

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

For those of you who have chosen to live in a temperate climate, I salute you. We are sweltering yet again in our Nation's Capitol. Exceptionally high humidity and temperatures to match make even walking to one's car a chore.

Steve Shivers, our deputy commander, has put in long hours setting up our October convention/reunion in Las Vegas, and it promises to be a winner. Please note the schedule of events in this issue. Of special interest is our Sunday banquet keynote speaker, John J. McGinty III. John is a Marine, a recipient of a battlefield commission, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient (Vietnam). We look forward to John's keynote address.

I do hope all Mustangs and their ladies who are in good health will attend this October's convention/reunion. For you potential first timers, do not forget my challenge issued in the Summer Mustang News—I will buy the first drink at the open bar on both Saturday and Sunday nights for any and all first timers.

Commander's Message

by *Robert Evans*



As we know, our own Colonel David Hackworth (Hack) passed in late spring. Colonel Hackworth's memorial at the Fort Meyer Chapel and his burial with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery was attended by a large number of retired flag officers who had served with Hack, members of both the House and Senate and the media. Because of the sheer number in attendance, I was not able to present to Colonel Hackworth's widow, Eilhys England, the NOBC Memorial Plaque. Roger Charles, president of Soldiers For The Truth, an organization founded by Hack, has been very helpful in orchestrating a date certain when Ms. England will travel to Washington from Connecticut to

receive our plaque and a host of other memorial items from members of the House and Senate.

Bill "Scotty" Wynn, our Mustang News editor has historically turned to the Soldiers For The Truth web site for the articles on Hack's Page. Soldiers For The Truth will continue under the watchful eye of Roger Charles and Eilhys England, and Hack's page will continue as well, in his honor, under the auspices of Roger Charles.



Who makes a 20 mile roundtrip to work—**on a bicycle? Read On!!**

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Sin Can't Win. Faith Can't Fail

I realize that those of us who receive the Mustang News are aware that this is not a religious organization. However, as your Chaplain, I feel that I am responsible to make you aware of how our nation and others have areas drifting away from the truths in the Bible.

So let's take a look at what people are doing as they respond to what is going on in the world around them. National studies show we are living in days of wide spread biblical illiteracy. Of course God is involved in every area of the world, but He is not acknowledged to any consequence in some areas. So it is no surprise that cultures that were founded upon and greatly influenced by biblical truth are drifting further from them. And many movements that are greatly opposed to biblical truths are gaining strength. Can anything be done? Those of us who are interested can get involved or help develop movements that will greatly oppose those movements. Certainly many of our churches will help.

It looks like much of what we need



Warren Schilling

to do will require spiritual suffering. The place in our lives isn't always our "comfort zone" but training and preparation for eternity. Jesus learned obedience by suffering. Sin can't win. Faith can't fail. "God used fishermen not

Emperors to bring men into His Kingdom lest anyone think the church is built on the strength of Leaders, not "God" (Augustine).

Overall we are seeking God's plan, but those we oppose will claim the same. The Bible says "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God" (Micah 6.8).



From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



Mustang News

Mustang News is the official newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions. It is edited in Kapolei, HI & printed and mailed in Anadarko, OK. Four issues per year: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

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TAPS

for Mustangs answering
their final muster:

- 859L-Robert C. Baldrige-NY
- 506-Charles M. Buckholz-IN
- 154-Joseph B. Cain, Jr.-AL
- 475-Joseph W. Clifton-FL
- 558-Robert C. Gresher-GA
- 659-Duane E. Masterson-OH
- 265-James F. Shephard-MA
- 1082-Ellis H. Sherer-AL
- 870-Clarence E. Troeger-NM
- 1033-Edgar A. Westlake-FL
- 981-Harold E. Woodrome-IL

Note: We depend on family members, friends and members to inform us of the deaths of our members. Please provide Stan Schmucker, Admin. & Fin. Officer, with pertinent information and details as soon as possible. Thank you.

Taps

There will be a great encampment
In the land of clouds today.
A mingling and a merging
Of our boys who've gone away.
Though on earth they are disbanding,
They are very close and near,
For those brave and honored heroes
Show no sorrow, shed no tear.
They have lived a life of glory,
History pins their medals high,
Listen to the thunder rolling,
They are marching in the sky!

--Artus Nottingham Chappus

Copies of the 25th NOBC Anniversary booklet are available at \$4.00 per copy. See Item #14 on the NOBC PX Order Form.

Letters from NOBC Widows

NOBC widows receive a plaque and citation honoring their late husbands from Gib Bolton

From Aileen Henderson:

Thanks so much for the beautiful plaque and certificate I received in honor of my husband Newell Henderson.

He was a proud member of NOBC and enjoyed the monthly meetings in Illinois and the National Conventions.

The plaque will be hung in the hallway with the rest of his medals and pictures.

From Phyllis Rawls:

My family and I wish to thank you all with deep appreciation for the most beautiful plaque and certificate as a memorial to Joe, it will have a special place in my home. Joe was proud to have served his country and very proud to have been part of NOBC for so many years. With a grateful heart, thank you again.

From Alice Wainwright (Bob Baldrige's daughter)

Thank you so much for the very handsome NOBC plaque for dad.

