



Mustang News



Vol. 27 No. 3

Quarterly Newsletter of the National Order of Battlefield Commissions

Fall 2006

Fellow Mustangs and Ladies:

Summer has arrived in our nation's capital with a fiery vengeance. We hit the century mark not seen since the summer of 2002, but then for those living in the lower 48, almost everyone has experienced record and near record heat this July. Global warming has finally come home to roost.

Before I get too far into this message, I need to pass on some troubling news, our deputy commander, Steve Shivers has decided not to take the helm of NOBC this October. Steve has been ill for an extended period and feels he may not be able to do justice to the position of commander. I am certain all who read this will, as I do, wish Steve God speed in getting back into fighting shape, and hope he will continue to be an active NOBC member.

Our Mustang Ponies have really stepped up to the plate and have hit a home run. Sharon Norlander, daughter of our deceased comrade Ed Burke, spent an inordinate amount of time in finding and securing the Radisson Hotel in San Antonio for our convention/reunion this October. This is a prime location in a prime city, sometimes referred to as the Venice of the southwest. The Radisson is conveniently located

Commander's Message

by Robert Evans



to all the downtown features, including the famous river walk and the Alamo. I sincerely hope each NOBC member will make every effort to attend.

On June 10, in Greenwich, Connecticut, Mrs. Eilys Hackworth presided over a memorial service for her husband on the first anniversary of his death. She decided to hold the memorial, in larger part, for those who were unable to attend the funeral at Arlington. The memorial was held at the city library theater and was exceptionally well attended by local, state and national dignitaries including former Senator and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Bob Kerry. As you might imagine, there were speeches and remembrances, each one calling to mind the strong character of Col.

David Hackworth, what he did as an active duty soldier and what he did in retirement to continue his support of the active duty soldier. The helicopter pilot who flew Col. Hackworth in Vietnam to literally pluck several front-line soldiers out of the jaws of death, provided an overview of the mission. Col. Hackworth was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions, but the final disposition remains undecided.

I did present Mrs. Hackworth with both our memorial plaque and companion framed remembrance. Pictures of the presentation are included in this Mustang News. I had the occasion to speak with Senator Bob Kerry who, along with General Hal Moore, escorted Mrs. Hackworth from the Fort Meyer Chapel to Col. Hackworth's final resting place last year. Senator Kerry continues to hold Col. Hackworth in absolute esteem, as do so many of our front-line soldiers fighting the war on terrorism.

In addition to the pictures, I have written a short piece titled "Where Do We Go From Here?" This October's convention/reunion is going to provide the venue where we (NOBC) will have to decide whether to fish or cut bait. Please read.

Officers and Directors

National Commander

Robert C. Evans
(202) 414-3020 (O)
(703) 838-5548 (H)
e-mail: rcevans@mmm.com

Deputy Commander

Stephen L. Shivers
(864) 292-1423
e-mail: slshivers@aol.com

Admin & Fin Officer

Stanley W. Schmucker
(321) 255-5919
e-mail: stanobc@webtv.net

National Adjutant

Council J. "Pete" Armstrong
(828) 654-9920
e-mail: PeteBeret@aol.com

TMC Representative

See National Commander

Chaplain

Warren P. Schilling
(239) 461-5739

Historian

James W. Plate
(815) 399-6953
e-mail: jwplate@aol.com

Judge Advocate

James M. Davis
(402) 341-9900 (Off.)
e-mail: polo@uswest.net

PX Officer

Gilbert H. "Gib" Bolton
(760) 433-7746

Editor, Mustang News

William "Bill" Wynn
(808) 672-9930
e-mail:
wynnwynn@hawaiiantel.net

Publisher, Mustang News

Barbara Nutter
(405) 247-5864

Past Commanders

Gilbert H. "Gib" Bolton
Russel M. Brami
Neal G. Grimland
Council "Pete" Armstrong
e-mail: peteberet@aol.com
Donald C. Van Roosen
e-mail: donvr@pinehurst.net

Board of Directors (yrs)

Thomas Andrews (3)
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Leroy E. "Roy" Bunders (2)
William T. Tibbitt (2)
James Davis (1)
Stephen "Steve" Parisi (1)

Hello to all of you!

I want to update you on what has happened to me this last year or so. Most of you have not heard from me since a year ago Christmas. At that time I was still living in the garden apartment which has been my home here in Shell Point Retirement Community for the last eighteen years.

In June and July 2005, I had three bad falls, which necessitated my move into the Shell Point nursing facility on this same campus, called the Pavilion, where I am at present. My accommodations consist of a large double room and the Calusahtchee River just beyond. This is located on the same grounds as my former apartment all owned and operated by Shell Point Retirement Community, which is known to be one of the best of its kind in the USA.

My falls have affected my mobility so that I am limited to the use of a wheel chair except for a few steps with a three-wheeled walker. This of course necessitates the use of personnel to assist me. It has become evident that



Warren Schilling

these limitations will accompany me the rest of my life, but I am well taken care of by 24 hour nursing service and resident doctors on call as needed. I have given up my car and bicycle and must depend on others to get me to appointments with

specialists outside of Shell Point. This is taken care of by volunteer drivers who are most accommodating. Within these limitations the Lord has helped me to enjoy and appreciate the limited lifestyle which my circumstances dictate.

I appreciate being able to have continued contact with each of you though my ability to write by hand is limited. My prayers go out to each of you and I will appreciate yours on my behalf. I send my cordial greetings to each one. I have my telephone close at hand and would be glad to hear from any of you.

