



POW/MIA Report: UPDATE: December 10, 2010

ACCOUNTING COOPERATION: The 101st Joint Field Activity (JFA) in **Vietnam** concluded on November 30th. Three Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) Recovery Teams (RTs), one Investigation Team (IT) and one Research Investigation Team (RIT) operated simultaneously. Following the Change of Command noted below, **JPAC Commander MG Stephen Tom, USAR**, visited the field teams. Recent high level visitors to JPAC's Detachment Two in Vietnam included the **US Army Chief of Staff General Casey** and **Secretary of the Navy Mabry**, both of whom spent time with JPAC personnel and met with senior SRV officials. These visits are in keeping with increased bilateral military-to-military relations and a broader political and economic agenda within expanded bilateral relations.

On November 16th, four RTs completed the 116th JFA in **Laos** to account for US personnel lost in two incidents in Savannakhet Province and one in Xekong Province. A repatriation ceremony was held to officially receive remains that could be those of Americans recently recovered. Present for the ceremony were **Lao Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs (MFA) Hiem Phommachanh, BG Sisophone, Permanent Secretary of the Lao Ministry of National Defense**, and **US Charge d'Affaires Pete Haymond**. Also present and visiting JPAC teams operating in Laos was COL John Sullivan, USMC, Deputy JPAC Commander, accompanied by LTC Chris Barnwell, USA, Commander of JPAC Detachment. On December 1st, **POW/MIA Consultations** took place in Vientiane in an ever-expanding effort to develop the most effective processes to achieve increased accounting results. JPAC is focusing operations on the Vietnam War at present, but team size has been reduced to allow personnel to be diverted to WWII-related remains recoveries.

JPAC has also had its operating in Europe and a negotiating team meeting with officials in the PRC and other WWII-related countries to expand operations where larger crews were lost in slower moving aircraft in remote locations that can yield significant numbers of remains identifications. JPAC held an arrival ceremony at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, on December 3rd to honor fallen US personnel from the Vietnam War and WWII, after which the remains were transferred to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory (CIL) where forensic analysis began.

V. A. News:

POW Network PX: Head's Up! We were forwarded a copy of the following letter to the VA Inspector General requesting an investigation of alleged illegal access of private vet information. Bear in mind that at this point this only an allegation which if acted on by the VA IG will disclose the integrity of this 501c3 EDUCATIONAL organization founded in 1989. Comments should be forwarded andreas229@aol.com:

VA Inspector General:

As the POW/MIA Chairman for the Disabled American Veterans, State of Florida I ordered from a company named POW Network POW/MIA related items. Part of my responsibilities include POW flag dedication ceremonies, raising awareness, etc. I had the misfortune of ordering items from POW Network (www.pownetwork.org) where I was billed for items that I did not receive. I contacted Chuck and Mary Schantag and was ridiculed, cursed at and told to go expletive myself. After investigating these individuals, I see that the IG previously investigated (http://www.offe2008.org/public_html/archives9.htm) the practices of these individuals.

V. A. News: Cont.

There are countless complaints pertaining to this company as they seem to have connections within the Veterans Administration, boast about it and have read that anyone that complains against Chuck and Mary Schantag then make their contact within the VA and then post and proceed to defame the individual the individual who complains. Well, it happened to me, now I am the victim....I re-contacted the Schantag's and was advised by Chuck and I quote verbatim "go fu_k yourself, I found out that you are 70% service connected veteran, unemployable and will post everything about you on the internet, you piece of sh_t and call Paypal and tell them never to sell you anything anymore." He became enraged and threatening when I told him that I had the receipts to show what I had ordered and not received and billed for. He hung up on me. Please note the days prior, I attempted to contact about my refund and they hung up on me also.

How did they know that I am 70% and have been deemed unemployable by the Veterans Administration???? My Medical records are restricted record as a patient at the West Palm Beach VAMC as I was once a VA employee before my disability. These people knew nothing about me nor did they care until I complained that I did not receive the full order that I received. I have disputed the charge through Paypal.

