

WISCONSIN STATE
LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

1999-00

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on
Veterans and
Military Affairs
(AC-VMA)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01a
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt01b
- 05hr_AC-Ed_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ **99hr_ab0582_AC-VMA_pt02**

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

From The Stars and Stripes July 19- August 1, 1999

Bosnia, Somalia Showed Peacekeeping Troops Also Suffer From PTSD

By Randolph Fillmore

Stars and Stripes

Medical Correspondent

Will today's U.S. troops serving as peacekeepers in Kosovo be tomorrow's veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder?

According to Brett Litz, Ph.D., director of the National Center for PTSD at the Boston VA Medical Center, soldiers who served in Bosnia and Somalia have suffered their share of PTSD. Peacekeepers are subject to the same threats as combat troops, said Litz, but because of role conflicts that left them less able to respond to hostility many developed PTSD symptoms-not only from atrocities they saw, but from the stresses they endured.

"Who knows what threats will be in Kosovo, or what peacekeepers might be faced with, or what conflicts might arise," said Litz, who has done extensive research with veterans who served in Somalia. "The average deployed soldier in Somalia was still scared and unexpected things did happen."

Not 'Light Duty'

Many veterans who served in "hot wars" might think peacekeeping in the post-Cold War era is "light duty" and not life-threatening. But Litz pointed out that the kinds of stresses peacekeepers experienced, both in Bosnia and Somalia, are ones veterans of shooting wars would recognize. Potential stresses in Bosnia included sniper attacks, witnessing atrocities, the possibility of being held hostage, and a sense of powerlessness. In Somalia, sniper attacks, land mines, wit-

nessing death and violence and frustration with the "rules of engagement" led to feelings of powerlessness, demoralization, hostility, anger and guilt.

"Perhaps the most compelling result of our study relates to the feature of peacekeeping that is particularly difficult to reconcile for combat-trained military personnel," said Litz. "That is the need to restrain the use of force when faced with possibly life-threatening circumstances."

According to Litz's study, 8 percent of veterans who served as peacekeepers and humanitarians in Somalia were found to meet the criteria for PTSD. The severity of their symptoms, said Litz, was predicted by their rewards for military service, war-zone stress, and frustrations regarding the rules of engagement in a place riddled with clan warfare, starvation and disease.

"By comparison," Litz said, "the rules were liberalized in Bosnia so that soldiers could respond to any degree of threat. They were instructed to defend themselves."

460 Veterans

The Somalia veterans' PTSD study, published in the *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, reported that results of a battery of psychological tests given to 460 veterans of the Somalia peacekeeping mission showed that the peacekeepers and veterans who had been in combat scored similarly on tests for PTSD symptoms of depression, interpersonal hostility, paranoid ideation, psychoticism and anxiety. Dangerous patrols, contact with sick and dying Somalis, being fired on or having rocks thrown at their unit, or be-

ing subject to hostile threats of Somalis were among the categories of stressors. Many of the symptoms paralleled those of Vietnam veterans to a statistically significant degree of severity.

According to Litz, depression is a frequent reaction to exposure to traumatic events, and may be particularly common among peacekeepers due to disillusionment and demoralization associated with feeling one's mission was not successful or important. "The elevations on psychoticism and paranoid ideation scales was unexpected and somewhat surprising," said Litz, but added that closer examination may show that veterans of Somalia were reflecting alien-

ation, an inability to trust, and hostility.

Litz said he thinks the U.S. military learned many lessons in Bosnia and Somalia which may be applied in Kosovo so its veterans may be less likely to suffer PTSD symptoms later.

"We collaborate with the Department of Defense through Walter Reed [Army Hospital]," said Litz. "The military is keen on training soldiers and learning from prior missions and I am very impressed at the DoD's interest in soldiers' stress reactions and mental health after missions such as these. Nevertheless, I think the dual role of peacekeeper and humanitarian is fraught with role conflicts."

From The Internet - US Dept of Veterans Affairs, July 23, 1999

VA Proposes Birth Defects Benefits Legislation

Washington, DC - Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West Jr. today announced that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing legislation that would benefit children with birth defects which may be related to their mothers' service in Vietnam.

Secretary West said, "To have a child with birth defects can be devastating for any family. I am so pleased that VA can reach out to women veterans of the Vietnam War and help them and their children."