Warren

*The Larsen Pavilion, Room 4009
15071 Shell Point Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
239-461-5739*

From the Hawaii Editor's Desk

by Bill "Scotty" Wynn



Mustang News

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Mail submissions to:
Bill Wynn, *Mustang News*
92-1244 Hunekai St.
Kapolei, HI 96707-1541
Phone: 808-672-9930
e-mail: wynnwynn@hawaiiantel.net



TAPS

for Mustangs answering
their final muster:

- 705-Edward C. Dahlgren-ME*
- 774L-Chester W. Forsythe-OK
- 099-William L. Kline-KS
- 851-Reid E. Pepper-OK
- 961-Noel F. Ross-TX
- 191L-Donald E. Rudolph-MN*
- Wilfred M. Thornton-IN
- 406-Harry R. Zuehlke-WI

*Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient

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

New Members

1152L
Wimpy D. Pybus
5432 Edsall Ridge Pl.
Alexandria, VA 22312
Co B 1st Aviation Bn
1st Infantry Div
(Vietnam)

New Life Members

127L Wayne J. Guidry-NM
779L Leslie D. Brown-FL

Letters from NOBC Next of Kin

NOBC widows or next of kin receive a plaque and citation honoring their late husbands from Gib Bolton

From Mrs. Helen Rudolph:

Thank you so veery much for the lovely plaque in memory of Don. It will be hung in the room with all the Medal of Honor pictures and memorabilia items.

Thanks again for the generous gift.
The Donald Rudolph Family

From Mrs. William Grey:

The plaque is beautiful and Bill would be very proud of it. Just one small hitch in the perfection - the name is Grey not Gray as presented. (A replacement plaque was sent on 1 May 06).

Many thanks for the new and (and improved) plaque. It's very handsome. Thank you, again.
Bonnie Grey

Editor: Col David Hackworth Day is presented on pages 14 and 15. I just couldn't pass up this picture. What do you suppose this discussion between Bob Evans and Eilhys Hackworth is about?



PHOTO: JONATHAN ELLIS
PROCESSED EXPOSURE, CT

Where Do We Go From Here?

This is by no means rocket science. Our NOBC ranks are dwindling, the number of attendees at our most recent conventions/reunions has been falling off precipitously, and without active participation, this organization can no longer survive. There is a reason why our founding fathers set NOBC up with officers and directors, and governance documents. The reason was to take advantage of the limitless expertise and willingness of the membership to serve NOBC, in a well-orchestrated fashion. Like any young and vivacious organization, NOBC hit the ground running with an active core. Our organization gradually grew to over a thousand active members. Time and nature have taken their toll on our ranks. Our core leadership comprised of WWII and Korean veterans has been significantly thinned to the point that the baton has been passed to our Vietnam veterans to carry on the work and tradition of NOBC.

Sadly, we find ourselves at a juncture where we must make a very difficult decision. Simply stated, we need to have our members who are physically able, to become active. We are in need of a Chaplain, an Adjutant, a Deputy Commander and three members who are willing to serve on our Board of Directors, or we will have to strike our colors. Believe me, this is by no means a threat, rather a plea for your support.

In discussing our (NOBC) future with Past National Commander Gib Bolton, he suggested that perhaps we should think about holding our "flag folding" ceremony at the Alamo. While Gib was being humorous, there is more than a kernel of truth in his statement.

To our Vietnam veterans I ask you to ask yourselves whether the continued viability of NOBC is important to you or not. If your answer is "yes" to continued viability, then we need your support. My email address and phone numbers are printed in this Mustang News. The ball is in your court, where we go from here is essentially up to you.

Terms We Should Know and Use

Hirabah

Mufsidun

Fatin

See article on Page 5



Here is a great read

Once An Eagle by Anton Myrer

Foreword by General John W. Vessey, Jr.

Army War College Foundation Press



On The Lighter Side

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

Ann Landers

The average dog is a nicer person than the average person.

Andy Rooney

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult.

Rita Rudner

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

Robert A. Heinlein

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.

Roger Caras



Why did God make Adam first?

Because he didn't want anyone telling him what to do!

Only Adam had no mother-in-law.

That is why we know he lived in paradise.

Work fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours.

Choosing Words Carefully: Language to Help Fight Islamic Terrorists

National Defense University - Center for Strategic Communications

The United States must do more to communicate its message. Reflecting on Bin Ladin's success in reaching Muslim audiences, Richard Holbrooke wondered, "How does a man in a cave outcommunicate the world's leading communication society?"

Use Precise Terms Precisely

The answer to Mr. Holbrooke's question is an unsophisticated one: Bin Ladin speaks in a language that his Muslim listeners understand. We, on the other hand, simply do not comprehend the meaning of many words that we use to describe the enemy. American leaders misuse language to such a degree that they unintentionally wind up promoting the ideology of the groups the United States is fighting. We cannot win widespread support throughout the Muslim world if we use terms that, to them, define the behavior of our enemies as moral. Because the Global War on Terrorism—or more precisely the war against Islamic totalitarian terrorism—includes a war of ideas, leaders, journalists, authors and speakers must use the most accurate terms to describe those ideas.

The responsibility for precision in expression rests with anyone who believes in the need to share information candidly. But for those unfamiliar with Islamic doctrine, history and tradition, it may often be necessary to rely on scholars or other experts about the Islamic world to provide one with the necessary guidance to help convey the message correctly. Muslims will ultimately determine whether the ideology of al-Qa'ida, its affiliates, franchises and fellow travelers represents authentic Islam or not, but the West can have enormous influence on their decisions.

Furthermore, it is important to make sure that the civilian community in the United States and that of our allies and coalition partners accurately understands the nature of the enemy that we are fighting. Unfortunately, Western governments, intellectuals and journalists commonly use words

that inadvertently (or sometimes deliberately) authenticate the doctrines of our enemy as truly Islamic. Correcting this vocabulary is a necessary step to educate the wide-ranging groups who are affected by the war; to discredit those who either passively or actively, or wittingly or unwittingly support Islamic totalitarian terrorism; and to reveal the truly insidious nature of our enemy.

What Are We Really Saying?

This essay discusses the most egregious and dangerous misuses of language regarding Islamic totalitarian terrorists; a comprehensive study would require a book. We begin with the word **jihad**, which literally means striving and generally occurs as part of the expression **jihad fi sabil illah**, striving in the path of God. Striving in the path of God is a duty of all Muslims. Calling our enemies jihadis and their movement a global jihad thus indicates that we recognize their doctrines and actions as being in the path of God and, for Muslims, legitimate. In short, we explicitly designate ourselves as the enemies of Islam.