Yet, the Schantag's continue to follow their vicious pattern of illegally gaining access to personal information which is a federal offense. These individuals act as though they are acting on behalf of the VA in addition to the Department of Defense. They do NOT have my Power of Attorney, therefore I am demanding that an investigation be performed regarding the release of private information to this illegal company who attempts to get over by attempting to use strong arm, illegal tactics. This is unacceptable, especially since they have been investigated in the past. All because I placed an order for POW flags so I may dedicate them to the local schools and now I am dealing with scam artists having access to my private records. Please investigate accordingly.

Frank Anthony Plescia
2010 Bonisle Circle
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida 33418
561-845-9341
POW/MIA Chairman, State of Florida
5th Area Committeeman
Disabled American Veterans

VVA National News:

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WRONGFULLY DISCHARGES NEARLY 26,000 VETERANS, REFUSES TO RELEASE RECORDS

Washington, D.C.--The Defense Department's (DoD) failure to comply with the law in releasing records that show it has blocked disabled veterans from receiving disability compensation and other benefits, earned as a result of service to our nation has prompted Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and VVA Chapter 120 in Hartford, Connecticut, to file a federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) lawsuit. The complaint, filed today at the U.S. District Court in New Haven by the Veterans Legal Services Clinic of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School, charges that, since the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism, DoD has systematically discharged nearly 26,000 veterans, wrongfully classified as suffering from Personality Disorder, a characterization that renders the service member ineligible for receiving rightful benefits. Personality Disorder is a disability that begins in adolescence or early adulthood and can present with symptoms which may mimic Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "DoD's Personality Disorder designation prevents thousands of wounded veterans from accessing service-connected disability compensation or health care," said VVA National President John Rowan.

[READ THE PRESS RELEASE](#) [GET MORE INFO ON THE LAWSUIT](#)

VVA National News Cont.

Veterans Affairs Services Update 01: The previous warning allegedly forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs is no longer valid. It is based on conditions that existed in 2006 that have since been resolved. In 2006, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of the General Counsel (OGC) corresponded with Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) regarding concerns that the organization's name and seal created the impression that VAS was affiliated with, or endorsed by, the Department. OGC advised the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) of these concerns and VBA circulated the information. VAS later added a disclaimer at the top of its <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html> website home page that addressed some of our concerns. No further action was taken. Section 5902(a) of title 38, United States Code, authorizes VA to recognize organizations for the limited purpose of ensuring competent representation of Veterans seeking benefits. Organizations like VAS may provide services to Veterans without VA recognition, including informational websites, if the services do not include assistance with the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for VA benefits. Since July 2006, OGC has had no communications with VAS and has not issued any advice regarding the organization. The recent e-mail message warning Veterans about VAS' activities, which has been widely disseminated, is from an unknown source but contains some of the information discussed with VAS and VBA in 2006. [Source: Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs 8 Dec 2010 ++]

NEW VETS FRAUD WARNING: Almost all veterans had significant exposure to airborne asbestos fibers during their military service and as a result are at increased risk for the development of asbestos diseases including mesothelioma, an almost always fatal form of cancer of the lining of the chest and abdomen. Any veteran concerned about symptoms might well decide to seek medical advice at his or her local VA hospital or clinic. If you use Google and typed in "VA Medical Center" along with the nearest city, the search might bring up a small map showing the location and a link to a website. If you clicked on that link it would bring you to a page that looks like it belongs to the Veterans Administration, with a nice logo and a list of specific topics down the right side. At the bottom of the page it even shows that it was copyrighted by the VA Medical Center.

It would be reasonable for you to think that you were now at an official VA website and therefore also reasonable for you to fill out the contact form or call the telephone number listed, thinking that you would be getting honest, objective advice from the government agency whose primary mission is to serve the interests of our veterans.