The proposal is part of Secretary West's response to a VA-commissioned report on Vietnam veterans and Agent Orange from

the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). While the NAS concluded in the report that there is inadequate/insufficient evidence that children of Vietnam veterans faced an elevated risk of birth defects, Secretary West said an internal VA study completed after the NAS review provided "compelling evidence" associating women's Vietnam service with birth defects.

Women Vietnam veterans were excluded from many birth defect studies reviewed by NAS because of their relatively small number. The results of a VA study of 90 percent of the 4,410 women Vietnam veterans surviv-

Continued on page 6

From The Stars and Stripes June 21 - July 4, 1999

Defense Bill Provides for Honor Guards

(Stars and Stripes)-The House passed a fiscal 2000 defense authorization bill June 9 that includes a reform of the law governing the provision of an honor guard burial detail for any veterans' family that requests it.

"I'm pleased to see this provision included in the DoD au-

thorization because it accomplishes two things," said Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee and a senior member of the Armed Services Committee. "First, it responds to the shortage of military personnel to staff such honor guards. It also in-

creases the likelihood that an honor guard will be available to the families of veterans who served their country."

The measure requires the military services to provide the honor guard details. But it allows the Secretary of Defense to suspend the requirement in cases of military necessity. It also reduces the required detail from three persons to two.

To further meet the shortage of active duty personnel available for such details, the provision authorizes the use of National Guard and Reserve troops.

It also authorizes the Pentagon to provide material and equipment to "nongovernmental" organizations, such as veterans groups, for support of honor guard activities.

The Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Authorization Act required the Secretary of Defense to convene a conference on ways to boost the availability of military burial honors for veterans. Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen convened the conference in November 1998 and reported his findings to Congress.

From The Stars and Stripes June 7-20, 1999

Finns to Exhume Remains of U.S. Hero

HELSINKI, Finland (Reuters) -A group of Finns will go to Vietnam in July to exhume the remains of their countryman, U.S. Army Capt. Larry Thorne, who was portrayed by John Wayne in the 1968 film, "The Green Berets."

Thorne, born in Finland as Lauri Tornii, died in 1965 when his helicopter was downed on a U.S. Special Forces mission over the jungle.

The wreckage was found recently by Army investigators and the Finnish expedition hopes to bring home his remains, their spokesman said May 28.

"If we actually find his remains, we will hold a proper funeral in Finland," said Juha Rajala, Thorne's nephew, who

will take part in the expedition along with four other Finns.

Thorne became a legend in Finland for the bravado with which he led a crack company of guerrilla fighters resisting the Soviet Red Army's onslaught in 1944.

He signed on with the U.S. Army Special Forces in the early 1950s after leaving Finland.

For years after his disappearance in Vietnam he was rumored to be alive, fueling the legend of an exceptional soldier and adventurer, said biographer Kari Kallonen.

He said any recovered remains will be taken to a U.S. Army laboratory in Hawaii to try to confirm that they belong to Thorne.

VA Proposes Birth Defects Benefits Legislation

Continued from page 5

ing as of January 1, 1992, showed the risks of having a child with certain birth defects were significantly elevated.

Approximately 2.6 million veterans, 7,484 of them women, served within the borders of South Vietnam and in adjacent waters. VA already provides benefits for spina bifida, a congenital defect of the spine, in children of veterans who served in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. The Department also presumes service-connection for chloracne, porphyria cutanea tarda (a liver disorder), prostate cancer, acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy (nerve impairment), soft-tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx, and trachea), and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in Vietnam veterans.

West also called on NAS to complete within six months a review of the evidence regarding a possible association between

diabetes and herbicide exposure.