Muslims have debated the meaning and application of the concept of jihad for centuries. Our application of the term to the actions of our enemies puts us on their side of the debate. We need not concern ourselves with the identification of the original or legally correct meaning of the term; individual Muslims will make up their own minds. As Professor Streusand has previously written, "Classical texts speak only to, not for, contemporary Muslims." It is important to note that opposing jihad, a basic principle of Islam, violates a classical text of our own. The United States constitution *denies our government the ability to prohibit the free exercise of religion*; consequently, we should never use a term, such as jihad, that misstates our current and historical position on religion.

Mujahid (plural *mujahidin* or *mujahideen*): one who participates in jihad, and frequently translated in the American media as "holy warrior." The use of

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

this term designates the activity of the enemy as jihad and thus legitimizes it. It was quite proper for us to describe the warriors who resisted the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan as mujahidin, many of whom are not our allies as well as authenticates our opponents as warriors for Islam. Even to a Western audience it can lend a sense of nobility to an otherwise ignoble enemy.

Caliphate (*khlilafa*): This term literally means successor and came to refer to the successors of the Prophet Muhammad as the political leaders of the Muslim community. Sunni Muslims traditionally regard the era of the first four caliphs (632-661) as an era of just rule. Accepting our enemies' description of their goal as the restoration of a historical caliphate again validates an aspect of their ideology. Al-Qa'ida's caliphate would not mean the re-establishment of any historical regime; it would be a global totalitarian state. Anyone who needs a preview of how such a state would act merely has to review the conduct of the Taliban in Afghanistan before September 11, 2001.

Allah: the word Allah in Arabic means the God, nothing more, nothing less. It is not specifically Muslim; Arabic speaking Christians and Jews also use it. In English, Allah should be translated as God, not transliterated. While translation emphasizes the common heritage of Judaism, Christianity and Islam (the three faiths which indentify their God as the God of Abraham) it does not imply that the Abrahamic faiths share identical concepts of God. Even though some Muslims use Allah rather than God in English, the practice exaggerates the divisions among Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

What Are the Right Words for the Job?

Now that a few unsuitable word choices have been addressed, it is time to begin to identify the proper expressions to use whenever discussing the global Islamic totalitarian terrorist movement. Many of these terms will be unfamiliar to Westerners, but not to most Muslim audiences. Only those who *actively, passively or even unwittingly* support al-Qa'ida's (and similar groups) professed goals would find the terms, and their use by non-Muslims, offensive.

To refute challenges to the new context

surrounding these expressions, any user of these terms must be able to fine the words in order to defend their accuracy and the appropriateness of their use. Otherwise anyone who dares to define the enemy using its own Islamic language can be challenged by a variety of "pundits" who still see the struggle in terms of religion or poverty rather than political ideology; who despise Western society, capitalism or democracy; or who oppose the war for any other reason.

Hirabah: this word, which is derived from the Arabic root which refers to war or combat, means sinful warfare, warfare contrary to Islamic law. There is ample legal justification for applying this term to Islamic totalitarian terrorists and no moral ambiguity in its connotation. We should describe the Islamic totalitarian movement as the global **hirabah**, not the global jihad.

Mufsid (*moofsid*): this word refers to an evil or corrupt person; the plural is *mufsidun*. We call our enemies **mufsidun**, not jihadis, for two reasons. Again, there is no moral ambiguity and the specific denotation of corruption carries enormous weight in most of the Islamic world.

Fitna/fatin: *fitna* literally means temptation or trial, but has come to refer to discord and strife among Muslims; a *fatin* is a tempter or subversive. Applying these terms to our enemies and their works condemns their current activities as divisive and harmful. It also identifies them with movements and individuals in Islamic history with negative reputations such as the assassins of the Caliph 'Uthman in 656, who created the first fissure in the political unity of the Muslim community.

Not the Last Word, Just the Beginning

This essay is neither definitive nor complete. It is only the beginning of a "primer" of the terminology used to describe Islamic totalitarian movements. There should be far more discussion about the right words to use to describe the variety of threats posed by transnational terrorists—Islamic groups and others. This article, we hope will help jumpstart the discourse.

Notwithstanding the fact that this article is a small beginning, the terms proposed here should become

the indispensable part of the vocabulary of America's leaders, reporters and friends immediately. The wrong terms promote the idea that terrorist elements represent legitimate Islamic concepts, which in turn might aid in the enemy recruitment of disenfranchised Muslims because we have identified to them a seemingly "traditional" outlet through which they can voice their dissatisfaction. It is essential to use the right language to address worldwide problems so that various audiences—which include the American-Muslim community—understand the full scope of the problem and are intellectually able to identify with potential solutions that are reasonable and ethical.

This paper offers word choices not just for public officials and correspondents but even students in the classroom and others studying terrorism. In fact, anyone who is interested in current events should have some familiarity with these words as well as the concepts and new dialogue they represent. We must use the right turn of phrase whenever attempting to inform and educate; language is a key component for us to be able to, in a way that makes sense to any audience, ask for assistance or demand action that will help defeat the scourge of Islamic totalitarian terrorism.

Dr. Douglas E. Streusand is a member of the Marine Corps University Command and Staff College teaching faculty. His education specialties encompass a wide variety of topics in History and International Relations, including Islamic history, Middle Eastern, Central Asian, and South Asian affairs, geopolitics, and military history. He has taught at American Military University, now a part of the American Public University System, since 1997, and has previously taught at the University of Maryland College Park, the University of Maryland University College, and the John Hopkins University School of Continuing Studies.