But you would be wrong. This website is a fake and a fraud. If you call the number or fill in the form, you will be connected to a law firm that is in the business of soliciting asbestos clients, largely for re-sale to law firms around the country. The only way you might figure that out on your own before contacting them would be if you followed the link to the disclaimer at the bottom of the website which would bring you to a second page, in which is buried the true identity of the law firm. Of course, real Veteran's Administration websites are located at "www.va.gov" Ref: VVA' Web Weekly

Chapter News:

UPDATE ON TRAVEL PAY:

According to Mark Doyle, of the Department of Veterans Services in Kingman AZ. The travel pay policy is listed in the VHA Handbook; Section 1601B.05; Payment Considerations. Mark called the V.A, for further clarification on the matter. They said; "It has always been the regulation for travel pay, as stated in the VHA handbook, but was not enforced for Kingman residents because at one time there was no V.A. Hospital in Las Vegas to send veterans to. Now there is, so the V.A. has decided it is time to enforce the regulations. However, there are still some issues to discuss with the Kingman Clinic and the primary care physicians who decide which medical facility a patient will be allowed to travel to for special medical needs. This will continue to be a topic of discussion in this section of our newsletter until the regulations are fully known.

Kingman January Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on January 27th 2011

At the Kingman VFW Post, 10386,3036 John L Ave.

Lake Havasu February Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00 PM on February 24th 2011

At the Lake Havasu Knights of Columbus Hall, 186 London Bridge Rd.

Bullhead March Meeting: General Meeting will be at 6:00PM on March 24th 2011

At the Sunridge Village Retirement Complex, 839 Landon Drive, Bullhead City

Presidents Report:

Hello Everyone:

Our Chapter was able to help a Vietnam Veteran and his family just before Christmas. We were contacted by the Manzanita Baptist Church with the following email.

Dear Church Family, Yesterday we were visited by a couple who have an 18 month old son. They lost everything in a mobile home fire on December 14th. At the time of the fire, the family was in Prescott - the husband had an appointment at the VA hospital. The only things they have are the clothes that were in their overnight bag. Can you help us help them?

The little boy wears a size 24 months and needs pajamas, a jacket, socks, and winter clothes. The family needs toiletries: shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving items, deodorant. Mom and dad also need clothing. They need towels and blankets as well. If you have any items that you can donate it would be so appreciated. If you can donate cash, I will make arrangements with Salvation Army, St Vincent de Paul's and/or ARC to allow them to pick up clothing and we will take care of the bill. I can also get them a Walmart card to they can pick up underclothing, socks, etc.

Will you please respond to this email and let me know if you can help? I would love to be able to be the hands and feet of Christ to this family, especially at Christmas time.

PS: the fire is under investigation and the insurance carrier will not issue settlement while the investigation is open.....at some point in time the family will be able to buy things, but right now they have nothing to get them by.

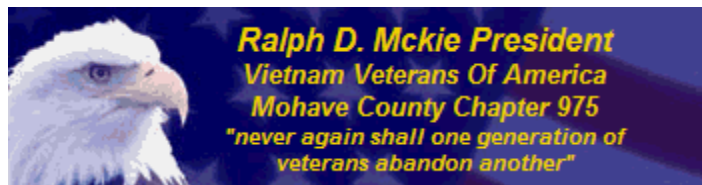
Thank you all so much!

Serving Him, Office Administrator

I thought one way our Chapter could help was to present them with the \$200.00 Wal-Mart gift card that our Chapter had. So I called some of the Board Members and got approval to help this family by donating that gift card. I met the family on Christmas Eve and presented them with this Card. They have found a house behind the hospital in Kingman to live in until the investigation is over and the Insurance Company can settle with them on the loss. I was really proud of our Chapter to be able to help this family just before Christmas and to show them what our Chapter is really about and that it is to help Veterans.

I am hoping that everyone had a Merry Christmas and Hope that next year will be a good year for all of you and our Chapter.

Thank you,



1st VP Report:

Happy New Year to all. I hope that everyone had a great celebration of the New Year arriving and that every ones dreams for the New Year come to be.

Now that we have finished the year of 2010, which was a very busy and sad year for us. With that past, now on to the adventure of the new year.

1st VP Report: Cont.

Starting off we have a raffle in progress, the 1st prize is a 42" flat screen TV, and 2nd prize is 2 nights stay at the Riverside Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, NV.. Some of the goals we have to face are increasing membership, helping more veterans and their families. Then later in the year we have a couple of other projects coming up, first working with the Northern Mohave County Patriots committee there will be a 4th of July family fun day. Then a Fender Guitar has been donated for a prize, the theme of the guitar is POW/MIA which will be raffled off when the Vietnam Traveling Wall is in Kingman.

