

ALASKA LEGISLATURE SPECIAL COMMITTEE/SUBJECT FILES 8672

3060 SCOMM 139: HOUSE SPECIAL COMM.ON MIL.&VET.AFFAIRS 2005-2006

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A Communication From

REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN

Chairman

House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Session:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931

Fax: (907) 465-4316

Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:

716 W. 4th Ave., #350
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205

Fax: (907) 269-0207

Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us

HB 245

Veterans' and POW's Vehicle Fees/Taxes

Sponsor Statement

This bill will allow DMV to issue special registration plates for one noncommercial motor vehicle to a person who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The bill will also delete the \$30.00 license plate fee for Purple Heart recipients who want to obtain a specialized Purple Heart license plate for their vehicle. It also waives any registration or plate fees for the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient and to a current prisoner of war or the spouse of a current prisoner of war.

Sec. 28.10.181. Registration of unique and special vehicles and vehicles used for special purposes.

(a) The department shall register unique and special vehicles and vehicles used for special purposes and issue registration plates as provided in this section. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, registration plates issued under this section remain with the person or organization to whom they are issued when vehicle ownership is transferred or title or interest in the vehicle is assigned, except for plates issued under (b), (h) and (i) of this section. Registration plates issued under this section may not be used on, or transferred to, a vehicle other than the vehicle for which the plates are issued without the approval of the department and payment of any required fees and taxes prescribed in AS 28.10.421 (d), 28.10.431 and 28.10.441; however, if the plates issued under (c), (f) and (j) of this section are transferred to a vehicle for which the registration fee is more than the fee for the vehicle from which the plates are transferred, the owner shall pay the difference between the two fees. Registration plates issued under this section to which a person is no longer entitled or the transfer of the plates to another vehicle which the department does not approve shall be returned immediately to the department by the person or organization to whom the plates were originally issued.

(b) Historic vehicles. The owner of a historic vehicle may make application for special registration under this subsection. The department, when satisfied that the vehicle meets the requirements for historic vehicle registration under regulations adopted by the commissioner, shall register the vehicle and (1) issue two permanent registration plates of distinctive design and color bearing no date; vehicles qualifying for registration under this paragraph shall be issued registration plates numbered in a separate numerical series beginning with "Historic Vehicle No. 1"; or (2) allow the vehicle to use registration plates of this state supplied by the vehicle owner that correspond to the year the vehicle was manufactured if the vehicle was manufactured 30 or more years before the year of application. Registration plates issued under this subsection remain with the vehicle as long as the vehicle is registered under this subsection.

(c) Special request plates. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, motorcycle, noncommercial van or pick-up truck, or motor home, the department shall design and issue registration plates containing a series of not more than six letters or numbers or combination of letters and numbers as requested by the owner. The department may, in its discretion, disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested symbols are a duplication of an existing registration or when the symbols are considered unacceptable by the department.

(d) Vehicles owned by veterans with disabilities, including persons disabled in the line of duty while serving in the Alaska Territorial Guard, or other persons with disabilities. Upon the request of a person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in 23 C.F.R. 1235.2, the department shall (1) register one passenger vehicle in the name of the person without charge; and (2) issue a specially designed registration plate that displays (A) recognition of the disabled veteran if the applicant's disability originated from the applicant's service with the Alaska Territorial Guard or the armed forces of the United States; (B) the international symbol of accessibility (the wheelchair logo); and (C) if the applicant is a veteran, the Alaska and United States flags and red, white, and blue colors. A person who is not otherwise qualified under this subsection, but who meets the qualifications of a disabled veteran under AS 29.45.030 (i), may register one passenger vehicle without charge, and the department shall issue a specially designed registration plate that displays recognition of the disabled veteran that does not display the international symbol of accessibility and does not carry with it special parking privileges. For purposes of this subsection, proof of disability may be provided by a person licensed as a physician or physician assistant under AS 08.64 or as an advanced nurse practitioner under AS 08.68.

(e) Vehicles owned by the state, municipalities, and charitable organizations of the state. Every certificate of registration and registration plate issued to the state, a municipality, or charitable organization of the state is in effect until the vehicle for which the registration certificate and plate were issued is no longer owned and operated by the state, the municipality, or the charitable organization of the state or until the department, in its discretion, declares its expiration. The state, municipality, or charitable organization of the state shall maintain a current listing of all vehicles registered to it in the order of the registration number assigned to each vehicle, and shall provide a copy of the listing to the department upon request. The listing must include a description of each vehicle and other identifying information required by the department. Registration plates issued under this subsection must be of a distinctive design and numbering system. For the purposes of this subsection, "charitable organization" means a nonprofit association, corporation, society, or other entity organized, incorporated, or headquartered in the state for educational, cultural, scientific, or other charitable purposes, as prescribed in regulations of the department.

