)

Hal Donahue

I was wrong. I wrote "[The Legion owes Nation Apology](#)." I said; "The Legion is a spectacularly effective organization for veterans, their families and their communities." As many readers pointed out, I should definitely have written "was" not "is." In actuality, the Legion is betraying both the military and veterans. The American Legion is as far off course now as they were in 1929 when the National Commander and members of the American Legion met with Premier Mussolini in Rome and in the 1930s when the American Legion was attempting to make Premier Mussolini a life member of the American Legion. The Legion was a powerful, respected brand. However, the organization is hijacked by extremists who abandoned the veterans and military for a political adventure. Veteran or civilian, we need your help now!

American Legion National Commander Morin [bragged that](#): "Even those who disagree with our position on the Iraq war certainly do not accuse us of being silent on the matter. They just wish we were." Commander Morin, it matters little. The Legion long ago marginalized itself by implying members of Congress were turncoats, disloyal, etc.; by literally becoming co-conspirators with the administration in such disasters as Walter Reed. The American people see the American Legion as a blindly right-wing organization of tired old men who never saw a war they did not like. In many ways, the American people are correct. That is the reason Bush is speaking to the Legion -- it is considered "safe" and "harmless." But that represents the Legion's national leadership, not the rank and file.

Who is responsible for what happened to that bright vibrant organization responsible for the WWII GI bill? We, veterans, ignored what was happening. When the Legion began to worry more about the dead than the living, we did not speak up. When the Legion began to make statements supporting an administration rather than soldiers, we did not speak up. When the Legion began making excuses protecting the administration from the lack of military and veteran healthcare, we did not speak up. We, veterans, are responsible for the sad reputation of the American Legion today.

Is it time to speak up? After my Huffington blog post concerning the Legion, dozens of legionnaires and veterans made a distinct effort to contact me and urge that I help form another veteran's organization. I still receive emails and telephone calls urging me to consider it because the American Legion clearly is failing veterans, especially our youngest and newest veterans. These veterans want an organization that will speak for veterans and produce results. They say the American Legion abandoned veterans for political influence. They are all correct. But my question to you is: do we need yet another veteran organization? There may be an alternative.

Why not take our Legion back? Rightly, many legionnaires, including some in senior leadership, are disgusted with the current national leadership and direction of today's American Legion. Today's leadership and the direction of the organization are much closer to when the Legion supported Mussolini rather than when they pushed the GI Bill. Where they pick, as opposed to elect, their National Commanders on down. Not unlike Saddam and other Dictators. So much for democracy. Why not get involved and take it back? Repair its reputation and right its course?

What nonpartisan principals can we agree on:

1. Defense: A properly equipped and trained active and reserve military capable of defending the country and conducting necessary military operations is critical to national survival. As wartime veterans, we are solidly anti-war but definitely not pacifist. War is a horrible thing and avoidable. However, we realize that when all alternatives fail; it may become necessary to bear arms for the defense of our country and allies.
2. Veterans: The Legion must not be afraid to face power and demand action on veterans' issues. The annual pilgrimage of the National Commander of the American Legion to the oval office is a show of subservience. The Legion should demand action and not accept whatever the president cares to hand out. The Legion is NOT the military. We are citizens and the president works for us. We who have borne the battle are here to take care of our brothers and sisters and their families not to pay homage to a sovereign.
3. Mentoring youth. Is extremely important for America's future and they must be taught the importance of participating in the political process.

4. Patriotism: What makes this country great is the political give and take of the people. It is no accident that free countries like the U.S. and the United Kingdom have survived and triumphed over totalitarian countries like the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany. It is incumbent upon every legionnaire to partake in the great issues of our time and to encourage others to do the same. To keep silent or to encourage others to keep silent is unpatriotic and harms the nation.

Can we agree on the above comments ? If so, perhaps now is the time to act. I have read reports of the president's speech to the VFW and it is extremely clear that there are divisions within that organization. We all know that the American Legion rank and file and some of the leadership are also divided concerning this president's actions. I suspect this was always so and it is healthy.