Lieutenant Colonel (P) Harry D. Tunnell, USA is assigned to the National Defense University Center for Strategic Communications. In 2005 he was awarded an MS in National Security Strategy from the National War College with an Information Strategy Concentration Program area of concentration. LTC Tunnell also has an MA in Professional Communications Studies from Purdue University and an MMAS in Military History from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Note and Poem from Mustang Emral V. Kempf

Dear Bill:

Visited the cemetery May 2002 with a group from the 70th Inf Div. I was with L Co 274th Inf from basic, combat and occupation. As a reserve officer I was called back to active duty during the Korean conflict as a captain and served 21 months.

At the cemetery I located the graves of 6 of my men and could recall the names and faces of each. There were 42 of us in our group, canes and crutches and there was not a dry eye in the cathedral when this was read.

I'm sure, if this is read they all will feel the same, "those who remember."

Hope we can continue the NOBC news.

Poem Read at St. Avoild Military Cemetery

The snow white crosses march across the field
In solemn rows like soldiers on parade.
An old man paused beside a stone and kneeled,
He bowed his head and silently prayed.

His hair was gray, his face was etched by time,
His thoughts returned to nineteen forty-four
When he was young and strong in his prime.
At age eighteen he sailed for foreign shore.

"We were so young," he thought as he recalled
The days of war that happened long ago.
Scenes passing through his mind left him appalled,
Our only goal was meet and beat the foe.

Beneath those stones lie boys of other years
Who never lived to see the struggle through.
They marched to war amid their family's tears.
Now here they lie, the cost of World War Two.

Each solemn stone reveals its separate tale
Of name, and home, and rank, and unit served.
But only those who also walked this trail
Can truly know the story they observed.

These brave young men who never lived to know
A loving wife, or children of their own
Gave up their lives so many years ago,
Now, but as a name upon a small white stone.

John M. "Jack" Roberts, Author



Golden Lions

EX-Prisoner of War - WW II

Past President 2003-2004 <> 106th Infantry Division Association
Battle Campaigns - Germany <> Ardennes <> Rhineland <> Northern France
1059 Alter Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-1401
Telephone 248-338-2667 <> E-mail JMR81024@AOL.COM

July 26, 2006

Bill Wynn
Editor, Mustang News
92-144 Hunekai Street
Kapolei, HI 96707-1541

Dear Bill,

Along with my letter dated February 10, 2006 I included a copy of an ad that I asked you to publish regarding the sale of the book I authored, ***"ESCAPE!!! The True Story of a WW II P.O.W. The Germans Couldn't Hold."*** I stated in that ad that I would donate 25% of each sale to the NOBC Treasury.

Thanks for publishing my ad on Page 5 of the Spring 2006 edition. Unfortunately the ad only produced two orders for my book. However, the ad was read by Marilyn Paige, widow of Mitchell Paige, Retired Marine Colonel and recipient of the Medal of Honor. She recommended to the officials at the Eldred WW II Museum in Eldred, PA where she is an active member that I be asked to be the guest speaker for the three day Memorial weekend celebration of the Museum's 10th Anniversary.

I can only surmise that Col. Mitchell Paige was a member of NOBC and his widow Marilyn continues as an Associate member in order that she receives a copy of the Mustang News.

Page 2.

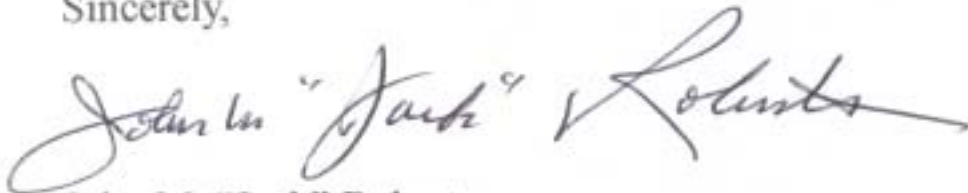
The Eldred WW II Museum is where the memoirs of Mitchell Paige are on display along with his Marine white uniform on a manikin as well as his Medal of Honor. I spent three days at the Museum and was able to tell my story at a formal program each day where about 200 people were in attendance. I made flyers available about my book and was able to get orders for three books.... From just one person who send me his order! I expected more sales from the ad in the Mustang News as well as the Museum visit but I guess people just don't want any more stories about wars. I am grateful for the sales and very grateful for the visit to the Museum where I made a lot of new friends.

Since I can attribute selling five books based on the ad that is attributable to the Mustang News ad the total income from the five sales at \$23.95 amounts to \$119.75. Twenty-five percent (25%) of that amount is \$29.94.

As a result of my sales from this ad and the visit to Eldred brought about by the ad I am enclosing my check for \$60.00 which is about 50% of the sales and made out to the NOBC Treasury.

Thank you again brother Mustang for doing all what you could for me. We just cannot force anything on anyone if they are not interested. It really is a good book but the person who does not read it cannot attest to that fact. I hope you were able to read the copy of ESCAPE!!! I sent to you along with my letter in February and that you enjoyed my story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John M. 'Jack' Roberts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John M. "Jack" Roberts

Encl.

SADDLE UP!!

IT'S SAN ANTONIO

**BREAK OUT YOUR 10 GALLON HATS AND COWBOY BOOTS
AND GET READY TO HEAD FOR THE BIG SKY COUNTRY!**



Monday, October 16

Noon to 1800 Registration
 Noon to 2200 Hospitality Room Open
 Evening Meal on Your Own

Tuesday, October 17

0900 to 1100 Board of Directors' Meeting
 1000 to 1800 Registration (Hospitality Room)
 1300 to 1800 Sightseeing and Tours
 1800 Cocktails (Dress Casual)
 1900 Buffet
 Introductions
 Awards
 50/50 Lottery Drawing

Hospitality Room Open After The Buffet

Wednesday, October 18

0900 to 1000 Memorial Service
 (All encouraged to attend)
 1000 to 1200 Business Meeting
 1200 Open Time
 1800 Cocktails
 Formal Banquet
 (Uniform, Tuxedo or coat/tie,
 Ladies as appropriate)
 Introductions
 Keynote Speaker
 Award of Commander's Trophy

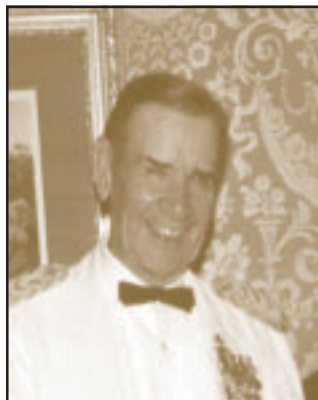
Hospitality Room Open After Banquet

Thursday, October 19

0700 to 1100 Getaway Breakfast

Have a Safe Trip to Home Station

Keynote Speaker is our own Texas Mustang and Past National Commander Neal Grimland



Neal will share his reminiscences of his time as a member of “The Greatest Generation”



Our sincere thanks to Mustang Ponies Dan Hunt and Sharon Norlander for making the administrative arrangements for the Convention/Reunion.