(f) Vehicles owned by elected state officials. The department shall issue special registration plates to each incumbent elected state official for display on noncommercial motor vehicles owned and driven by the official. The department shall number or design the plates so that registration by an elected state official is indicated upon the plates. The registration plates issued under this subsection remain with the owner of the vehicle only during the official's term of office.

(g) *[Repealed, Sec. 9 ch 20 SLA 1990].*

(h) Vehicles owned by ranchers, farmers, and dairymen. A vehicle not exceeding an unladen total gross weight of 16,000 pounds, owned by a person deriving the person's primary source of livelihood from the operation of a ranch, farm, or dairy where the person resides full-time, and that is used exclusively to transport (1) the person's own ranch, farm, or dairy products, or greenhouse or nursery products, including vegetables, plants, grass seed, sod, or tree seedlings, to and from the market, or (2) supplies, commodities, or equipment to be used on the person's ranch, farm, or dairy, or in the person's greenhouse or nursery, may be registered under this subsection and may be issued registration plates of a distinctive design or system of numbering.

(i) Amateur mobile radio station vehicles. A validly licensed amateur radio operator who presents satisfactory proof that the owner holds an unexpired Federal Communications Commission amateur radio operator's license of any renewable class, and who presents satisfactory proof that the vehicle contains or carries an amateur radio transmitter and receiving unit of a type applicable to the license class applied for, and who is permitted by law to operate a fixed station, may register one amateur mobile radio station vehicle for each radio license issued by the federal government and may receive for the vehicle distinctive registration plates instead of regular registration plates. The number on the plates must be the radio call sign of the owner.

(j) Vehicles owned by dealers. A state-registered and bonded vehicle dealer may apply for dealer registration plates. A plate issued under this subsection may be used only on dealer-owned vehicles during the routine and normal course of the dealer's business, excluding service vehicles, or for transporting an unregistered vehicle from a port of entry to the dealer's facilities or from one dealer to another or, in the case of a house trailer, from the retail facility to a trailer space. A vehicle permitted to have dealer plates must be affixed with two plates issued under this subsection. If the dealer sells or transfers the vehicle, the dealer plates may be used on the vehicle by the new owner or transferee for a period of not more than five days after the sale or transfer. The department may seize the dealer plates if it has reason to believe that the plates are being used to defeat the purposes of, or are in violation of, this chapter.

(k) *[Repealed, Sec. 3 ch 8 SLA 1993].*

(l) Vehicles owned by Pearl Harbor survivors and former prisoners of war. The department, upon receipt of written proof, shall issue without charge special registration plates for one noncommercial motor vehicle to a person who was on active military duty in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, or who has been a prisoner of war during a declared war or other conflict, as determined by the Department of Defense under federal regulations. The design and color of the Pearl Harbor survivor or prisoner of war plates shall be solely within the discretion of the commissioner.

(m) Special request plates for Alaska National Guard personnel. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, noncommercial van or pick-up truck, or motor home who presents satisfactory proof of current membership in the Alaska National Guard, the department may design and issue registration plates that identify the vehicle as registered to a member of the Alaska National Guard.

(n) *[Repealed, Sec. 9 ch 20 SLA 1990].*

(o) Special request university plates. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, van or pick-up truck, or motor home, the department may design and issue registration plates representing the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, University of Alaska Southeast, or Prince William Sound Community College. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

(p) Vehicles owned by veterans. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the veteran is a sole or joint owner of a noncommercial motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the noncommercial motor vehicle to a requesting person who is a veteran or retired veteran of the armed forces of the United States. The commissioner, after consulting with the director of the division of veterans affairs, shall determine the design and color of the veteran or retired veteran plates.

(q) Vehicles owned by recipients of the Purple Heart. The department, upon receipt of written proof that the person is the sole or joint owner of a noncommercial motor vehicle, shall issue special registration plates for the noncommercial motor vehicle to a requesting person who has received the Purple Heart medal awarded for wounds suffered in action against an armed enemy or as a result of the hostile action of an armed enemy. The commissioner, after consulting with the director of the division of veterans affairs, shall determine the design and color of the Purple Heart medal recipient plates.