My sister Jeannie and I along with our families are so proud of this, and we know how much it would mean to dad. As the oldest, I am hanging this on the wall next to dad's picture in his Army uniform. It will always remind us of the courage and bravery of all who fought for freedom and honor in WWII, and of the friendships that grew out of those times.

I had a wonderful phone message today from Jim Plate that the Carlisle Library will take most of the boxes of dad's "Victory Road." We are extremely pleased that dad's library will have a good home and be of use to future historians.

Thank you and all of NOBC for your friendship and great kindness,

My personal thanks again to you Stan and Libby for your friendship with dad. And thank you again for your wonderful phone call and for the beautiful plaque.

Letters from NOBC Widows

From Margaret Woodrome and family:

Words can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate receiving the beautiful plaque about my husband's "battlefield commission."

Our two sons and daughter were amazed about receiving the plaque and that you wanted to do this for us his family and for "Woodie" to be honored in such a lovely way.

God bless all members of the "National Order of Battlefield Commissions."

From Rita Hanna:

Words cannot begin to express and convey our appreciation for the unique plaque and the citation of honor that I received from you and the NOBC membership.

A fine man and a great soldier and comrade is gone, true. But never to be forgotten.

With sincere thanks to you.

New Members

1148
Bernard J. Hoganson
 310 Pacific Ave.
 Staten Island, NY 10312
 Btry B, 159th FA Bn
 I Corps Artillery (Korea)

1149
Jarold W. Parlow
 11235 Mae Ave.
 Warren, MI 48089
 A Troop, 1st Sqdrn
 9th Cav, 1st Cav Div
 (Airmobile) (Vietnam)

New Members

1116L Albert F. Albertini
 715L Thomas L. Crull
 727L Edward J. Maloney
 1107L Robert L. Noe
 910L Hugh H. Peeler
 972L Cecil H. Rigby
 1084L Mark A. Smith



CRSC

Mustangs should check the website www.crsc.army.mil for eligibility requirements for Combat Related Special Compensation. The CRSC service center number is **1-866-261-3254**.

This Pastor Has Guts!

Thought you might enjoy this interesting prayer given in Kansas at the opening of their Senate. It seems prayer still upsets some people. When Minister Joe Wright was asked to open the session of the Kansas Senate, everyone was expecting the usual generalities, but this is what they heard:

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

- We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.
- We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.
- We have killed our unborn and called it choice.
- We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.
- We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.
- We have abused power and called it politics.
- We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.
- We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.
- We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh, God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Amen!"

The response was immediate. A number of legislators walked out during the prayer in protest. In 6 short weeks, Central Christian Church, where Rev. Wright is pastor, logged more than 5,000 phone calls with only 47 of those calls responding negatively. The church is now receiving international requests for copies of this prayer from India, Africa and Korea.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on this radio program, "The Rest of the Story," and received a larger response to this program than any other he has ever aired.

With the Lord's help, may this prayer sweep over our nation and wholeheartedly become our desire so that we again can be called "one nation under God."

Sent in by Jim Thompson

Poem composed by Richard Hanna and sent in by his widow Mrs. Richard K. Hanna

"A FINAL SALUTE"

Today we lay a veteran to rest
One more of a long, long line
A man who stood among the best
We'll remember for all time.

He walked the muddy fields and roads
And felt the bitter cold
He also felt the jungle heat
And danger yet untold.

He stood watch on the deck of a ship
And searched the rolling wave
He flew a plane among the clouds
In search of men to save.

He treated many wounded men
Amidst the battles fray
He held the head of a dying man
And heard a Chaplin pray.

He drove the truck that brought
Supplies
To men in foxholes deep
Then turned to make another run
No time for any sleep

He manned the giant cannon, too
That roared all night and day
But turned his thoughts to happy times
At his home so far away.

He ran across a sandy beach
Against the deadly guns
Of all the fallen men he saw
He might be the lucky one.

He held and fed a hungry child
In a shady village square
The people gathered all around
Overjoyed to see him there.

Apretty girl came to him
Put a cold drink in his hand
And kissed him softly on the cheek
He was fighting for her land.

Then time to move on down the road
To another distant hill
To live another day or two
It would have to be God's will.

He warmed his hands beside a fire
Or cooled his feet in a stream
His thoughts turned to family and home
To be there was his dream.

He stood behind the sharp barb wire
In a camp for prisoners of war
And wondered if his comrades had died
So war would be no more.

Through the long, long life he lived
His thoughts would often stray
To men he knew and men who died
In the lands so far away.

So now my friend, we say farewell
Your duties on earth are through
With friends and family gathered
Around
It's our time to honor you.

And now the flag is folded
With silence all around
Then rifles fire a final salute
And we hear a bugle sound.

So rest in deep and peaceful sleep
As you lay beneath the sod
Although your service here is done
You have joined the service of God.