American Airlines

A discount code for the NOBC convention with American Airlines. It is under National Order of Battlefield Commissions. We can renew this every year for each convention. The code gives a 10% discount off any ticket price on American Airlines for travel to/from the convention in San Antonio.

The discount is: **A80H6AJ**. It is valid for travel between **14 and 22 October** from anywhere in the U.S. The code is active now.

Use this online when booking your ticket on

www.aa.com or call **American 800-221-2255 prompt 3** - there will be a **\$15** charge for reservations handled by an agent.

Avis Car Rental

A discount with **Avis Worldwide Discount (AWD)** the code number is **J995519**. Use this code when calling Avis directly at **1-888-754-8878** to receive the best possible care rental rates available. The code gives anywhere from 5 to 25% discount depending on the class of car and how long you keep the car. The discount starts 1 week before the convention and goes for 1 week after it.

Soldiers For The Truth

The organization was founded by Col. David Hackworth and is continuing under the capable auspices of Roger Charles, (LTC USMC Ret.), 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.

Abandoned On the Killing Fields - No Medevac Coming

A recent IED attack has surfaced an ugly truth - the Grunts doing the great majority of fighting and dying in Iraq are considered "more expendable" than their REMF comrades, and the people making this determination are themselves, you guessed it, REMF's!!

(Now, before I get a couple hundred emails protesting my use of REMF's as disparaging of some of our military who are themselves at risk, let me make this point. There is "risk" back in an FOB, no question. Is it the same risk as those who work outside the FOB? Don't think so. Is risk outside the FOB spread evenly? No - go to one of the infantry companies in Ramadi, or Fallujah, and then compare that risk with someone running convoys between Ramadi and Baghdad. Not the same, but one hell of a lot more than someone back in the TOC at the FOB. And, I fully appreciate the risk faced by our Combat Engineers as they clear roads, and EOD studs as they deal with IED's/EFP's. A special salute to our Combat Medics/Corpsmen out in the killing fields while I'm at it. And, the drivers who haul ass through IED Avenue - you've damn sure got my respect!! But, bottom line - if I've offended anyone who had dodged the occasional mortar shell in route to Burger King, or who has to make do with a 36 inch plasma TV while others, in the Green Zone in Baghdad have 42 inch sets, then I don't apologize. If you want me to place you in the same category as The Grunts, change MOS's! Until then, have the intellectual honesty to admit that REMF's are not deserving of the same respect given to Hack's "Warriors," even if you get the same "imminent Danger Pay." Let me make it clear that while I respect all who serve our great nation, I am not blind to the reality that not all who serve, share the same threat of death, or of crippling or maiming wounds. And, as to who is a REMF, and who is not - it's between you and your conscience. It the "shoe" fits, wear it.)



Roger Charles

Here's what happened, in the words of America's Grunts who were there:

From: The NCOs of the 4th INP Brigade SPIT Team

The 4/1 SPPT Team was traveling back to Camp Rustamiyah along EFP alley on Sunday May 14th about 5:15pm in a 3 vehicle convoy. The first humvee was hit by a massive roadside bomb called an EFP. The bomb blew the humvee into the air and created a giant cloud of debris, dirt and pavement. We stopped as fast as we could and when the smoke cleared, we could see the first humvee had been blown completely off the road and was upside down in a ditch. It was also on fire. The rest of the team tried to free the driver and vehicle commander from the wreckage but the frame was bent and the door would not open. The two soldiers in the front were trapped inside the burning vehicle and died. We could only hope they were dead from the EFP blast and did not burn to death. We tried to pull the front doors off with a winch, but the burning ammunition inside the wreck started to explode and the entire vehicle caught fire and blew up. The gunner was pulled from the wreckage and was severely wounded with shrapnel wounds from the spalling. The medic with the SPPT team was able to start working on the gunner to save his life and we gave the interpreter aid as best as we could. A medivac was immediately called for the litter urgent and critical soldier and the QRF rolled from the FOB. About 10 minutes later the tanks and humvees of the QRF got there and secured the area. What happened at this point is what we need your help with.

The medivac was denied because we could not guarantee the LZ was not hot. Even with the QRF securing the area, the medivac was not launched. We were told to transport the severely wounded soldier and interpreter back to the FOB, have the aid station stabilize them and the medivac would then fly to the FOB and pick them up. To complicate matters the QRF did not have an ambulance with

them, because the medical unit will not roll any of the 20 odd humvee and M113 combat ambulances with the QRF because it is too dangerous outside the FOB. We had to put the soldier in a humvee and drive him to the FOB, where the chickenshit medics were waiting inside the FOB gate to transport him, via ambulances to the TMC. Thank God this soldier is still alive and on his way to Landstuhl. The two soldiers were eventually pulled from the wreckage after a HEMMIT put out the fire. It took the HEMMIT almost an hour to get to the site, 3 miles away from the FOB, because the KBR contracted fire department and EMT unit refused to leave the FOB, because their contract states they will ONLY work within the protection of the FOB.

Their brand new fire engines and rescue vehicles were waiting inside the gate when we finally towed the wrecked humvee back. By the time the HEMMIT arrived, both soldiers were burned beyond recognition, to the point where their own wives could not recognize them. Last night at 1:00 am we loaded the body bags on a helicopter to BIOP to start their trip home.