(r) Special request custom collector plates. Upon application by the owner of a custom collector vehicle, the department may design and issue registration plates appropriate for custom collector vehicles. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

(s) Special request dog mushing plates. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, van or pick-up truck, or motor home, the department may design and issue registration plates representing the sport of dog mushing in the state. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

(t) Special request Alaska children's trust plates. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, noncommercial van or pick-up truck, or motor home, the department may design and issue registration plates representing the Alaska children's trust under AS 37.14.200. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

(u) Special request plates commemorating the arts. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, van or pick-up truck, or motor home, the department may issue registration plates commemorating the arts. The commissioner, after consulting with the Alaska State Council on the Arts, shall determine the design and color of plates commemorating the arts. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

(v) *[Repealed, Sec. 4 ch 11 SLA 2002].*

(w) Special request plates commemorating Alaska veterans. Upon application by the owner of a passenger vehicle, van, pick-up truck, or motor home, the department may issue registration plates commemorating Alaska veterans. The commissioner shall determine the design and color of plates commemorating Alaska veterans. The department may disapprove the issuance of registration plates under this subsection when the requested plates are a duplication of an existing registration.

Sec. 28.10.190. , 28.10.200 Transfer of special plates; annual tax. [Repealed, Sec. 7 ch 178 SLA 1978].

Repealed or R/numbered



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A Brief History - The Medal of Honor*

The first formal system for rewarding acts of individual gallantry by the nation's fighting men was established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782. Designed to recognize "any singularly meritorious action," the award consisted of a purple cloth heart. Records show that only three persons received the award: Sergeant Elijah Churchill, Sergeant William Brown, and Sergeant Daniel Bissel Jr.

The Badge of Military Merit, as it was called, fell into oblivion until 1932, when General Douglas MacArthur, then Army Chief of Staff, pressed for its revival. Officially reinstituted on February 22, 1932, the now familiar Purple Heart was at first an Army award, given to those who had been wounded in World War I or who possessed a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate. In 1943, the order was amended to include personnel of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Coverage was eventually extended to include all services and "any civilian national" wounded while serving with the Armed Forces.

Although the Badge of Military Merit fell into disuse after the Revolutionary War, the idea of a decoration for individual gallantry remained through the early 1800s. In 1847, after the outbreak of the Mexican-American War, a "certificate of merit" was established for any soldier who distinguished himself in action. No medal went with the honor. After the Mexican-American War, the award was discontinued, which meant there was no military award with which to recognize the nation's fighting men.

Early in the Civil War, a medal for individual valor was proposed to General-in-Chief of the Army Winfield Scott. But Scott felt medals smacked of European affectation and killed the idea.

The medal found support in the Navy, however, where it was felt recognition of courage in strife was needed. Public Resolution 82, containing a provision for a Navy medal of valor, was signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on December 21, 1861. The medal was "to be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen, and Marines as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry and other seamanlike qualities during the present war."

Shortly after this, a resolution similar in wording was introduced on behalf of the Army. Signed into law July 12, 1862, the measure provided for awarding a medal of honor "to such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldierlike qualities, during the present insurrection."

Although it was created for the Civil War, Congress made the Medal of Honor a permanent decoration in 1863.

Almost 3,400 men and one woman have received the award for heroic actions in the nation's battles since that time.

* Quoted from "Armed Forces Decorations and Awards," a publication of the American Forces Information Service. Copies of the pamphlet are available upon request (in print format only), via the "DefenseLINK Comment/Question Form" in the "Questions" section.

Updated: 22 Jun 1998

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The Nation's Highest Military Award

The Medal of Honor

The Bravest of the Brave

**World War II Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy**



Major General "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, CG, 3rd Infantry Division, presents the Medal of Honor to Lieutenant Audie L. Murphy for heroism during World War II.



AUDIE L. MURPHY

**AMERICA'S MOST DECORATED WAR
HERO**



Audie Murphy was born on June 20, 1924, near Kingston (Hunt County) Texas, one of thirteen children. On June 30, 1942, at the Federal Building in Dallas, Texas, Audie was inducted into the United States Army-Paratroopers. Audie had initially applied to the Marines but was turned down as being underweight and too short. He received his basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced infantry training was carried out at Ft. Meade, Maryland. On March 3, 1943, Audie was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry, 3rd Infantry Division. On May 7, 1943, he was promoted to Private First Class; through subsequent promotions including Corporal, Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, and finally on October 14, 1944, was given a battlefield commission to Second Lieutenant. He was promoted to First Lieutenant after his Medal of Honor of Honor action.

Before his 21st birthday, and after more than two years overseas, most of it front line duty, Audie Murphy returned home at the end of World War II with every decoration for valor this country could bestow. He participated in nine battle campaigns, including participating in the assault landings at Sicily and Southern France. His fame earned him the title of "The most decorated combat soldier of World War II."