*Richard Hanna
Korean Veteran
Danville, Iowa*

Our 'Soldier For The Truth'

By Roger Charles, President of SFTT

Hack died yesterday morning (5/11) after fighting cancer in three forms for the past several years. America's grunts have lost their most formidable defender. The Pentagon's "Perfumed Princes" have lost their most effective and unrelenting critic. And SFTT has lost its founder, its leader and its most dedicated, selfless worker. But we have not lost our inspiration. To all those touched by Hack's life, in person or through his writings, I ask that we pause for a moment today to thank God for His gift of this awesome, fearless Soldier For The Truth. I know Hack will be watching as we continue the march as he ordered in our last conversation. He left his wonderful wife and soulmate, Eilhys, and his special friend (and head of our advisory board), Phil Matthews with clear directions for SFTT's future. We at SFTT will do our best to assist them in turning Hack's concepts into realities. The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen of our grand nation deserve no less. I quote another to best capture in a few words the life of this truly great American Soldier: "A greater soul hath seldom dwelt in this house of clay."

Semper Fi

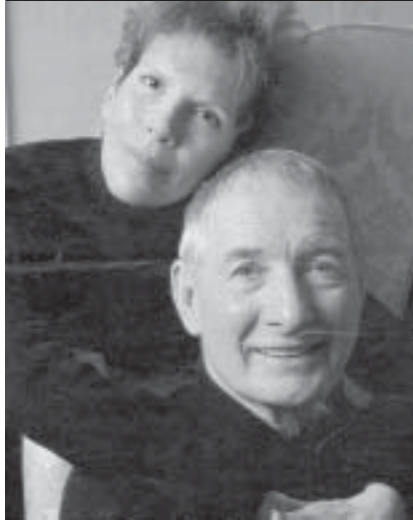
Roger Charles, President, Soldiers For The Truth

A Final Farewell

by Ed Offley, Editor, Defense Watch

Arlington National Cemetery - It is my privilege to inform you that Hack is back on permanent duty.

Col. David Haskell Hackworth, USA (ret.) has joined several hundred thousand of his fellow soldiers guarding the hallowed ground of Arlington after a Memorial Service at nearby Fort Myer. More than 600 former comrades, fellow soldiers and friends gathered in the soaring Fort Myer Memorial Chapel to shed tears of sorrow over his passing, to hear some of his favorite songs and psalms, and to laugh and betimes listen in awed silence as fellow veterans and journalism colleagues recounted his bravery, audacity, integrity and his perennial smile.



Eilhys England & David Hackworth

Fort Myer Chaplain Maj. Douglas Fenton began the service by noting the gravestones at Arlington the day after Memorial Day 2005 remained decorated with American flags, part of the annual tradition here. "Every flag on every headstone pays tribute to his courage," Fenton told Hack's widow, Eilhys, sitting in the front row with a number of family members.

But it was three former Vietnam comrades of Hack's - retired LTG Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson, retired LTG Hal Moore, and retired Maj. John D. Falcon - who recalled

Hack's passion for the common soldier and his ironclad integrity that defined his life both as a soldier and as a military journalist.

Emerson, who commanded a battalion of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam alongside a battalion led by then LTC Hackworth, said with the direct bluntness of a combat veteran: "It's always nice to know a unit on your flank is commanded by someone of that caliber." Emerson drew warm laughter from the congregation in recalling the aftermath of the Battle of Dak To, when Hack marched his entire battalion back to base camp (the other units had returned by helicopter) and - somehow - managed to scrounge up an Army band to lead the procession back through the gate.

"He was the Army's foremost battlefield commander," said Emerson, who himself had gone on to command the entire XVIII Airborne Corps before retiring from the Army.

Hal Moore, who achieved international recognition as the battlefield commander at the Ia Drang Valley in 1965 (later a best-selling book and motion picture, *We Were Soldiers*), said the news of Hack's passing had "streaked across the world like shrapnel," resonating the most among young soldiers serving in a wartime Army today.

Few commanders have the ability to understand what those soldiers see and feel," said Moore, alluding to Hack's early days as an Army grunt before he won a battlefield commission in Korea.

But it was John Falcon's reminiscences as an Army

helicopter pilot serving with Hack during his command of the 4/39th Infantry Battalion nearly 40 years ago that electrified the band of mourners. When a small group of his soldiers were pinned down by a much larger Viet Cong force in March 1969, Hack flew to the scene and tried everything to free them from the enemy's grip, Falcon explained - close air support, field artillery, naval gunfire and smoke screens. "Nothing worked," he added.

Falcon said he clearly recalled glancing at Hack as they braved a hail of ground fire while attempting those efforts. "I saw his emotions: anger, frustration, grief and determination." Finally, Hack ordered Falcon to mount "the most dangerous rescue" by landing their helicopter in the middle of the inferno. The helicopter was still five feet from the ground when Hack leaped out and sprinted into a torrent of enemy tracers, quickly returning with a wounded soldier. He repeated this over and over until the chopper was full of the wounded - so full that when it lifted off, Hack was forced to stand outside on one of its landing skids, grasping the door frame while a soldier inside held onto his belt.

Noting that the Army is still considering awarding Hack the Medal of Honor for that night's rescue of his troops, Falcon said, "He certainly earned it. He certainly deserves it."