When we asked why the medivac would not land on a secured LZ to medivac the critically wounded soldier, we were told "the policy is that we cannot afford to lose a Blackhawk and crew flying into potentially hostile LZ." We work in Salman Pak, which is almost an hour southeast of Baghdad. If a soldier is wounded, we are expected to self evac him back to Rustamiyah because "it is too dangerous to send a medivac, ambulance or M113 combat medic vehicle (even if it is with the QRF). From the time we landed in Kuwait and after we arrived in Iraq, we were given medivac procedure cards and even given a medivac frequency. We were told that all we had to do is call and follow the procedures on the card and a medivac would be launched. This is BOGUS! All soldiers need to know that unless they are at an FOB, the medivac will not be launched. Fire departments, EMT, combat medical vehicles, field ambulances all have orders not to leave the FOB because it is too "dangerous." The reality is if you are wounded, you are SOL until your own unit puts you into a humvee and you get back to the FOB.

Please help us to contact (deleted) about this policy. 4th ID is telling us that "this is just the way things are." That "these things happen." We need your help before this is swept under the rug.

Editor's note: in an e-mail, this stand-up Army officer had this to say in response to my query about the current system of medivac priorities.

There are 3 levels, litter, litter urgent and critical. The problem is that the soldiers are given medivac cards with freq and procedures, and briefed that if you need a medivac for a wounded soldier, call one and it will be sent. The priority is given to critical care, but the soldiers are told a medivac will be sent. The medivac will only land at the FOBs. There are plenty of M113s that have red crosses and are configured as ground medivac, but they are not used because they are deemed "unsafe." Fact is the uparmored humvee has as much or less protection, so the argument loses merit. Yes, there are plenty of Bradleys in 1-33 Cav at Rustamiyah, but they sit most of the time. 3-67 Armor only runs M1s. There is no ground medivac with the QRF.

Editor's note: When I queried our source about whether this policy was theater-wide, or a local commander's decision, here's his response.

MND-B policy states unless there is zero risk of hostile fire, the medivac will only land at the nearest FOB. The unit will self evacuate the wounded to the nearest FOB, where the medivac will pick them up and transport the wounded to the CASH.

MND-B policy also states that no M703 humvee ambulance or M113 combat ambulance will leave the FOB. These vehicles are considered to be unsafe against IED and EFP attacks.

Editor's note: Now there's a mind-blowing admission - the "dust-off" chopper and crew cannot be exposed to any risk of hostile!! Last time I looked, this was a "hostile fire pay" (aka Imminent Danger Pay) zone... Ummm? And, please note, this is not a policy set by the crew, or the supporting aviation unit. I have zero doubt that US Army aviators would fly these missions, if permitted.



**First Selectman Jim Lash, Eilhys England Hackworth, Senator Bob Kerry, Commander Bob Evans
Jim Lash read the proclamation on behalf of Governor M. Jodi Rell, declaring June 10, 2006 as
Col. David Hackworth Day**



Bob Evans and Eilhys displaying Hack's NOBC certificate and plaque

Reporting For Duty

The event was organized by Mrs. Hackworth to commemorate her husband upon the one year anniversary of his death. The event was held at the city library auditorium in Greenwich, Ct, where he and his wife had lived for the past decade or so, and it was packed. It included a short film about the soldier's distinguished military career, live music, a Connecticut Veterans Honor Guard salute, an official proclamation from the governor declaring June 10, 2006, David Hackworth Day, and comments by Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska.

Col. Hackworth joined the Merchant Marine, using forged documents at age 14, joined the Army one year later and fought in Europe at the close of WWII. He won a battlefield commission in Korea and, at age 20, had ascended to the rank of captain earning a Silver Star and Purple Heart. Hackworth served four tours in Vietnam and became the youngest full colonel there at age 40. Through the course of his career, Hackworth won 70 valor medals including nine Silver Stars, eight Bronze Stars and eight Purple Hearts.

For an exemplary feat of bravery for which he was to have received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The helicopter pilot, Major John D. Falcon, flew Hack to the point where he dropped virtually on the top of enemy bunkers in the Mekong River Delta in March of 1969. He miraculously saved the two wounded soldiers by carrying each to Falcon's helicopter, while braving withering enemy fire.

Unfortunately, in his usual frank style he went public with a statement that we could not win in Vietnam and went so far as to forecast that Saigon would fall in four years. He was right. This did not endear him to the senior military and is quite possibly the reason he has not received the valor recognition he so richly deserves.

In 1966 he went to Vietnam with Brigadier General S.L.A. Marshall to conduct a 90 day study of combat operations. The result was a book the *Vietnam Primer*. The purpose was to school units on small unit tactics against guerillas.

For the full story of his career he wrote two books: *About Face* and *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*.

From *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*:

January, 1969, Major General Julian Ewell, CG 9th Inf Div, sent stateside for Hackworth to fix one of his busted battalions. Ewell said, "It's a pussy battalion. I want tigers, not pussies. The 4/39th is the worst goddamn battalion I've ever seen in the Army, Hackworth, it couldn't fight its way out of a retirement home."

Hackworth leads from the front and finds the best in each one of his grunts. Together they take a page from the VC, write their own book, and become the meanest in the Mekong Delta - the Hardcore Recondos.



*O God of battles! Steel my soldiers' hearts;
Possess them not with fear; take from them now
The sense of reckoning, if the opposed numbers
Pluck their hearts from them.*

Henry V, Act IV, Scene 1





Bob Evans

The Military Coalition committee co-chairs (Guard and Reserve, Health Care, MWR and MILCON, Personnel/Compensation/Commissaries, Retirement, Survivors Programs, Taxes/Social Security and Veterans) have decided upon a list of priority items to be communicated to the Defense

Authorization conferees for inclusion in the FY07 Defense Authorization Bill. A letter is being sent to The Honorable John Warner who chairs the Committee on Armed Services in the United States Senate. The letter emphasizes eight highest-level priority items, and an attachment provides a matrix of issues on which the House and Senate differ and on which The Military Coalition has decided to provide Coalition recommendations.