Audie's string of decorations began on March 2, 1944 with the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device for valorous conduct in action against the enemy on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy. This was followed with the First Oak Leaf Cluster on the Bronze Star Medal for his exemplary conduct in ground combat on or about 8 May, 1944. Also at this time, Audie was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge.

After landing near Ramatuelle in Southern France, Audie earned the Distinguished Service Cross on 15 August, 1944. Audie Murphy advanced inland with his squad but was halted by intense machine gun and small arms fire from a boulder covered hill to his front. Acting alone, he obtained a light machine gun and in the ensuing duel, he was able to silence the enemy weapon. Killing two of its crew and wounding the third. As he proceeded further up the draw, two Germans advanced toward him. They were quickly killed. Still alone, Audie then dashed further up the draw toward the enemy strong point disregarding the hail of bullets directed at him. Closing in, he wounded two more Germans with Carbine fire, killed two others in a fire fight, and forced the remaining five to surrender. But it was during this action that took the life of his dear friend, Lattie Tipton. So devastated by this loss, that Audie co-dedicated his autobiographical book "To Hell and Back" to PVT Lattie Tipton and to PVT Joe Sieja who was killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead in January, 1944.



On the morning of 2 October 1944, near the Cleurie Quarry, France, Audie inched his way over rugged terrain toward an enemy machine gun which had fired upon a group of American Officers on reconnaissance. Getting to within fifteen yards of the German gun, Audie stood up, and disregarding a burst of enemy fire, flung two hand grenades into the position, killing four Germans and wounding three more thus destroying the position. For this action, Audie was awarded the Silver Star. Just three days later, on October 5, 1944, on a hill in the Vosges Mountains near Le Tholy, France, he earned an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star. Carrying an SCR536 radio, and alone, Audie crawled fifty yards under severe enemy machine gun and rifle fire, to a point 200 yards from a strongly entrenched enemy. For an hour Audie Murphy directed artillery fire upon the enemy, killing fifteen Germans and inflicting approximately thirty-five casualties.

Audie Murphy's three Purple Hearts recognize wounds he received on 15 September 15, 1944, in his action near Genevreville, France; October 26, 1944 in action near Les Rouges, Eaux, France; January 25, 1945, in action in the Colmar Pocket.



Audie Murphy received a severe hip wound from a German mortar on October 26, 1944. Tired of the monotony of hospital life, he took it upon himself to rejoin Company B. He was still in a state of convalescence on January 26, 1945 when Audie earned the Nation's highest tribute for action in the Riedwihr Woods near Holtzwihr, France. The Third Division was engaged in fierce fighting in the Colmar Pocket which consisted of a heavily fortified bulge stretching from the Rhine into France. At midnight on January 25, Company B moved through the Riedwihr Woods, but fierce fighting reduced the company to two officers and about 28 men. Despite five replacements, the company remained critically under strength. As the senior ranking officer, Audie was placed in charge of the company and was ordered to advance to the edge of the forest and hold the line until relieved. Company B was supported by two tank destroyers from the 601st Tank battalion which were attached to the 15th Infantry, but they would soon be out of action.

The frozen ground was covered with 10-12 inches of snow; it was impossible for the men to dig in. Audie's company was strung along a three hundred yard front at the edge of the woods. Company B was in a defensive position when at 1400 hours, on January 26, 1945, the Germans began a fierce attack from Holtzwihr. This assault consisted of six heavy Jagdpanther tanks supported by approximately 250 German infantry attired in white snow capes. The first tank destroyer slid into a drainage ditch and could not extricate itself. The second TD received a direct hit from a German 88, killing the commander and gunner. Seeing that the situation was desperate, Audie ordered his men to fall back to an alternate position. At this time, Audie began calling in artillery supported by a field telephone through Battalion Headquarters. With his ammunition depleted, Audie decided to mount the burning TD and employ its .50 caliber machine gun. After removing the dead TD commander, Audie sprayed deadly fire upon the German infantry. With the TD in danger of blowing up at any moment, the Germans gave it a wide berth. The black smoke streaming from the TD made it difficult for the Germans to see Audie, but it also reduced his view of the advancing infantry. At this point, Audie called in more artillery support even though it was dangerously close to his own position. For an hour, Audie managed to kill or wound approximately 50 to 100 Germans and confused the rest as to the source of the deadly fire. The German tanks, lacking infantry support, were forced to withdraw. Audie jumped from the burning TD only to hear it explode seconds later. Thus ended one of the most famous Medal of Honor actions of World War II.