The words of praise continued, from fellow journalists such as Gordon Liddy, Catherine Crier and Neil Cavuto, and others including the doctor who helped Hack fight his last battle with cancer, and Phil Matthews, a friend and advisor to Soldiers For The Truth. Finally, Eilhys stepped up to the microphone and briefly spoke of her long love affair



LTG Hal Moore, Eilhys England, Sen. Bob Kerry

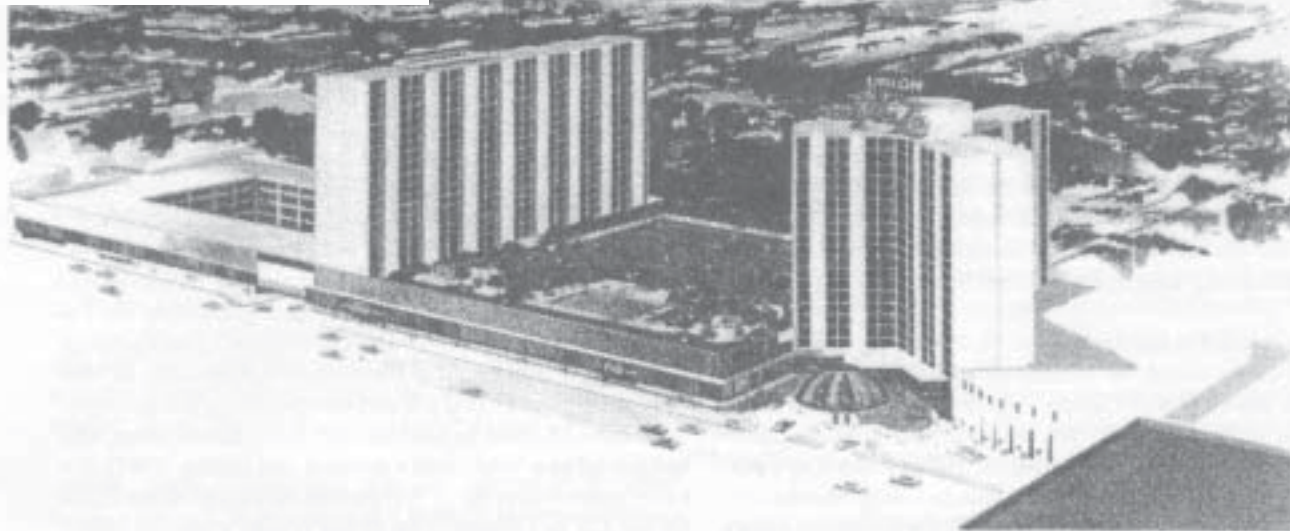
with Hack and of her determination to carry on his work for the troops through SFTT.

Then it was time for Hack's last march. A band and two platoons of the Old Guard began the slow journey through the gate into Arlington, followed by the caisson carrying his remains in a flag-draped casket, the riderless horse, and a half-mile long procession of those who followed him, fought with him and served with him. On a rolling patch of grass highlighted by the straight rows of headstones of his comrades gone before, Hack reached his final destination.

The triple crack of the firing party, the sweet sad notes of the bugler brought Hack's saga to an end at long last.



To the everlasting glory of the infantry, shines the name, shines the name...



Friday, October 21

Noon to 1800 Registration (Mezzanine level)
Noon to 2200 Hospitality Room Open
Evening meal on your own

Saturday, October 22

0900 to 1100 Board of Directors' Meeting
1000 to 1800 Registration (Hospitality Room)
1300 to 1630 *Hoover Dam Tour*
1800 Cocktails (Dress: Casual)
1900 Buffet
Introductions
Special Entertainment
(Ralph Casperson)
Awards
50/50 Lottery Drawing

Hospitality Room Open After The Buffet

Sunday, October 23

0800 to 0930 Buffet Breakfast
1000 to 1045 Memorial Service
(All are encouraged to attend)
1800 Cocktails (Musical Entertainment)
1900 Banquet (Uniform, Tuxedo, or
Coat/Tie, Ladies as appropriate)
Introductions

Keynote Speaker

John J. McGinty III

Congressional Medal of Honor (RVN)

Award of Commander's Trophy
Salute to the Flag (John Short)

Hospitality Room Open After The Banquet

Monday, October 24

0700 to 1100 Get Away Breakfast
(Hospitality Room)

Have A Safe Trip Home

Fremont Street Experience

Between Main St. and Las Vegas Boulevard.

This pedestrian promenade in the heart of downtown Las Vegas turns up the wattage on a city already crackling with electric entertainment.

Surrounded by 10 hotels and spanning a four-block stretch, Fremont Street Experience employs more than 2.1 million lights and 540,000 watts of audio in a state-of-the-art canopy constructed 90 feet over street level.

The sky truly is the limit when it comes to the one-of-a-kind light and sound shows produced here nightly.

Fremont Street Experience is a can't miss attraction in Las Vegas, and it's free!

Hours of Operation: Shows each hour on the hour from dusk to midnight daily.

A Sight Worth Seeing

Hoover Dam is just a short drive from Las Vegas and if you haven't seen it, it's well worth the drive. And if you have, it's still worth it!

Hoover Dam, rising 221 m (726 ft) above the bed of the Colorado River between Nevada and Arizona, was the world's tallest Dam at the time of its completion in 1936, and it still ranks among the largest.