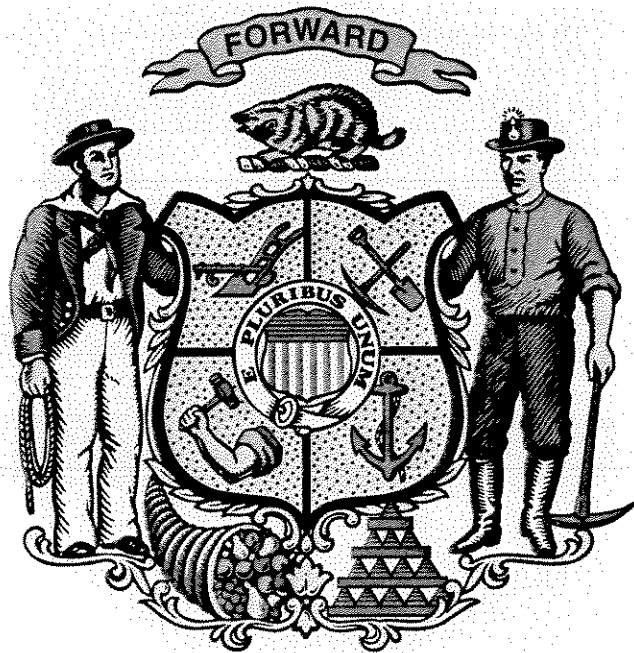
"I requested quick turnaround to determine the significance of a recent study of the incidence of diabetes among certain dioxin-exposed employees," he said. "We amended our contractual agreement with NAS so veterans do not have to wait two years until the next scheduled NAS report for a decision on whether or not a presumption for diabetes should be established based on this new evidence." Dioxin is a compound found in certain herbicides, including Agent Orange, used in Vietnam. The law presumes that all military personnel who served in Vietnam and later suffer certain diseases were exposed to herbicides. Vietnam veterans who believe they have health problems that may be related to their Vietnam service or exposure to herbicides while serving in Vietnam should contact the nearest VA medical center or regional office. VA's nationwide toll-free number is 1-800-827-1000.



Captain Larry A. Thorne
(Lauri A. Tornii)



John Wayne
(Green Berets, 1968)



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Frequently Asked Questions

What is new about Military Funeral Honors?

Military Funeral Honors have always been provided whenever possible. However, the law now mandates the rendering of Military Funeral Honors for an eligible veteran if requested by the family. As provided by law, an honor guard detail for the burial of an eligible veteran shall consist of not less than two members of the Armed Forces. One member of the detail shall be a representative of the parent Service of the deceased veteran. The honor detail will, at a minimum, perform a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the next of kin and the playing of Taps. Taps will be played by a bugler, if available, or by electronic recording. Today, there are so few buglers available that the Military Services often cannot provide one.

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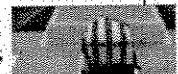
Who Is Eligible?



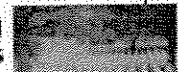
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Funeral Directors



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MILITARY FUNERAL SUPPORT

The Department of Defense Directive 1300.15, Military Funeral Support, establishes three distinct categories of veterans and the level of military burial honors each category minimally receives. The three categories are:

- ---Those who die on active duty or were awarded the Medal of Honor receive, upon request, full military honors: casket bearers, firing party, bugler, officer or noncommissioned officer in charge, bugler, and chaplain, if requested.
- ----Those who retired from military service receive full honors, if requested and resources permitting. At a minimum, a service representative will attend the interment service and present the interment flag to the next of kin.
- ----Those who were honorably discharged may have a service representative, if requested and resources permitting, who will attend the interment service and present the interment flag to the next of kin.

For more information, contact Mortuary Affairs and Casualty Support Division: Mr. Thomas Ellis, DSN: 221-5304 or COML: (703) 325-5304 or LTC Steward, DSN: 221-5314 or COML: (703) 325-5314.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



Honoring those who served.

The rendering of Military Funeral Honors is a way to show the Nation's deep gratitude to the who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully defended our country. This ceremonial paying respect is the final demonstration a grateful Nation can provide to the veterans' families. This web site will provide the general public with information on Military Funeral Honors, as well helpful links to related military and veterans issues web sites. In addition, the web site will also serve as a resource tool for our nation's funeral directors as they assist veterans' families in arranging for Military Funeral Honors.

ENTER

salute was returned by 9 (of 11) guns by order of the Dutch governor of the island. At the time, a 13 gun salute would have represented the 13 newly-formed United States; the customary salute rendered to a republic at that time was 9 guns. This has been called the "first salute" to the American flag. About three weeks before, however, an American schooner had had her colors saluted at the Danish island of St. Croix. The flag flown by the Andrew Doria and the unnamed American schooner in 1776 was not the Stars and Stripes, which had not yet been adopted. Rather, it was the Grand Union flag, consisting of thirteen alternating red and white stripes with the British Jack in the union.

The first official salute by a foreign nation to the Stars and Stripes took place on 14 February 1778, when the Continental Navy ship Ranger, Captain John Paul Jones, fired 13 guns and received 9 in return from the French fleet anchored in Quiberon Bay, France.