Following the presentation of the Medal of Honor on June 2, 1945, at an airfield near Werfen, Austria, Audie was also awarded the Legion of Merit. In addition to the US awards, Audie received the French Legion of Honor (Grade of Chevalier); the French Croix du Guerre with Silver Star; the French Croix du Guerre with Palm and the Belgium Croix du Guerre 1940 with Palm. Despite the weight and burden of his medals, Audie always stated that the "the real heroes were the ones with the wooden crosses."

On July 14, 1950, Audie was sworn in as a member of the Texas national Guard's 36th Infantry Division and promoted to the rank of Captain. He was promoted to the rank of Major on February 14, 1956.



Audie Murphy's fame earned him the cover of Life Magazine on July 16, 1945. His popular appeal led him to a film career in Hollywood. He was in forty-four movies, mainly westerns. His most noteworthy were "To Hell and Back," "The Red Badge of Courage," and "The Unforgiven."

Audie was a passenger in an Aero Commander 680E when it crashed in the Appalachian Mountains 12 miles northwest of Roanoke, Virginia on memorial Day weekend, May 28, 1971. He was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. Audie's resting place is one of the most frequently visited sites at Arlington. There were many tributes paid to Audie, mostly after his untimely death. In the end, Audie was destined to cast a longer shadow than most Medal of Honor recipients.

Visit the Audie L. Murphy Medal of Honor Tribute



Audie Murphy's Military Award List

Military Service Number 01 692 509

Medal of Honor

Distinguished Service Cross

Silver Star with First Oak Leaf Cluster

Legion of Merit

Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and First Oak Leaf Cluster

Purple Heart with Second Oak Leaf Cluster

U.S. Army Outstanding Civilian Service Medal

Good Conduct Medal

Distinguished Unit Emblem with First Oak Leaf Cluster

American Campaign Medal



European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with One Silver Star, Four Bronze Service Stars (representing nine campaigns) and one Bronze Arrowhead

(representing assault landing at Sicily and Southern France)

World War II Victory Medal

Army of Occupation Medal with Germany Clasp

Armed Forces Reserve Medal

Combat Infantry Badge

Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar

Expert Badge with Bayonet Bar

French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre

French Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier

French Croix de Guerre With Silver Star

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Medal of Liberated France

Belgian Croix de Guerre 1940 Palm



Reprinted from a letter dated 7 Sept 1979, from the Department of the Army, Office of the Adjutant General and the Adjutant General Center, Washington, D.C. 20314; Subject: Maj Audie Murphy - Authorization for Awards and Decorations

World War II Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Audie L. Murphy - General Alexander Patch of the U.S. 7th Army decorates Lt. Audie Murphy of Farmersville, Texas with the Congressional Medal of Honor. Lt. Murphy is the most decorated American soldier, holder of every decoration for bravery save the legion of merit. He rose from the rank of private to become a company commander in 30 months of combat duty with the veteran third division.

General Alexander Patch of the U.S. 7th Army decorates Lt. Audie Murphy of Farmersville, Texas with the Congressional Medal of Honor. Lt. Murphy is the most decorated American soldier, holder of every decoration for bravery save the legion of merit. He rose from the rank of private to become a company commander in 30 months of combat duty with the veteran third division.

Official Narrative For Medal of Honor Recipient

MURPHY, AUDIE L.

CITATION: 2ND Lt. Murphy commanded Company B, which was attacked by 6 tanks and waves of infantry. 2ND Lt. Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to prepared positions in a woods, while he remained forward at his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery



by telephone. Behind him, to his right, 1 of our tank destroyers received a direct hit and began to burn. Its crew withdrew to the woods. 2ND Lt. Murphy continued to direct artillery fire which killed large numbers of the advancing enemy infantry. With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, 2ND Lt. Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and employed its .50 caliber machine gun against the enemy. He was alone and exposed to German fire from 3 sides, but his deadly fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry attack to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an hour the Germans tried every available weapon to eliminate 2ND Lt. Murphy, but he continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fire. He received a leg wound, but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was exhausted. He then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized the company in a counterattack which forced the Germans to withdraw. His directing of artillery fire wiped out many of the enemy; he killed or wounded about 50. 2ND Lt. Murphy's indomitable courage and his refusal to give an inch of ground saved his company from possible encirclement and destruction, and enabled it to hold the woods which had been the enemy's objective.



Audie Murphy was a successful movie star earning his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame



U.S. Constitution



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The Nation's Highest Military Award

The Medal of Honor

The Bravest of the Brave

**Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
Major Bernard Francis Fisher, USAF**



Major Bernard Fisher was awarded the Medal of Honor, the first airman in the Vietnam War to receive it. It was presented by President Lyndon Baines Johnson at the White House, Jan. 19, 1967.



**MAJOR BERNARD FRANCIS FISHER
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**

for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk
of his life above and beyond the call of duty in :



Rank and organization: Major, U.S. Air Force, 1st Air Commandos.