Called Boulder Dam from 1933, it was renamed for the ex-president in 1947.

During its five-year construction, many significant innovations in large-dam-building techniques were first attempted. Hoover is a gravity-arch dam and a multipurpose structure that provides flood control, hydroelectric power, drinking and irrigation water to regions as far away as southern California. Its 185-km-long (115-m) reservoir, Lake Mead, is a popular recreation area, and the dam attracts many tourists.

Downtown Map



Soldiers For The Truth

This organization was founded by Col. David Hackworth and is continuing under the capable auspices of Roger Charles, President. Roger has agreed to continue our access to the SFTT website to select articles for the Mustang News.

We will continue to head this as Hack's Page in his honor. We look forward to receiving a picture of Roger Charles to display in the heading of this page.

Editor's Note: Excerpts of a report from Gen. Barry McCaffrey USA (Ret.) to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on his assessment of the current and future situation, following a visit to Iraq in early June 2005.

1 - US Military Forces in Iraq are Superb.

Our Army-Marine ground combat units with supporting Air and Naval Power are characterized by quality military leadership, solid discipline, high morale, and enormous individual and unit courage. Unit effectiveness is as good as we can get. This is the most competent and battle wise force in our nation's history. They are also beautifully cared for by the chain-of-command – and they know it. (Food, A/C sleeping areas, medical care, mental health care, home leave, phone/e-mail contact with families, personal equipment, individual and unit training, targeted economic incentives in the battle area, visibility of tactical leadership, home station care for their families, access to news information, etc).

2 - The point of the US war effort is to create legitimate and competent Iraqi national, provincial, and municipal governance.

We are at a turning point in the coming six months. The momentum is now clearly with the Iraqi Government and the Coalition Security Forces. The Sunnis are coming into the political process. They will vote in December. Unlike the Balkans, the Iraqis want this to succeed. Foreign fighters are an enormously lethal threat to the Iraqi civilian population, the ISF, and Coalition Forces in that order. However, they will be an increasing political disaster for the insurgency. Over time they are actually adding to the credibility of the emerging Iraqi government. We should expect to see a dwindling number of competent, suicide-capable Jihadists. Those who come to Iraq will be rapidly killed in Iraq. The picture by next summer will be unfavorable to recruiting foreigners to die in Iraq while attacking fellow Arabs. The January 2005 Iraqi elections created the beginnings of legitimacy and have fostered a supportive political base to create the new Iraqi Security Forces.

The August Iraqi Constitutional Referendum and the December-January election and formation of a new government will build the prototype for the evolution of an effective, law-based Iraqi State with a reliable Security Force. January thru September 2006 will be the peak period of the insurgency –and the bottom rung of the new Iraq. The positive trend lines following the January 2006 elections (if they continue) will likely permit the withdrawal of substantial US combat forces by late summer of 2006. With 250,000 Iraqi Security Forces successfully operating in support of a government which includes substantial Sunni participation, the energy will start rapidly draining out of the insurgency.

3 - The Iraqi Security Forces

They are now a real and hugely significant factor. LTG Dave Petraeus has done a brilliant job with his supporting trainers. 169,000 Army and Police exist in various stages of readiness. They have uniforms, automatic weapons, body armor, some radios, some armor, light trucks, and battalion-level organization. At least 60,000 are courageous Patriots who are actively fighting. By next summer 250,000 Iraqi troops and 10 division HQS will be the dominant security factor in Iraq. However, much remains to be done. There is no maintenance or logistics system. There is no national command and control. Corruption is a threat factor of greater long-range danger than the armed insurgency. The Insurgents have widely infiltrated the ISF. The ISF desperately needs more effective, long-term NCO and Officer training. Finally, the ISF absolutely must have enough helicopter air mobility (120+ Blackhawk UH 60s) – and a substantial number of armored vehicles to lower casualties and give them a competitive edge over the insurgents they will fight. (2000 up-armor Humvees, 500 ASVs, and 2000 M113A3s with add-on armor package)

4 - Top CENTCOM Vulnerabilities

1st - Premature drawdown of U.S. ground forces driven by dwindling U.S. domestic political support and the progressive deterioration of Army and Marine manpower (in particular, the expected meltdown of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve in the coming 36 months)

2nd - Alienation of the U.S. Congress or the American people caused by Iraqi public ingratitude and corruption.

3rd - Political ineptitude of Shia civil leadership that freezes out the Sunnis and creates a civil war during

our drawdown.

4th - "The other shoe" - a war with North Korea, Venezuela, Syria, Iran or Cuba that draws away U.S. military forces and political energy.

5th - The loss or constraint of our logistics support bases in Kuwait. Clearly we need constant diplomatic attention and care to this vital Ally. If Kuwait became unstable or severely alienated to US Military objectives in the region, then our posture in Iraq would be placed in immediate fatal peril.

6th - Open intervention by Iranian intelligence or military forces to support rogue Shia Iraqi insurgency. (Assassination of Sistani-armed rebellion by Sadr).

7th - Continued under-manning and too rapid turnover in State Department inter-agency representation in Iraq.

8th - Lack of continuity in CENTCOM strategic and operational senior leadership. The CENTCOM military leadership we now have is a collective national treasure.