I propose taking my Legion back. By "my," I do not mean Hal's Legion or Tom's Legion. By "my," I mean that person you see in the mirror every morning when you shave or put makeup on. The Legion did too much good to have it destroyed by extremists. If enough people are willing, we can reorganize and redirect the American Legion leadership. I propose two immediate goals: fully fund VA and put on hold the Walter Reed/Bethesda merger until plans and progress can be reviewed independently by Congress. Will you join me to reform and redirect the American legion so that it once again be an organization in which you are proud to be a member? Contact me at [tbml@mindspring.com](mailto:tbml@mindspring.com). All responses are welcome!

## Bush's Bogus History Lesson

Posted August 23, 2007 | 07:51 PM (EST)

Thomas de Zengotita

In today's *NY Times* Thom Shanker summarizes the distortion of history that was [Bush's speech](#) to the VFW on Wednesday. After years of refusing comparisons of Iraq with Vietnam, Bush is now [flogging that comparison](#) to veterans in yet another effort to manipulate their native patriotism. He wants them to support his last ditch effort to prove he was right after all by shoveling more of their children into cannon fodder. All he cares about is his image in history and he will do and say anything to rescue it if he can.

Shanker rightly highlights the ludicrous Bush claim that the Khmer Rouge slaughter in Cambodia was a consequence of American withdrawal from Vietnam when in fact it was the American invasion that inspired the formation of that insane gang in the first place.

But Shanker's focus on specifics in Bush's speech led him away from what we were told was America's cause in Vietnam at the time. They said we had to win because if we failed communists would take over Indonesia and the Philippines and who knew what after that. Maybe Hawaii. That was what they said. I was there. I remember.

In fact, when we finally withdrew, no such thing happened. What happened instead was that the inherent Sino-Soviet split that our invasion of Vietnam had artificially suppressed finally opened up. What happened was that communist China evolved into the bizarre hybrid of tyranny and capitalism we know today and the Soviet Union went into self-inflicted collapse.

The whole justification for the Vietnam war turned out to be paranoid bullshit.

But what is most outrageous is the way Bush is still willing to take advantage of the historical ignorance of devoted Americans--after all the damage he has done. He has no shame at all. His cynicism and selfishness are unforgivable.

## Hospitals Accused of Dumping Patients on Skid Row

### *LAPD Investigating Two Cases*

KABC By Miriam Hernandez

LOS ANGELES, - The Los Angeles Police Department is investigating two more alleged cases of hospital patients being dumped on L.A.'s Skid Row. In one incident, police are checking surveillance video. That investigation is centered at LAPD's Central Division Headquarters.

The investigation has just begun. LAPD is in the preliminary stages of gather information. In fact, even the hospitals allegedly involved have not been officially notified of the complaints.

In the last several days two patients came to Skid Row, one in serious need of medical care, and the other in serious need of psychiatric care.

Security guards at the Union Rescue Mission saw video just after midnight on Sunday: A man, barefoot, face bandaged, who had just been dropped off -- not by an ambulance or a health care provider, but by a United Independent taxicab. He told the guards that he was in severe pain and could barely walk, and had come from the **Veterans Administration Hospital**. According to the Union Rescue Mission, it appears to be a violation of L.A.'s anti-dumping law.

The shelter says there was no notification from any hospital that a patient was coming.

"The man said he never wanted to come to Skid Row. He never asked to come to Union Rescue Mission, and as soon as he got a chance, he went back to the hospital," said Andy Bales of the Union Rescue Mission.

Two days earlier, a similar incident. A man named Brian, who carried discharge papers from Western Medical Center in Anaheim, more than 24 miles from Skid Row. A staff member notes that "Patient has no realistic plans for self-care. Patient is agitated, delusional, and threatened staff with physical harm."

LAPD is investigating both cases. "We have to determine if there was prior notification to the Mission, the shelters, on whether there's availability for beds," said LAPD Captain Jodi Wakefield.

The Los Angeles City Attorney's Office has been cracking down on hospitals that have dumped indigent patients.

In one case, a paraplegic man was left without a wheelchair or a walker. In the latest incidents there's concern that bringing patients to Skid Row could cause further injury.

The Union Rescue Mission has this message: "Find appropriate follow-up services nearby for your homeless patients. Don't send them to the mean streets of Skid Row," said Andy Bales.

"They [the hospitals] need to know that they're responsible for these patients and there's a protocol that they have to follow, and they're going to be held accountable for it," said Capt. Wakefield.