Place and date: Bien Hoa and Pleiku, Vietnam, 10 March 1966.

Entered service at: Kuna, Idaho.

Born: 11 January 1927, San Bernardino, Calif.

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. On that date, the special forces camp at A Shau was under attack by 2,000 North Vietnamese Army regulars. Hostile troops had positioned themselves between the airstrip and the camp. Other hostile troops had surrounded the camp and were continuously raking it with automatic weapons fire from the surrounding hills. The tops of the 1,500-foot hills were obscured by an 800 foot ceiling, limiting aircraft maneuverability and forcing pilots to operate within range of hostile gun positions, which often were able to fire down on the attacking aircraft. During the battle, Maj. Fisher observed a fellow airman crash land on the battle-torn airstrip. In the belief that the downed pilot was seriously injured and in imminent danger of capture, Maj. Fisher announced his intention to land on the airstrip to effect a rescue. Although aware of the extreme danger and likely failure of such an attempt, he elected to continue. Directing his own air cover, he landed his aircraft and taxied almost the full length of the runway, which was littered with battle debris and parts of an exploded aircraft. While effecting a successful rescue of the downed pilot, heavy ground fire was observed, with 19 bullets striking his aircraft. In the face of the withering ground fire, he applied power and gained enough speed to lift-off at the overrun of the airstrip. Maj. Fisher's profound concern for his fellow airman, and at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Air Force and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

☒ Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Major
Bernard Francis Fisher, USAF



Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Bernard Fisher (USAF, Ret.) and USAF Chief of Staff General Mike Ryan share a moment during a ceremony which took place at the Pentagon on March 9, 1999.

If Bernie Fisher went into the airstrip at A Shau, his chances of coming out again would not be good...

Into the Valley of Fire

U.S. Constitution



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The Nation's Highest Military Award

The Medal of Honor

The Bravest of the Brave

**World War I Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient
Sgt. Alvin C. York, US Army**



Alvin C. York Wearing Congressional Medal - March 4, 1961
Famed World War I hero, Sgt. Alvin C. York, (left) was "mighty grateful" when he learned that the Internal Revenue Bureau had agreed on March 18th, to settle his \$25,000 tax debt. The Revenue Bureau's announcement followed a national drive started by House Speaker Sam Rayburn, who donated \$1,000 himself, to raise the money for Sgt. York's income tax debt. In this March photo, York's coveted Congressional Medal of Honor is admired by his grandson Larry Jackson York, (right). Pall Mall, Tennessee

U.S. Constitution



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MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

Iraq



***SMITH, PAUL R.**

Rank and Organization: Sergeant First Class, United States Army

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty: Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Baghdad, Iraq on 4 April 2003. On that day, Sergeant First Class Smith was engaged in the construction of a prisoner of war holding area when his Task Force was violently attacked by a company-sized enemy force. Realizing the vulnerability of over 100 fellow soldiers, Sergeant First Class Smith quickly organized a hasty defense consisting of two platoons of soldiers, one Bradley Fighting Vehicle and three armored personnel carriers. As the fight developed, Sergeant First Class Smith braved hostile enemy fire to personally engage the enemy with hand grenades and anti-tank weapons, and organized the evacuation of three wounded soldiers from an armored personnel carrier struck by a rocket propelled grenade and a 60mm mortar round. Fearing the enemy would overrun their defenses, Sergeant First Class Smith moved under withering enemy fire to man a .50 caliber machine gun mounted on a damaged armored personnel carrier. In total disregard for his own life, he maintained his exposed position in order to engage the attacking enemy force. During this action, he was mortally wounded. His courageous actions helped defeat the enemy attack, and resulted in as many as 50 enemy soldiers killed, while allowing the safe withdrawal of numerous wounded soldiers. Sergeant First Class Smith's extraordinary heroism and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Third Infantry Division "Rock of the Marne," and the United States Army.