General Abizaid's value to the War effort based on his credibility to US Military Forces - and ability to communicate and relate to the Iraqi emergent leadership - cannot be overstated. The combination of a three-star tactical Headquarters (LTG John Vines is the most experienced and effective operational battle leader we have produced in a generation) - and an in-country four-star strategic commander (Gen. George Casey) has improved the situation from the overwhelmed, under-resourced Bremer-Sanchez ad hoc arrangement. LTG Dave Petraeus has done a superb job building the ISF. Relationships are everything in this campaign. We need to lock in our senior team for the coming 24 months. Suggest that the three key US/Coalition military HQS of Casey-Petraeus-Vines need to stop unit rotation and go to individual replacement rotation. The very senior U.S. military leadership needs their families based in a Kuwait compound with periodic visits authorized. (We did this with General Abrams and his senior leaders during the final phase of Vietnam.)

5 - The Enemy Threat

1st - The Iraqi Insurgency threat is enormously more complex than Vietnam. There we faced a single opposing ideology; known enemy leaders; a template enemy organizational structure; an external sanctuary which was vital to the insurgency to bring in fighters, ammunition, resources; and relative security in urban areas under Allied/Vietnamese Government control. Iraq is much tougher. The enemy forces in this struggle are principally Sunni irredentists - but there is also a substantial criminal class determined to murder, rob,

kidnap and create chaos. We also face a small but violent foreign Jihadist terrorist element. These terrorists do not depend on foreign sanctuary. They can arm themselves with the incredible mass of munitions and weapons scattered from one end of Iraq to the other. Finally, Iraq is encircled by six bordering nations - all of whom harbor ill-will for the struggling democratic Iraqi state.

2nd - On the positive side of the ledger: High Sunni voting turnout and political participation in December will likely set the conditions for the downhill slide of the insurgency. The insurgency can no longer mass against Coalition forces with units greater than squad level - they all get killed in short order by very aggressive US/UK combat Forces. The insurgents have been forced to principally target the weak links - the Iraqi Police and innocent civilians. This will be a counter-productive strategy in the mid-term. It has been forced on them by the effective counter-insurgency operations and information operations of Coalition forces. Insurgents now have a reduced capability to attack Coalition forces by direct fire: 80% (+) of the attacks are carried out with standoff weapons or suicide bombings (mortars, rockets, IEDs). Suicide IED attack is enormously effective. However, it will soon likely become a fragile tool. The Jihadists will begin to run short of human bombs. Most are killed or die while carrying out missions which are marginally effective. This must be a prime enemy vulnerability for Coalition information warfare operations. We must continue to level with the American people. We still have a five-year fight facing us in Iraq.

3rd - The Fallujah Situation: The city has huge symbolic importance throughout Mideast. Unrealistic expectations were raised on how rapidly the Coalition could rebuild. The City appears to be an angry disaster. Money doesn't rebuild infrastructure - bulldozers and workers and cement do. The Coalition needs an Iraqi/Coalition effort principally executed by military engineers - and thousands of Iraqi workers - to re-build the City. We need a "Pierre L'Enfant" of Fallujah. Police stations are planned but barely started. The train station is mined and the trains do not function. Roads must be paved. We need to eliminate major signs of US caused war damage, etc.

6 - Coalition Public Diplomacy Policy is a Disaster

1st - The US media is putting the second team in Iraq with some exceptions. Unfortunately, the situation is extremely dangerous for journalists. The working conditions for a reporter are terrible. They cannot travel independently of US military forces without risking

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abduction or death. In some cases, the press has degraded to reporting based on secondary sources, press briefings which they do not believe, and alarmist video of the aftermath of suicide bombings obtained from Iraqi employees of unknown reliability.

2nd - Our unbelievably competent, articulate, objective, and courageous Battalion, Brigade, and Division Commanders are not on TV. These commanders represent an Army-Marine Corps which is rated as the most trusted institution in America by every poll.

3rd - We are not aggressively providing support (transportation, security, food, return of film to an upload site, etc) to reporters to allow them to follow the course of the war.

4th - Military leaders on the ground are talking to people they trust instead of talking to all reporters who command the attention of the American people. (We need to educate and support AP, Reuters, Gannet, Hearst, The Washington Post, The New York Times, etc.)

7 - SUMMARY

a. This is the darkness before dawn in the efforts to construct a viable Iraqi state. The enterprise was badly launched – but we are now well organized and beginning to develop successful momentum. The future outcomes are largely a function of the degree to which Iraqi men and women will overcome fear and step forward to seize the leadership opportunity to create a new future.

b. We face some very difficult days in the coming 2-5 years. In my judgment, if we retain the support of the American people we can achieve our objectives of creating a law-based Iraqi state which will be an influencing example on the entire region.

c. A successful outcome would potentially usher in a very dramatically changed environment throughout the Middle East and signal in this region the end of an era of incompetent and corrupt government which fosters frustration and violence on the part of much of the population.

d. It was an honor and a very encouraging experience to visit CENTCOM Forces in Iraq and Kuwait and see the progress achieved by the bravery and dedication of our military forces.



When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.

Anonymous

Who Packs Your Parachute?