The priority items within the Warner letter include the following:

TRICARE Cost Increases and Enrollment

The Coalition strongly supports the Committees' actions in barring any increase in TRICARE Prime fees for 2007 pending further evaluation of cost projections and evaluation of other alternative options. We believe strongly that the same logic should be applied consistently to all TRICARE fees and, therefore, urge the conferees to adopt the Senate provision barring any retail pharmacy increase and the House provision barring any increase in the TRICARE Standard inpatient copay or TRICARE Reserve Select premium for the same period. The Coalition is particularly strong in its belief that there should be no enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard. TRICARE Standard is the basic military health benefit and provides beneficiaries no guarantee that a provider will even accept them. An enrollment fee should only be charged if care is guaranteed, as it is in TRICARE Prime. Enrollment in Standard would be strictly for the government's convenience, as the primary impact on beneficiaries would be denial of claims payment for many thousands of members who inevitably would not get the word of any requirement to enroll. Beneficiaries should not be charged a \$25/\$40 "nuisance fee" when there is no benefit to

enrollment. The Coalition is skeptical of assertions that the intent of enrollment is to manage beneficiaries' care, given that little or no effort has been expended in the past to manage care of Standard beneficiaries whose chronic claims experience is well known to TRICARE officials. If enrollment in TRICARE Standard is to be considered, the conferees should specify that any unenrolled beneficiary who files a Standard claim shall be enrolled automatically rather than having his or her claim denied.

End Strength

The Coalition continues to believe that active duty and Guard/Reserve ground forces are too small to meet the mission requirements expected for the foreseeable future. TMC supports the increases proposed by both Committees for the Army and Marine Corps. However, we are very concerned that reductions in active duty and Reserve components for the Navy and Air Force are driven by budget considerations rather than requirements and have the potential to cause significant operations tempo concerns in the future.

Military Pay Raise

The Coalition urges the conferees most strongly to adopt the House-approved 2.7% military pay raise, to continue the efforts of the Armed Services Committees over the past seven years toward restoring the relative balance that existed in 1982, the last time military pay was recognized as being "generally comparable" with private sector pay. As of 2006, military pay levels still fall 4.5% short of recouping service members' pay losses due to past pay raise caps. The 2.2% growth in the Employment Cost Index for FY2007 yields the smallest military pay raise since 1988 – offering a unique opportunity to help close the remaining pay gap at considerably less cost than in other years. Currently serving members who are sacrificing so much for the rest of the country surely deserve no less.

Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Fixes

The Coalition very strongly favors the Senate-passed provisions that would: (a) end deduction of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP annuities when the member's death is

Recent SGLI and death gratuity increases and the authority to transfer SBP to children help only a small minority of survivors, while the vast majority of widows affected by the SBP/DIC offset got no benefit from these initiatives. And many recent survivors who are able to transfer SBP to children can do so only at the expense of reducing their longer-term survivor benefits. The Coalition believes very strongly that the VA indemnity payment should be added to SBP, not substituted for it, when military service caused the member's death. Thousands of World War II and Korea retirees already have met paid-up SBP criteria and already have paid 25% more SBP premiums than post-1978 retirees will ever pay. Those who will survive until the October 2008 implementation date in current law should not be forced to pay an even larger 33% "Greatest Generation tax." They have earned and deserve immediate paid-up SBP status.

Guard and Reserve Health Care

The Coalition strongly endorses the House-approved initiative to provide equal and permanent health coverage to all drilling members of the Guard and Reserve who agree to continue in the Selected Reserve. State Adjutants General and senior Reserve leaders are virtually universal in asserting that this will be an important recruiting and retention tool, and that the current plan is more expensive than most service members are willing or able to pay. A federal government that already provides health coverage to its part-time federal civilian employees owes no less to members and families of the Selected Reserve who are bearing such a disproportional burden in the war on terrorism. The Coalition is mindful that, last year, the Senate failed in its efforts to persuade the House to agree to a provision virtually identical to the provision passed by the House (and not by the Senate) this year. The Coalition believes strongly that both chambers should agree on including this important provision part in the FY2007 bill.

Medicare-Eligible Retiree Health Care Fund

The Coalition most strongly urges the conferees to adopt Section 589 of the House-passed bill, which would reclarify congressional intent and direct that

the TRICARE for Life (TFL) trust fund deposit shall not be charged, credited, classified, or scored in any way against the Defense budget. Simply put, the Office of Management and Budget and the Department of Defense are using this non-outlay accrual accounting requirement as an excuse to inappropriately underfund other readiness requirements, and then portraying the problem as the fault of military beneficiaries rather than accepting responsibility for their very conscious budget decisions. The House language would reemphasize Congress' clear statutory intent that TFL should be funded independently in a way that does not come at the expense of other readiness requirements.

Concurrent Receipt

The Coalition heartily endorses the Senate proposal to provide full, immediate payment of concurrent retired disability pay for otherwise qualifying retirees rated by the VA as "unemployable," effective January 1, 2005. There is no distinction between unemployables and other retirees paid at the 100% rate for any other purpose – including payment of combat-related special compensation. The arbitrary forcing of this group – the only group certified by the VA as being unable to work – to wait until 2009 for full payment is grossly unfair and inappropriate.

Guard and Reserve Retirement

The Military Coalition believes strongly that something must be done to recognize and offset the adverse impact of multiple mobilizations on Guard and Reserve members' civilian retirement programs. The government has changed the rules on these members to require them to spend up to 25% of their working lives in uniform, which means thousands will have less opportunity to build the kind of civilian retirement plan they envisioned when they joined the Selected Reserve many years ago. The Senate-passed initiative to reduce the Reserve retirement age by three months for each 90 days mobilized to active duty since Sept. 11, 2001 begins to recognize this impact, while also encouraging additional periods of active service.

As always, should you have any comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will bring it to the attention of the TMC.