[Return to CMH Online](#)

Last updated 4 April 2005



Medal of Honor Breakdown

(By War and Service -- As of May 2003)

War	Totals	Army	Navy	Marines	Air Force	Coast Guard	Posthumous
Civil War	1522	1198	307	17	0	0	32
Indian Campaigns	426	426	0	0	0	0	13
Korea 1871	15	0	9	6	0	0	0
Spanish American	110	31	64	15	0	0	1
Samoa	4	0	1	3	0	0	0
Philippine Insurrection	80	69	5	6	0	0	4
Philippine Outlaws	6	1	5	0	0	0	0
Boxer Rebellion	59	4	22	33	0	0	1
Mexican Campaign	56	1	46	9	0	0	0
Haiti	6	0	0	6	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	3	0	0	3	0	0	0
World War I	124	95	21	8	0	0	33
Haiti 1919-1920	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Nicaraguan Campaign	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
World War II	464	324	57	82	0	1	266
Korean War	131	78	7	42	4	0	94
Vietnam	245	159	16	57	13	0	154
Somalia	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Non-Combat	193	3	185	5	0	0	5
Unknowns	9	9	0	0	0	0	9
GRAND TOTALS	3459	2400	745	296	17	1	614

These totals reflect the total number of Medals of Honor awarded. Nineteen (19) men received a second award; fourteen of these men received two separate Medals for two separate actions; five received both the Navy and the Army Medals of Honor for the same action. The total number of Medal of Honor recipients is 3,408.

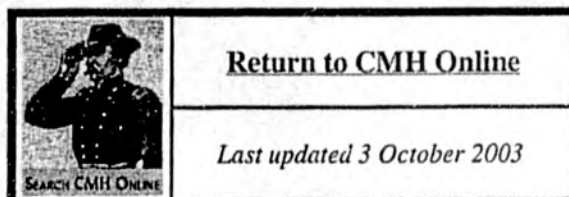
Total Medals of Honor awarded: 3,459

Total number of Medals of Honor recipients: 3,440

Total number of double recipients: 19

As of 13 April 2003, there are 137 living Medal of Honor recipients.

Source: **Congressional Medal of Honor Society**, 40 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant
SC 29464





The Nation's Highest Military Award

The Medal of Honor

The Bravest of the Brave

Vietnam War Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Staff Sgt. Drew Dix

DREW DIX IS A LIFE
MEMBER OF AMERICAN
LEGION POST 3 IN
KETCHIKAN, A FORMER
RESIDENT OF ALASKA,
HE NOW LIVES IN COLO.



Drew Dix was a staff sergeant in the Army, attached to IV Corps, the Military Assistance Command, when he received the Medal of Honor for service in Chau Doc Province, Vietnam, on January 31 and February 1, 1968.

Two heavily armed Viet Cong battalions attacked the provincial capital, Chau Phu. Dix, with a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers, was recalled to assist in the defense of the city. He organized relief forces, who, under heavy fire, rescued a nurse and other civilians trapped in the city. The following day Dix assembled a 20-man force and braved intense enemy fire to clear the Viet Cong out of a hotel, theater and other adjacent buildings in the city. Vietnamese soldiers were so inspired by his heroism that they rallied and resumed fighting the Viet Cong. Dix captured 20 prisoners, including a high-ranking Viet Cong official. He liberated the home of the deputy province chief and rescued his family.

Dix is the first enlisted man in Special Forces to have been awarded the Medal of Honor. He

received a direct commission to first lieutenant and retired with the rank of major after serving 20 years in the Army, many of those in unconventional warfare assignments.

Following retirement from the Army, Dix continued to work in support of government-sponsored programs, and he owned and operated an air service in the Alaskan interior. He has worked as a consultant in both the private and public sectors in the areas of security and special operations.

His 2000 autobiography, "The Rescue of River City," is the story of Dix's medal-winning experience as a counterterrorism expert in the Army. In September 2002, as Alaska's deputy commissioner for homeland security, he was chosen to head the state's Task Force on Homeland Security.



CITATION:

DIX, DREW DENNIS

Rank and Organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, U.S. Senior Advisor Group, IV Corps, Military Assistance Command. Place and date: Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam, 31 January and 1 February 1968. Entered service at: Denver, Colo. Born: 14 December 1944, West Point, N.Y. Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. Dix distinguished himself by exceptional heroism while serving as a unit adviser. Two heavily armed Viet Cong battalions attacked the Province capital city of Chau Phu resulting in the complete breakdown and fragmentation of the defenses of the city. S/Sgt. Dix, with a patrol of Vietnamese soldiers, was recalled to assist in the defense of Chau Phu. Learning that a nurse was trapped in a house near the center of the city, S/Sgt. Dix organized a relief force, successfully rescued the nurse, and returned her to the safety of the Tactical Operations Center. Being informed of other trapped civilians within the city, S/Sgt. Dix voluntarily led another force to rescue 8 civilian employees located in a building which was under heavy mortar and small-arms fire. S/Sgt. Dix then returned to the center of the city. Upon approaching a building, he was subjected to intense automatic rifle and machine gun fire from an unknown number of Viet Cong. He personally assaulted the building, killing 6 Viet Cong, and rescuing 2 Filipinos. The following day S/Sgt. Dix, still on his own volition, assembled a 20-man force and though under intense enemy fire cleared the Viet Cong out of the hotel, theater, and other adjacent buildings within the city. During this portion of the attack, Army Republic of Vietnam soldiers inspired by the heroism and success of S/Sgt. Dix, rallied and commenced firing upon the Viet Cong. S/Sgt. Dix captured 20 prisoners, including a high ranking Viet Cong official. He then attacked enemy troops who had entered the residence of the Deputy Province Chief and was successful in rescuing the official's wife and children. S/Sgt. Dix's personal heroic actions resulted in 14 confirmed Viet Cong killed in action and possibly 25 more, the capture of 20 prisoners, 15 weapons, and the rescue of the 14 United States and free world civilians.