Sometimes in the daily challenges life gives us, we miss what is really important. We may fail to say hello, please or thank you, congratulate someone on something wonderful that has happened to them, give a compliment, or do something nice for no reason.

CDR Charles Plumb, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 missions, his plane was hit by a surface to air missile. He ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He spent 6 years in a communist prison. He survived the ordeal and now lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man from another table came up and said, "You're CDR Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the carrier Kitty Hawk. And you were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" he asked. "I packed your parachute," the man said.

CDR Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man shook his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" with a smile.

Plumb assured him, "It sure did. If it hadn't I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about the man. He kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform, Dixie cup hat and bell bottom trousers. How many times I might have seen him and not even said good morning, how are you, because I was a fighter pilot and he was just a sailor.

He thought about the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the packing room, carefully weaving shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hand the life of someone he didn't know.

No CDR Plumb asks his audience, "Who packs your parachute?"

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. His experience reminds us all to prepare ourselves to weather whatever storms lie ahead. As you walk through your life, recognize the people who pack your parachute.

Panda Mating Fails; Veteranarian Takes Over

(What a guy!)

Hiroshima Provides Another Chance to Trash Our History

National Focus

Excerpts from an article by Thomas Sowell

Every August, there are some Americans who insist on wringing their hands over the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, so it was perhaps inevitable that such people would have an orgy of wallowing in guilt on the 60th anniversary of that tragic day.

We can all lament that this terrible power of mass destruction has been revealed to the world and fear its ominous consequences for us all, including our children and grandchildren. But that is wholly different from saying that a great moral evil was committed when the first atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

What was new about these bombs was the technology, not the morality. More people were killed with ordinary bombs in German cities or in Tokyo. Vastly more people were killed with ordinary bullets and cannon on the Russian front. Morality is about what you do to people, not the technology you use.

The guilt-mongers have twisted the facts of history beyond recognition in order to say that it was unnecessary to drop those atomic bombs. Japan was going to lose the war anyway, they say. What they don't say is — at what price in American lives? Or even in Japanese lives?

The alternative to the atomic bombs was an invasion of Japan, which was already being planned for 1946, and those plans included casualty estimates even more staggering than the deaths that have left a sea of crosses in American cemeteries at Normandy and elsewhere. "Revisionist" historians have come up with casualty estimates a small fraction of what the American and British military leaders responsible for planning the invasion of Japan have come up with.

Who are we to believe, those who had personally experienced the horrors of the war in the Pacific and who had a lifetime of military experience, or leftist historians hot to find something else to blame America for?

During the island-hopping war in the Pacific, it was not uncommon for thousands of Japanese troops to fight to the death on an island, while the number captured were a few dozen. Even some Japanese

soldiers too badly wounded to stand would lie where they fell until an American medical corpsman approached to treat their wounds — and then they would set off a grenade to kill them both.

In the air the same spirit led kamikaze pilots to deliberately crash their planes into American ships and bombers.

Japan's plans for defense against invasion involved mobilizing the civilian population, including women and children, for the same suicidal battle tactics. The invasion would have been the greatest blood bath in history.

We might have gotten a negotiated peace if we had dropped the "unconditional surrender" demand. But at what cost? Seeing a militaristic Japan arise again in a few years, this time armed with nuclear weapons that they would not have hesitated for one minute to drop on Americans.

As it was, the unconditional surrender of Japan enabled Gen. Douglas MacArthur to engineer one of the great historic transformations of a nation from militarism to pacifism, to the relief of hundreds of millions of their neighbors, who had suffered horribly at the hands of their Japanese conquerors.

The facts might deprive the revisionists of their platform for lashing out at America and for the ego trip of moral preening, but, fear not, they will find or manufacture other occasions for that. The rest of us need to understand what irresponsible frauds they are — and how the stakes are too high to let the fourth estate succeed as a fifth column undermining the society on which our children and grandchildren's security will depend.

*Thomas Sowell is a senior fellow
at Stanford University's Hoover Institution
in Stanford, California*



"I'm a self-made man, but I think if I had it to do over again, I'd call in someone else."

Roland Young, English actor (1887-1953)

A pessimist is a man who looks both ways when he's crossing a one-way street.

Lawrence Peter of The Peter Principle (1919-1990)



Bob Evans

TMC fought long and hard for the increases in compensation and insurance coverage for the survivors of service members who die in combat zones. An increase in death gratuity benefits rose from \$12,500 to \$100,000 in May of this year, along with a Group Life Insurance maximum coverage increase to \$400,000 to become effective September 1. It should

be noted that when the increase in life insurance takes effect this September, it will be dated retroactively to October 7, 2001. Survivors of service members who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations between the October date and September 1 will receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, bringing them to the \$400, 000 level.

TMC strongly supported the "Supply Our Soldiers Act of 2005." The act will extend postal benefits to a designated representative (next of kin) on an active duty, National Guard or Reserve service member serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as charitable organizations serving service members who are hospitalized due to injuries received or illness incurred in Iraq or Afghanistan. The bill will also extend this benefit to the next of kin for service members who are hospitalized due to injuries received or illnesses incurred in Iraq or Afghanistan.