An update on the two patients: The one from the VA Hospital was returned to that hospital, but in the care of paramedics. The second man was cared for at the Union Rescue Mission for two days, then he walked off. He had no medication.

## **Controversy Builds About the Prevalence of PTSD in Vietnam Veterans**

***Experts disagree about the results of landmark PTSD study; findings have implications for recent veterans and current military personnel.***

News wise Controversy continues to swirl concerning the findings of a landmark study that estimated the percentage of Vietnam veterans suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Traumatic stress experts have renewed a clash over the results of the 1988 National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study (NVVRS), which originally estimated that 30.9 percent of veterans endure the effects of PTSD during their lifetime, and that 15.2 percent still suffered from PTSD more than ten years after the war. The actual prevalence of PTSD in veterans is vigorously debated among the field's leading researchers, with long-lasting public policy implications for veterans of all U.S. wars, including the current conflict in Iraq.

New opinions by several parties involved are reported in the August issue of the Journal of Traumatic Stress, published by the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS).

Bruce P. Dohrenwend, PhD, of Columbia University, et al. conducted a recent reanalysis of the NVVRS, which found an 18.7 percent prevalence rate of lifetime war-related PTSD and 9.2 percent of current PTSD at the time of the study. The authors say that the finding of lower rates is the result only of differences in the definition of the disorder and does not represent a significantly lower total number of soldiers impacted.

The key finding of their study, according to Dohrenwend et al., was that the NVVRS confirms a "strong dose/response relationship between severity of exposure to war-zone stressors and PTSD." The more soldiers are exposed to the horrors of war, the more likely they are to suffer from posttraumatic stress.

Richard J. McNally, PhD, of Harvard University, argues that the original NVVRS and the more recent Dohrenwend reanalysis overestimated the prevalence of PTSD in veterans by using faulty criteria for diagnosing the disorder. According to McNally, 5.4 percent of Vietnam veterans showed clinically significant functional impairment at the time of the NVVRS study.

“Eliminating cases who exhibit no functional impairment is an important way to address a chief concern of the NVVRS’s critics,” said McNally. “Not all emotional changes wrought by serving in a war zone are symptoms of disease or disorder.”

A number of experts disagree with McNally’s interpretation of the data, including the original authors of the NVVRS study. William E. Schlenger, PhD, of Duke University Medical Center, et al., claim McNally misrepresents the findings of Dohrenwend et al.’s analysis.

“[McNally’s] erroneous statements and misrepresentations seem clearly to be not random,” said Schlenger et al. “Instead, they appear to have been crafted to support a specific bias that has significant policy implications, i.e. that PTSD prevalence among Vietnam veterans is a minor problem, and **the real problem is veterans faking combat exposure and PTSD symptoms to qualify for service-connected disability.**”

According to Dean Kilpatrick, PhD, of the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center Medical University, “In my view, the reexamination by Dohrenwend and colleagues is a major contribution to this public policy debate...It confirms that most veterans of the Vietnam War were resilient, but that an important subset continued to have PTSD over a decade after the war was over.”

Despite disagreements on numbers and methods, the experts concur that the government has a responsibility to adequately treat veterans with PTSD.

“Regardless of [frequency], the central issue is whether resources are sufficient to meet current demand,” said McNally. “The key question is, 'If a veteran seeks mental health care, will that be able to obtain prompt access to state-of-the-art, evidence-based [care]?' If not, then we must increase resources.”

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies is an international multidisciplinary, professional membership organization that promotes advancement and exchange of knowledge about severe stress and trauma.

# **A Grave Blow to the Constitution**

## **Padilla Jury Opens Pandora's Box**

**August 20, 2007**

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

Jose Padilla's conviction on terrorism charges on August 16 was a victory, not for justice, but for the US Justice (sic) Department's theory that a US citizen can be convicted, not because he committed a terrorist act but for allegedly harboring aspirations to commit such an act. By agreeing with the Justice (sic) Department's theory, the incompetent Padilla Jury delivered a deadly blow to the rule of law and opened Pandora's Box.

Anglo-American law is a human achievement 800 years in the making. Over centuries law was transformed from a weapon in the hands of government into a shield of the people from unaccountable power. The Padilla Jury's verdict turned law back into a weapon.