The U.S. Navy regulations for 1818 were the first to prescribe a specific manner for rendering gun salutes (although gun salutes were in use before the regulations were written down). Those regulations required that "When the President shall visit a ship of the United States' Navy, he is to be saluted with 21 guns." It may be noted that 21 was the number of states in the Union at that time. For a time thereafter, it became customary to offer a salute of one gun for each state in the Union, although in practice there was a great deal of variation in the number of guns actually used in a salute.

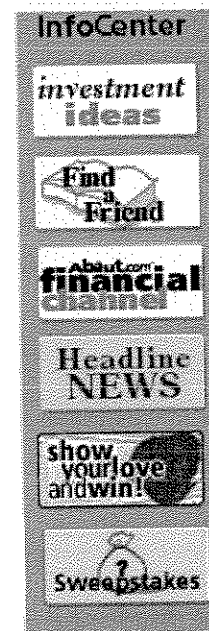
In addition to salutes offered to the President and heads of state, it was also a tradition in the U.S. Navy to render a "national salute" on 22 February (Washington's Birthday) and 4 July (the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence).

A twenty-one gun salute for the President and heads of state, Washington's Birthday, and the Fourth of July became the standard in the United States Navy with the issuance of new regulations on 24 May 1842. Those regulations laid out the specifics:

"When the President of the United States shall visit a vessel of the navy, he shall be received with the following honors: The yards shall be manned, all the officers shall be on deck in full uniform, the full guard shall be paraded and present arms, the music shall play a march, and a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired. He shall receive the same honors when he leaves the ship."

"Upon the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence of the United States, the colors shall be hoisted at sunrise, and all the vessels of the navy shall, when in port, be dressed, and so continue until the colors are hauled down at sunset, if the state of the weather and other circumstances will allow it. At sunrise, at meridian, and at sunset, a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired from every vessel in commission mounting six guns and upwards."

"On the twenty-second day of February, the anniversary of the birth



On the twenty-second day of February, the anniversary of the birth of Washington, a salute of twenty-one guns shall be fired at meridian from every vessel of the navy in commission mounting six guns and upwards."

Today, the national salute of 21 guns is fired in honor of a national flag, the sovereign or chief of state of a foreign nation, a member of a reigning royal family, and the President, ex-President, and President-elect of the United States. It is also fired at noon of the day of the funeral of a President, ex-President, or President-elect, on Washington's Birthday, Presidents Day, and the Fourth of July. On Memorial Day, a salute of 21 minute guns is fired at noon while the flag is flown at half mast.

While the Navy ultimately evolved into rendering the salute using 21 separate guns, the ground forces of the Navy and Marines maintained the magical "seven" number, rendering the 21 guns salute using a squad of seven riflemen, each firing three shots.

U.S. Military

Source: United States Navy Historical Society

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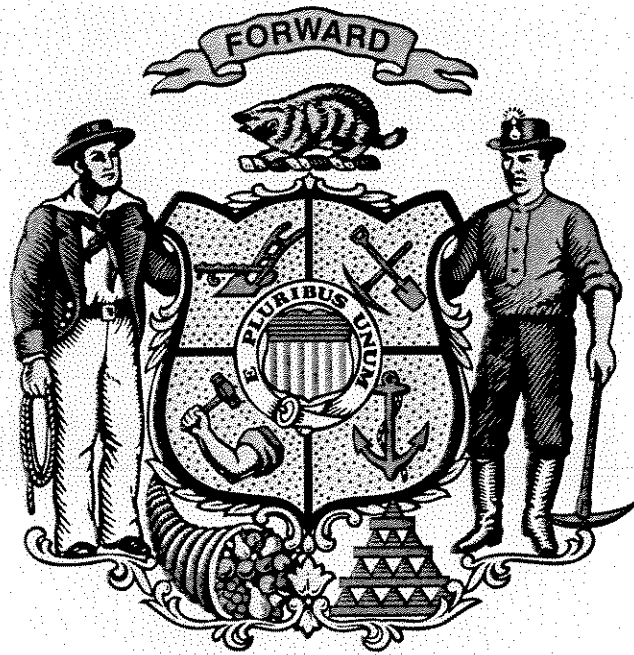
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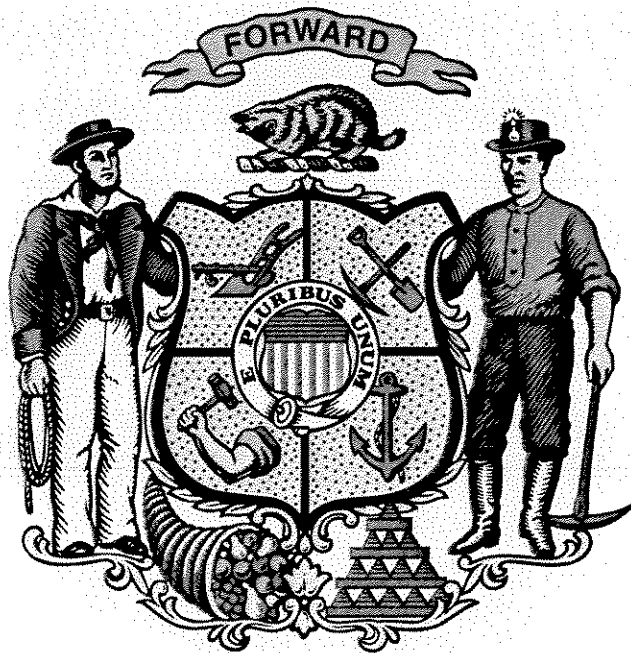
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COSTS FOR STAFF FOR HONOR GUARD