TMC sent a letter to Senator Elizabeth Dole commending her on sponsoring an amendment to FY 2006 National Defense Authorization Act, establishing consumer-lending protection for service members and their families. The amendment takes into account a large fraction of our volunteers who enlist immediately after graduating from high school. These volunteers have limited experience in financial matters and are easy targets for unscrupulous lenders. The average Seaman or Private already lives on a relatively low income, and can ill afford to be saddled with ridiculously high interest loans and other indebtedness. The amendment aims to regulate the actions of the unscrupulous lenders and to make abuses punishable by Federal Law.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is charged with the development/maintenance of four (4) registries:

1. Agent Orange (Vietnam War)
2. Ionizing Radiation (Nuclear Exposure)

3. Gulf War Iraqi (Inclusive of Afghanistan-Formerly Persian Gulf Registry-Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm)
4. ALS Registry (Lou Gehrig's Disease)

For the prime purpose of this response, VHA Handbook 1303.2 (7 March 2005) serves to encompass all, as a point for clarification, as the protocols are similar. The handbook is accessible via the web. Each registry sets forth the requirement that affected/effected veterans are "registered" following a mandatory complete Physical.

TMC is sending a lengthy letter to Capitol Hill urging the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission to thoroughly evaluate the effects of its recommendations on all active, Guard, Reserve, and retired personnel plus their families and survivors. The letter asks the commission to take into account the impact of medical facility closures and realignment recommendations on quality of life programs like housing, quality schools, commissaries, exchanges, child care and youth programs, morale, welfare and recreation programs, family centers and chaplains' programs.

Concern is expressed in the letter that closures will have a negative impact on recruiting and retention. The letter cites the closure of Navy/Marine Corps Reserve Center in Madison, Wisconsin and the Navy Reserve Center in Lacrosse, Wisconsin, relocating the Navy and Marine Corps units to Armed Forces Reserve Center Madison, Wisconsin. The distance between Lacrosse and Madison is 144 miles. It is not unreasonable to speculate that some reservists, and their families, may grow tired of driving 288 miles each month for drill. Closures will also have a negative impact on support for Guard and Reserve members who are recognized as America's Hometown Military Force since many are firemen, police, truck drivers, doctors and other professionals. The sense of hometown involvement and recognition will be lost in many communities.

The Military Coalition recognizes the impact of this particular letter on the ultimate BRAC outcome may be minimal; however, The Coalition does represent a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans' organizations, representing more than 5.5 million members plus their families and survivors, so there is a bit of horse power packed into the letter.

Bob Evans reports he commutes a roundtrip of 20 miles to work...on his bicycle!! Also, that he is an excellent cook, except when wife, Patricia, is traveling then he reverts to more "manly" fare: hot dogs and hamburgers. What follows is the what he endures as a spouse. As the saying goes, "it's tough duty, but someone has to do it."

Concurrent Travel Is Always Best by Bob Evans

For those old timers reading this, you may remember that military concurrent travel was, at one time, a true luxury. It was so nice to have the whole family travel together to the new PCS location. All too often, the person changing station reported to the new duty station well in advance of his/her family members. The family members, in many cases were left to pack, check out of their quarters, and live in transient quarters until they received their travel "orders." Converted victory ships like the Hudelston and the General Patch, would be filled to their gunnels, most often with wives and children traveling to join husbands and fathers in Europe and Asia.

Those days are far behind me. I am enjoying concurrent travel exclusively. I travel with my wife whenever she is required to attend a meeting in an interesting locale. My wife is the deputy director for nuclear safety with the U.S. Department of State. Her area of responsibility includes Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, central Europe, India, and Pakistan. She represents the U.S. in multilateral nuclear safety forums to ensure the countries' nuclear safety priorities reflect those of the United States. Many of her meetings with members of the G-8, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development are held in Vienna, Lithuania, Paris, London, Ukraine and Moscow.

I have accompanied Patricia several times to London, Paris, Lithuania and Vienna. While she works, I am responsible for sight seeing, sampling the local brew and choosing the appropriate restaurant or café for dinner. Needless to say, I have taken full advantage of the situation and am looking forward to accompanying her this fall to Moscow. As an aside, she is scheduled to attend a meeting in Hanoi in early October; this one I will skip.

The Soldier stood and faced God,
Which must always come to pass.
He hoped his shoes were shining,
Just as brightly as his brass.

"Step forward now, you soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?"

The soldier squared his shoulders and said,
"No, Lord, I guess I ain't.
Because those of us who carry guns,
Can't always be a saint.
I've had to work most Sundays,
And at times my talk was tough.
And sometimes I've been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.
But I never took a penny,
That wasn't mine to keep...
Though I've worked a lot of overtime,
When the bills got just too steep.
And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear.
And sometimes, God, forgive me,
I've wept unmanly tears.
I know I don't deserve a place
Among the people here.
They never wanted me around,
Except to calm their fears.
If you've a place for me here, Lord,
It needn't be so grand.
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don't, I'll understand."

There was a silence all around the throne,
Where the saints had often trod.
As the soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God.
"Step forward now, you soldier,
You've borne your burdens well.
Walk peacefully on Heaven's streets,
You've done your time in Hell."

Author Unknown

Sent in by Bob Evans

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