The jury, of course, had no idea of what was at stake. It was a patriotic jury that appeared in court with one row of jurors dressed in red, one in white, and one in blue (Peter Whoriskey, Washington Post, August 17, 2007).

It was a jury primed to be psychologically and emotionally manipulated by federal prosecutors desperate for a conviction for which there was little, if any, supporting evidence. For the jury, patriotism required that they strike a blow for America against terrorism. No member of this jury was going to return home to accusations of letting off a person who has been portrayed as a terrorist in the US media for five years.

The "evidence" against Padilla consists of three items:

- (1) seven intercepted telephone conversations,
- (2) a 10-year old non-relevant video of Osama bin Laden, and
- (3) an alleged application to a mujahideen (not terrorist) training camp with Padilla's fingerprints. We will examine each in turn.

The International Herald Tribune and Associated Press reported in detail on the telephone intercepts (June 19, 2007): "Accused al-Qaida operative Jose Padilla was never overheard using purported code words for violent jihad in intercepted

telephone conversations and spoke often about his difficulties in learning Arabic while studying in Egypt, the lead FBI case agent testified Tuesday. The questioning of FBI Agent James T. Kavanaugh by Padilla's attorney, Michael Caruso, focused on seven intercepted telephone calls on which Padilla's voice is heard mostly talking about his marriage and his studies but never about Islamic extremism. . . . Caruso asked Kavanaugh if Padilla ever was heard using what prosecutors say were code words for violent jihad . . . 'No, he does not,' Kavanaugh replied. . . . Caruso asked Kavanaugh if Padilla was ever overheard discussing jihad training. 'No jihad training that I've seen,' Kavanaugh said. . . . 'He's not referring to anything here but studying Arabic, correct? Study means study, right?' Caruso asked. 'That's what they're talking about,' Kavanaugh testified."

Despite the FBI's testimony that the intercepted telephone messages contained no incriminating evidence, the "patriotic" jury accepted the federal prosecutor's unsupported accusation that there were hidden code words in the message indicating that Padilla was a terrorist. After all, who but a terrorist would want to learn Arabic?

The video of bin Laden had no relevance whatsoever to the charges in the case. The video is 10 years old and makes no reference to any of the defendants. Moreover, none of the defendants were accused of ever being in contact with bin Laden. The only purpose of the video was to arouse in jurors fear, anger, and disturbing memories associated with September 11, 2001. The fact that the judge let prosecutors sway a fearful and vengeful patriotic jury with emotion and passion rather than evidence is obviously grounds for appeal.

Whoriskey reports that in their closing arguments prosecutors mentioned al-Qaeda more than 100 times and urged jurors to think of al-Qaeda and groups alleged to be affiliated with it as an international murder conspiracy. Padilla "trained to kill," Assistant US Attorney Brian Frazier misinformed the jury in his closing statement.

Who Padilla wished to kill was never identified, but according to the prosecutors he had been wanting to kill persons unknown since 1998. Padilla was convicted for harboring alleged intentions, not for committing any acts. Indeed, no harmful acts are charged to Padilla. The incompetent jury fell for the prosecutors' wild tale of a murder conspiracy many years old that had no results.

As Andrew Cohen put it, Padilla and the two co-defendants were convicted on the charge of "terrorist-wannabes" on the basis of "evidence that federal

authorities did not believe amounted to a crime when it was gathered back before 2001." Cohen concludes: "it's further proof that if you can convince an American jury that a man in the dock had anything to do with al-Qaeda, you can pretty much bank on a conviction no matter how tenuous the evidence" (washingtonpost.com, August 16, 2007).

The training camp application form is as suspect as any evidence can be.

Moreover, the prosecution had no evidence that Padilla actually attended such a camp. Padilla was held illegally for 3.5 years and tortured. At any time during his illegal detention and torture, Padilla could have been handed a form, thus tainting it with his fingerprints.

Amy Goodman, the forensic psychiatrist Dr. Angela Hegarty, the Christian Science Monitor and others have described how US interrogators abused Padilla and destroyed his mind. To expect a person as badly tortured and abused as Padilla to retain the wits not to touch a piece of paper handed to him, or forced into his hands, is unreasonable.

