



Vietnam Veterans In Canada

General Meeting (2008-05)

GM 543

06 March 2008

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

Moment of Silence

United States Military Casualty Reports

Received since 05 February 2008

Spc. Christopher J. West, 26, of Arlington, Texas, died Feb. 4 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered on Feb. 3 in Muqdadiyah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 73rd Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Chief Petty Officer Michael E. Koch, 29, of State College, Pa. Koch died Feb. 4, from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations in Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team.

Chief Petty Officer Nathan H. Hardy, 29, of Durham, N.H. Hardy died Feb. 4, from wounds suffered from small arms fire during combat operations in Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast-based SEAL team.

Sgt. Rafael Alicea Rivera, 30, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, died Feb. 5 in Tallil, Iraq, of injuries suffered in a non-combat related incident. He was assigned to the 307th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C. The incident is under investigation.

Staff Sgt. Donald T. Tabb, 29, of Norcross, Ga., died Feb. 5 in Sangin, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 6th Military Police Detachment, 1st Battalion, 13th Aviation Regiment, Fort Rucker, Ala.

Spc. Miguel A. Baez, 32, of Bonaire, Ga. Baez died Feb. 5 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered in Al Muqdadiyah when he encountered an improvised explosive device 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. John C. Osmolski, 23, of Eustis, Fla. Osmolski died Feb. 5 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered in Al Muqdadiyah when he encountered an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sgt. Timothy R. Van Orman, 24, of Port Matilda, Pa. Orman died Feb. 5 in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered in Al Muqdadiyah when he encountered an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Sgt. Bradley J. Skelton, 40, of Gordonville, Mo., died Feb. 6 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle struck an improvised explosive device during combat operations. He was assigned to the 1138th Engineer Company, 35th Engineer Brigade, Missouri Army National Guard, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Petty Officer 1st class Luis A. Souffront, 25, of Miami, Fla., died Feb. 7, from wounds suffered from an improvised explosive device while serving in combat operations in Iraq. He was assigned to an East Coast based SEAL team.

Spc. Michael T. Manibog, 31, of Alameda, Calif. Manibog died Feb. 8 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Sgt. Timothy P. Martin, 27, of Pixley, Calif. Martin died Feb. 8 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Staff Sgt. Jerald A. Whisenhunt, 32, of Orrick, Mo. Whisenhunt died Feb. 8 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Sgt. Gary D. Willett, 34, of Alamogordo, N.M. Willett died Feb. 8 in Taji, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Pfc. Jack T. Sweet, 19, of Alexandria Bay, N.Y., died Feb. 8 in Jawwalah, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), Fort Drum, N.Y.

Staff Sgt. Javares J. Washington, 27, of Pensacola, Fla., died Feb. 11 at Camp Buehring in Kuwait City, Kuwait, from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. He was assigned to the 6th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky. The incident is under investigation.

Sgt. Corey E. Spates, 21, of LaGrange, Ga., died Feb. 10 in Diyala Province, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Spc. Chad D. Groepper, 21, of Kingsley, Iowa. Groepper died Feb. 17 in Diyala Province, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his dismounted patrol using small arms fire. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Spc. Luke S. Runyan, 21, of Spring Grove, Pa. Runyan died Feb. 17 in Diyala Province, Iraq, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his dismounted patrol using small arms fire. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Staff Sgt. Bryant W. Mackey, 30, of Eureka, Kan., died Feb. 20 in Mosul, Iraq, of wounds suffered when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Hood, Texas.

Sgt. Conrad Alvarez, 22, of Big Spring, Texas. Alvarez died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad on Feb. 19. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Cpl. Albert Bitton, 20, of Chicago, IL. Bitton died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad on Feb. 19. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Spc. Micheal B. Matlock, Jr., 21, of Glen Burnie, Md. Matlock died Feb. 20 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device in Baghdad on Feb. 19. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Capt. Nathan R. Raudenbush, 25, of Pennsylvania, died Feb. 20 in Busayefi, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

Spc. Keisha M. Morgan, 25, of Washington, D.C., died Feb. 22 in Baghdad, Iraq, of a non-combat related cause. She was assigned to the Division Special Troops Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. The circumstances are under investigation.

Lance Cpl. Drew W. Weaver, 20, of St. Charles, Mo., died Feb. 21 while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar province, Iraq. He was assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Spc. Kevin S. Mowl, 22, of Pittsford, N.Y., died Feb. 25 at the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., of wounds suffered in Baghdad, Iraq on Aug. 2, 2007, when the vehicle he was in encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis Wash.

Spc. Micheal E. Phillips, 19, of Ardmore, Okla., died Feb. 24 in Baghdad, Iraq, from wounds suffered when his vehicle encountered an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky.

Spc. Orlando A. Perez, 23, of Houston, TX died Feb. 24 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire during dismounted operations. He was assigned to the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

Casualty Count is now 4506

Since 10 November 2001

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Bush Veterans Official Resigns Because His Bible Study is More Important Than His Job

Aaron Glantz, IPS News, February 29, 2007

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 29 (IPS) - Another high-ranking George W. Bush administration official has resigned. The Department of Veterans Affairs Undersecretary for Benefits Daniel Cooper quit Thursday amid mounting criticism over a backlog of disability claims for injured veterans that runs six months long and an appearance he made in a fundraising video for an evangelical Christian organization where he said Bible study was more important than doing his job.

Cooper has been under fire for using his office to proselytize for evangelical Christianity ever since he appeared in a 2004 fundraising video for Christian Embassy, which carries out missionary work among the Washington elite as part of the Campus Crusade for Christ.

In the video, Cooper says of his Bible study, "It's not really about carving out time, it really is a matter of saying what is important. And since that's more important than doing the job the job's going to be there, whether I'm there or not."

Cooper's declaration inflamed veterans who saw the number of veterans waiting for the Veterans Administration (VA) to decide their disability claims balloon to 400,000 on his watch, with the average veteran waiting six months for a decision from the government.

"He was clearly a fundamentalist Christian first and essentially a government paid missionary for his particular world view of the gospel of Jesus Christ," said Mike Weinstein, who runs the Military Religious Freedom Foundation. "The fact that he's gone obviously is good."

Cali Station thinks the bigger story here is just HOW this asshole got a high ranking job to begin with. A job of such strategic importance as adjudicating the claims of damaged Veterans IN TIME OF WAR.