POSITION	NUMBER OF POSITIONS	FY00 COST	FY01 COST
		(2 months)	One Year
Administrative Policy Advisor 1	One	\$6,000	\$36,600
Administrative Program Coordinator	One	\$4,800	\$29,200
Administrative Support Assistant	One	\$4,400	\$27,000
Program Assistant 2	One	\$3,600	\$22,000
TEAMS			
Program Assistant Supervisor 3	Two	\$9,500	\$58,000
Program Assistant 3	Two	\$7,700	\$47,000
Program Assistant 2	Ten	\$35,500	\$217,400
TOTAL SALARY		\$71,500	\$437,200
TOTAL FRINGE BENEFITS		\$28,500	\$171,000
TOTAL SALARY AND FRINGE COSTS		\$100,000	\$608,200
TOTAL SUPPLIES COSTS		\$127,800	\$25,300
TOTAL COSTS		\$227,800	\$633,500

REIMBURSEMENT TO ORGANIZATIONS		\$55,000
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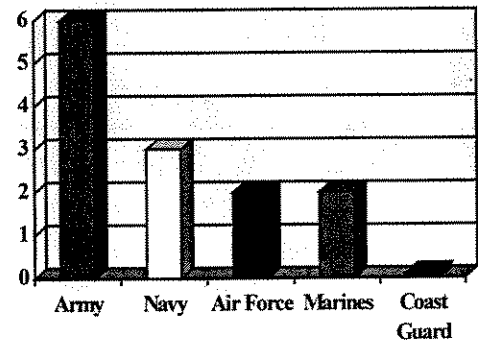
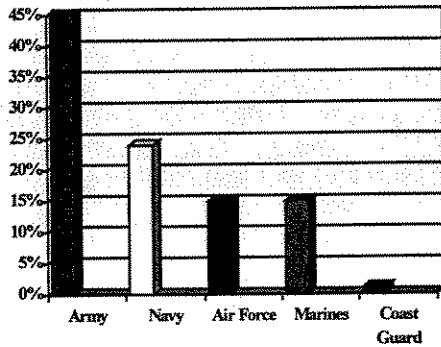
Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs
 Military Funeral Honors Program

AB 582

Fact Sheet

The Funeral Honors Program is needed to ensure our veterans get the honors they deserve

- 480,000 Veterans call Wisconsin Home
- Wisconsin will bury 165,000 or 34% of these veterans over the next 15 years
- 11,000 veterans will die each year
- 42 will die each day
- This is double what we have buried over the past 15 years
- Military Funeral Honors will be requested by 60% of all the eligible veterans
- Veterans Service Organizations will perform 50% of these Honors
- Each day the Department of Defense will be requested to perform 13 Military Funeral Honors
- The Army will be required to perform 6 Military Funeral Honors per day
- The Navy will be required to perform 3 per day
- The Air Force and Marines 2 each day
- The Coast Guard and Merchant Marine less than 1 per day
- The National Defense authorization act of 1999, Section 578, set forth minimum requirements for Military Funeral Honors
- The proposed State legislation will:
 - Establish a state coordinator for requesting honors
 - Provide a single point of contact for Wisconsin's 1,151 licensed Funeral Directors



Enable state oversight of federal tasking process

Percentage of Wisconsin's 480,000 Veterans by Branch of Service

Projected Honors Requirement by Branch of Service, 13 per day