When Padilla was arrested five years ago in 2002, the US government charged that he was about to set off a radioactive "dirty bomb" in a US city that would kill tens or even hundreds of thousands of Americans. The story was a total lie, a fabrication designed to keep the fear level high after 9/11 in order to keep support for the Bush regime's wars and domestic police state. None of the charges on which Padilla was illegally held, during those years before the US Supreme Court intervened and ordered the Bush regime to release Padilla or bring him to trial, were part of the charges on which Padilla was tried.

There is little doubt that Padilla's conviction, and probably also the convictions of the two co-defendants, is a terrible injustice. But the damage done goes far beyond the damage to the defendants. What the red, white, and blue "Padilla Jury" has done is to overthrow the US Constitution and give us the rule of men.

The US Constitution and Anglo-American legal tradition prevent indictments, much less convictions, based on a prosecutor's theory that a person wanted to commit a crime in the past or might want to in the future. Padilla has harmed no one. There is no evidence that he made an agreement with any party to harm anyone whether for money or ideology or any reason. The FBI testified that the telephone calls were innocuous. The bin Laden video was evidence of nothing pertaining to the defendants. The piece of paper, alleged to be a personnel form recovered from an al-Qaeda camp in Afghanistan is nothing but a piece of paper and an assertion.

As Lawrence Stratton and I demonstrated in our book, [The Tyranny of Good Intentions](#) (2000), the protective features of law had been seriously eroded prior to the Bush regime's assault on civil liberty in the name of "the war on terror." The US Constitution and the Bill of Rights rest on Blackstone's Commentaries on the Laws of England. Blackstone explained law as the protective principles against tyranny --habeas corpus, due process, attorney-client privilege, no crime without intent, no retroactive law, no self-incrimination.

Jeremy Bentham claimed that these protective principles were outmoded in a democracy in which the people controlled the government and no longer had reasons to fear it. The problem with Blackstone's "Rights of Englishmen," Bentham said, is that these civil liberties needlessly limit the government's power and, thus, its ability to protect citizens from crime. Bentham wanted to preempt criminal acts by arresting those likely to commit crimes in advance, before the budding criminals entered into a life of crime. Bentham, like the Bush regime, the "Padilla Jury," and the Republican Federalist Society, did not understand that when law becomes a weapon, liberty dies regardless of the form of government. If they do understand, they prefer unaccountable government power to individual liberty.

The incompetent "Padilla Jury" has done Americans and their liberty far more damage than will ever be done by terrorists, other than those in our criminal justice (sic) system who now wield the powers that Bentham wanted to give them.

The Padilla case was the way the Bush Justice (sic) Department implemented its strategy for taking away the legal principles that protect American citizens. Padilla is an American citizen. He was denied habeas corpus and his rights to an attorney and due process. He was tortured in an attempt to coerce him into self-incrimination. In treating Padilla in these ways, the US Department of Justice (sic) violated both the US Constitution and federal law. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Justice (sic) Department committed far more crimes than did Padilla.

By the time the Supreme Court finally intervened, Padilla was universally known as the demonized "dirty bomber," an "enemy combatant" who was arrested before he could set off a radioactive bomb in a US city. The Injustice Department could now simultaneously convict Padilla and enshrine Benthamite law simply by appealing to fear and patriotism. And that is what happened.

Under Benthamite law, the individual has no rights. The new calculus is "the greatest good for the greatest number" as determined by the wielders of power. On the basis of this new law, not written by Congress but invented by the Injustice Department and made precedent by the "Padilla Jury" verdict, the US can lock up people based on the percentage of crime committed by their race, gender, income class, or ethnic group.

Under Benthamite law, people can be arrested and prosecuted for thought crimes. Under Benthamite law, it is the government that protects the people, not the Constitution and Bill of Rights that protect the individual. Benthamite law makes "advocacy speech," for example, a call for the overthrow of the US government, upheld in the 1969 Supreme Court decision, *Brandenburg v. Ohio*, a serious federal crime.

The "Padilla Jury" has opened Pandora's Box. Unless the conviction is overturned on appeal, American liberty died in the "Padilla Jury's" verdict.

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## Better Pay for Combat-Related Disabilities?