The Modern Motel

One of the more enjoyable functions in a bookseller's life is the trips he takes to buy books. My wife, Doris, always accompanies me on these happy sojourns. Quite frequently it is necessary to be away from home for an extended period and staying in motels is a prerequisite on these jaunts. It is high time that someone chronicle the motel experience. I have assigned myself this task, and address it forthwith.

"What do you know about checking into a motel? You never sign the card, nor do you tell the clerk what we want." That's the chatter I got from Doris when I told her I was going to write an essay about checking into and staying in a motel. A married man can't retain his self-respect if he leaves such wifely remarks unchallenged.

"I can write about checking into a motel," I say, "because while you are inquiring about the availability of a ground floor room with two beds I am listening and observing. You, my dear, are occupied trying to remember your credit cards, running back to the car to get the license number, making other demands of the clerk while I am quietly taking it all in. You, Doris, will never be able to write such a story because you are always too busy doing it all."

"I have never mentioned," I continue, "your asking about the old age discount, directions to the room, and the best restaurant and how to get out of this backwater and back onto the freeway if we are fortunate enough to survive the night. While you, dear one, are concerning yourself with these mundane details of life, I am pondering about how all of this will look on a typed sheet of paper. We don't live by bread alone you know." Now that I have Doris properly focused...

Just about the time I become accustomed to a change in the rapidly shifting social scene, either society or government plasters me with another. The relatively new "no smoking" areas in restaurants have been around long enough so I reluctantly accept them

as a norm. Now there is another challenge to my copeability. I wouldn't mind these new things, but they mostly require me to make major decisions, thus diverting mental energy from more creative endeavors.

My mind's eye envisions a volcano eruption when I hear this query, "Do you want a smoking or non-smoking room?" Doris was having no trouble with this question. Such strange interrogation stimulates me enough to break my reverie. I interject myself into the transaction. "I have never seen a smoking room," I say, "Why, do you have them? Is there a new kind of therapy afoot? Do you have clients who want to sleep in a smoke-filled room? Or are they only for the use of politicians? Do they ever stop smoking, or do they keep at it all night long?"

Finally, after it is all explained, I understand. I get the distinct feeling that Doris and the clerk are relieved when I assume my observer status. Non-smoking rooms are virginal as far as tobacco is concerned. The girl behind the counter says, "The smoking rooms still carry the stale smell of smoked tobacco." I tell Doris to make the choice because I am prejudiced. The odor of smoked tobacco is a part of my heritage. This smell takes me back to the days of my youth when I peddled papers in railroad stations and pool halls. The air in those places was heavy with this pungent aroma. As a kid, this smell gave me a sense of maturity, almost as good as the smell of a recently discarded cigarette package we kids retrieved from the gutter. Doris always chooses the non-smoking room. So much for her sense of history.

I am not overly concerned with the past history or the personal habits of the room I am about to inhabit; it can smoke or not, I don't much care. I have other concerns. Motel rooms are sterile; no books or bookcases, no family pictures, and no newspapers or magazines scattered about. My jars of salted peanuts and M&Ms are also missing. I can overlook these touches of home, though, if there is a hook on

(Continued on page 19)

the back of the bathroom door. I would be happy to stay in an unheated hovel if the bathroom door is equipped with a handy something on which to hang my night wear; heck, a rusty nail would do.

Did you ever stay in a room with no hook on the bathroom door AND no water tank back of the stool? What do you do when you stand half dressed in the middle of such a place with your hands full of stuff?

Engineers who design shower heads will be running lemonade stands on busy freeways when I become king. The shower head on the end of a flex hose is the ultimate of misapplied talent. How do you apply the soap to the whole body while holding the bar in one hand and hose in the other? Try to reach you right armpit with the bar of soap in your right hand. Visualize your problem when soap gets in your eyes. All motels should go back to the shower head that directs its product at a bare body without the assistance of the showerer.

I am a water faucet illiterate too. The damned things inhibit me. Why does a device that simply starts and stops the flow of water have to be so complicated. It was not always thus. And why is it that we are capable of standardizing the time of day and measurement of gasoline, but water faucets in tonight's motel differ from the one we checked out of this morning? Is standardization dead?

Oh well, Doris says it is time to go home anyway. She keeps an eye on the van's tailpipe. When it begins to blow bubbles as we pass through puddles, she knows we have bought enough books and have a load.



"It is not the fact of liberty but the way in which liberty is exercised that ultimately determines whether liberty itself survives."

Dorothy Thompson, American Journalist (1894-1961)

Good Morning! Welcome to America

Press 1 for English

Press 2 to disconnect until you have learned to speak English

A Simple Thank You

While traveling to Chicago on business, I noticed a Marine sergeant traveling with a folded flag, but I didn't put two and two together. After we boarded the flight, I turned to the sergeant, who'd been invited to sit in First Class (and was seated across from me), and inquired if he was heading home.

"No," he responded.

"Heading out?" I asked.

"No, I'm escorting a soldier home."

"Going to pick him up?"

"No. He is with me right now. He was killed in Iraq. I'm taking him home to his family."

The realization of what he had been asked to do hit me like a punch in the gut. It was an honor for him. He told me that, although he didn't know the soldier, he had delivered the news of his passing to the soldier's family and felt as if he did know them after so many conversations in so few days.

I turned to him, extended my hand, and said, "Thank you. Thank you for doing what you do so my family and I can do what we do."

Upon landing in Chicago the pilot stopped short of the gate and made the following announcement over the intercom.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to note that we have had the honor of having Sergeant Steeley of the United States Marine Corps join us on this flight. He is escorting a fallen comrade back home to his family. I ask that you please remain in your seats when we open the forward door to allow Sergeant Steeley to deplane and receive his fellow soldier. We will then turn off the seat belt sign."

Without a sound, all went as requested. I noticed the sergeant saluting the casket as it was brought off the plane, and his action made me realize that I am proud to be an American. So here's a public thank you to our military for doing what you do so we can live the way we do.

Stuart Margel, Washington, D.C.

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