Also in the New Year we need a new commitment from the members to get more involved with our events and help raise funds to support the programs we have chosen to help veterans. Be sure to keep the website in mind and check it out for new things going on and other commitments to veterans.

Well, I will close for now and hope to see every one during the year of upcoming events, it's going to be a very busy year, maybe busier than last year.

Bye all and Thanks for your Service and Welcome Home

Dave Stafford
U.S. Coast Guard Retired
1st Vice President
Webmaster

2nd VP Report:

Our Vietnam Veteran Chapter is again collecting items to be sold at our next Rummage Sale which is planned for April 16, 2010. We have a space at a storage building yard where we can store all of our merchandise. We need any and all saleable items including housewares, toys, books, bicycles, tables, desks clothing and small furniture. We are again asking that we don't have anything real heavy that is to be picked up such as refridgerators, couches and freezers. We don't want any of our members hurt with these heavy items. Please talk with your friends, relatives and persons who you have contact with about donating to us. If you have anything you want to donate, call me at 928-681-4709.

VVA Mohave County Chapter 975
2nd Vice President
Forrest Blackstock

Secretary Report:

From Your Secretary;

Happy New Year !! With Chapter Elections just around the corner, maybe your New Years Resolution should be to run for office in one of the fastest growing Chapters in Arizona. We have so many good things planned for this year, it would be a shame not to be a part of it. When this Chapter formed, we called ourselves the Mohave County Chapter. The reason was we had to draw from Vietnam Veterans county wide in order to get enough warm bodies to make it happen. BUT, our intentions were that as we grew, we would eventually branch out to form a Kingman Chapter, a Bullhead Chapter and a Lake Havasu Chapter. While we have more then enough warm bodies to do that, we do not have enough active members. If every member of our Chapter would attend meetings, participate in area fundraisers, ride in our parades, etc., we would now have three separate but supportive Chapters. The only thing stopping us is YOU.

So this year I urge you to attend and participate. It is one of the most rewarding things you can do. Politicians at all levels of government stop by our Display Booth and attend our meetings for a reason. WE ARE IMPORTANT. The VVA, and its lobbyist, are responsible for improving YOUR health care and increasing YOUR benefits. Our VSO Office is handling more claims than ever. As a Chapter member, you play a vital part in helping your Vietnam Veteran Brothers. So if you are just a member, thank you for your support. If you are an active member, bless you for all you do. If you are thinking of becoming an Officer in you VVA Chapter, this is the time.

Rich Poliska, Chapter 975 Secretary

Communications Officer Report:

I Hope of you and yours had a Very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Our Chapter has been very lucky with donations of Money and Raffle prizes this past year. Our Veteran Service Office has been very busy helping veterans with their VA clams.

We would like to see you at some of our functions and help out at our booth When, we have it up, at a community function next year. Or, just help sell some raffle tickets. We will again be having a Veteran Expo March 5th this year at the Mohave Crossing. There will be Vietnam Veterans day festivities in the various communities in March. Keep an eye on our website for more Chapter activates.

VVA Mohave County Chapter 975
Communications Officer
Jim Crumly

Editors Notes:

Chapter Newsletters are via Email only. Newsletters will also be available at the meetings and in the “Comm’s Quarters” on the website.

Please note that Dave has set up all the Chapter Officers with an “official” Email Address. The new Email addresses are in the **Contacts List. Our Policy; concerning Email address are: Email addresses will only be given to officers of the chapter and others** with need to know, to be used for chapter business only, and will be kept confidential. All Emails will be sent “Bcc”. This keeps your address from being seen by others on the list. If you request the Email address of a member, **YOUR Email address will be provided to that person and they will contact you if they choose to communicate with you via Email.** Any and all submissions are greatly appreciated and will be used as space permits. **Deadline for the next Newsletter will be January 3rd 2011.**

My Email address is: 975.comofficer@vva975.org , and my Snail Mail Address is Jim Crumly, P.O. Box 62, Bullhead City, AZ 86430-0062.

Barbara’s email address is barbaraschief@yahoo.com

Website:

www.vva975.org

Please check out our website for upcoming events, and the current Newsletter

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