Tom Philpott

### ***Bush Backs Separate Combat-Related Disability System***

The Bush administration is preparing a legislative proposal to present to Congress in September that would establish a separate and, under most circumstances, a more generous disability package for service members who are injured in war or while training for war, sources said.

Under the plan, recommended by the Dole-Shalala commission, service members found unfit for duty as a result of combat or combat-training injuries, regardless of the number of years served, would qualify for an immediate lifetime annuity from the Department of Defense.

Annuity amounts would be based on the formula used to calculate regular retired pay: 2.5 percent of basic pay multiplied by years in service. A wounded warrior with two years of service thus would get five percent of basic pay. Likewise, a service member injured in combat training who had served 10 years when found unfit would get 25 percent of basic pay.

These members also would be get lifetime TRICARE, the military health and pharmacy plan. Separately they would get disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for any and all service-connected injuries or ailments. VA compensation likely would be raised under the plan to include a quality-of-life allowance. But the portion of VA compensation now provided, and intended only to cover reduced earnings capacity, would stop at age 65 when social security begins.

The legislation is being drafted by DoD and VA officials and they continue to work out critical details. One issue outstanding is whether the changes should be applied retroactively, perhaps to all combat-related disabled members injured since the attacks of 9-11.

But the Bush administration has decided that these disability pay changes should apply only to members with injuries from combat or combat training. That,

officials say, adheres to the theme of Dole-Shalala, also known as the President's Commission on Care of America's Returning Wounded Warriors. Because the commission's charter focused solely on the needs of combat wounded veterans, its recommendations do too.

Under the White House plan, non-combat disabled members still would come under current service disability retirement, with percentage awards based only on conditions that make the individual unfit for service. Non-combat disabled members rated below 30 percent still would get a lump-sum severance payment instead of an annuity and would not qualify for TRICARE.

This point is expected to be vigorously opposed by advocates for disabled members. Though they generally are excited about the changes planned for combat-related injuries, advocates see stark inequities in having separate disability packages, one for wounded warriors and one for members with other service-connected injuries or ailments.

The White House position also seems to be in conflict with a principle of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission, which will complete its two-year comprehensive study of disability benefits in October. That commission already has voted not to treat disability benefits differently based on whether an injury is received in combat, advocates point out.

One administration official brought another warning. If the VA-portion of disability compensation is not boosted as much as envisioned by Dole-Shalala, then certain disabled warriors actually might receive less in overall disability pay than non-combat disabled peers with equal rated conditions.

Though advocates for disabled veterans see the Dole-Shalala disability pay reforms as overwhelming positive for service members, which is why they want Congress to apply the changes to all members being separated as physically or mentally unfit, there are anomalies to be addressed, they said.

For example, an E-4 with four years' service and a 30-percent rated a disability that leaves him unfit for duty would get service disability retirement today of \$546.07 a month. Under Dole-Shalala, if VA compensation remains at current levels, with no qualify-of-life allowance, the same E-4 injured in war would receive longevity retirement of \$182.02 a month for his four years of service plus VA compensation of \$348. The total of \$530.02 a month would be \$16 less than awarded to the non-combat disabled member.

Even in this case, however, VA compensation of \$348 a month is only for the “unfitting” condition. The VA typically will base compensation for any disabled veteran an average of 20 percent higher than the rating used for service retirement because the VA considers all service-connected conditions not just those that make the member unfit for continued service.

Several military associations and veterans groups met July 31 with Karen Guice, the Dole-Shalala commission’s deputy staff director, to clarify what commissioners intended regarding two military disability systems. Retired Air Force Col. Mike Hayden, a benefits expert with Military Officers Association of America, said Guice assured the group that commissioners, if asked, would recommend that their disability pay reforms extend to all disabled members not just the combat injured.

That seems in keeping with the report’s criticism of the confusion and complexity that now exists with DoD and VA having separate disability systems. Dole-Shalala would end that dual track, removing DoD from the rating business. Yet the White House seeks to have separate disability systems within DoD itself, citing the same report. This has drawn criticism even within the administration as concerns rise over the impact on morale of categorizing disabled members based on where or when they are injured.

President Bush, during an Aug. 13 visit to the VA medical center in Washington D.C., said the Dole-Shalala recommendations “make a lot of sense, and we would ask for the Congress to pass those...as quickly as possible, so I can sign them into law.”