The heroism of S/Sgt. Dix was in the highest tradition and reflects great credit upon the U.S. Army.



Rex Johnson, Drew Dix (Medal of Honor recipient) and Harry Humphries (left to right) take a break after having just made contact with a small enemy force while operating in the An Phu district just north of Chau Phu, Vietnam. Courtesy S/Sgt. Drew Dix, USA (Ret.)

U.S. Constitution



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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

APRIL 13, 2005



REPORT NUMBER 05.252

VEHICLE REGISTRATION AND LICENSE PLATE PROVISIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS AND PRISONERS OF WAR

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN

BY PATRICIA YOUNG, MANAGER

You wished to know the number of states that offer free vehicle registration or license plates to recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor. You also wished to know the number of states that provide similarly for current prisoners of war or their spouses.

The attached table shows the results of our search of state laws on LEXIS. As you will see, we identified 31 states that offer special license plates to Medal of Honor recipients. Of these, all but one waive registration fees and provide such plates without charge or at a reduced rate. Four also specify that a recipient's surviving spouse is eligible for the plates.

We identified 40 states, including Alaska, that offer special license plates to former prisoners of war. All but seven waive registration fees and provide the plates without charge or at a reduced rate. Twenty-nine specify that a prisoner's surviving spouse is also eligible.

Although some address persons missing in action, *none of the state laws we identified address current prisoners of war or their spouses.*¹

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

¹ Some states define "prisoner of war" narrowly: Georgia law, for example, defines the term as a veteran who was held by enemy forces while serving in the U.S. military in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War. In a number of states, however, the term is defined more broadly. Alabama law, for example defines the term as a person who, as a member of the U.S. armed forces, or while serving with a formal U.S. ally force, or as a U.S. civilian, was held . . . during "any armed conflict by forces hostile to the United States." Provisions for current prisoners would likely require a similarly broad definition.

**Vehicle Registration and License Plate Provisions for Congressional
Medal of Honor Recipients and Former Prisoners of War**

State	Medal of Honor Recipient	Prisoners of War
Alabama	no charge	no charge
Alaska		no charge
Arkansas	no charge	\$1 per year; surviving spouse at regular fees
California	no charge	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Colorado	no charge	no charge
Connecticut	no charge (also for surviving spouse)	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Delaware	regular charges + \$10 admin fee	regular fees + \$10 admin fee
Florida	no charge	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
Georgia	no charge	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
Idaho	no charge	regular fees, POW and unmarried surviving spouse
Illinois	no charge	no charge (or to unmarried surviving spouse)
Indiana		no charge (also surviving spouse)
Iowa	annual \$15 fee (also for surviving spouse)	annual \$15 fee, POW and surviving spouse
Kansas	no charge	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Kentucky	no charge	no charge; surviving spouse, \$17 fee
Louisiana	no charge	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Massachusetts	no charge; surviving spouse at regular fee + \$20	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Michigan	no charge	\$5 service fee, POW or surviving spouse
Minnesota	no charge	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Mississippi	no charge (also for unmarried surviving spouse)	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
Missouri	special plates; (unclear as to charge)	no charge (also surviving spouse)
Montana		no charge (also surviving spouse)
Nebraska		regular fees + \$5
Nevada	no charge for registration; regular fee for specialty plates	regular fees, but parking privileges (no fees or fines)
New Jersey	no charge	regular fees, but no charge for specialty plates, POW and surviving spouse
New York	no charge	no charge (also surviving spouse)
North Carolina	no charge	no charge
North Dakota		\$5 fee for plates, POW or unmarried surviving spouse
Ohio	no charge	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
Oklahoma	no charge	fee for specialty plates only, POW and unmarried surviving spouse
Oregon		regular fees, POW or surviving spouse
Pennsylvania	no charge except \$10 processing fee	no charge
Rhode Island		no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
South Carolina	no charge and parking privileges (no fees or fines)	no charge (also surviving spouse)
South Dakota	no charge	regular charge + \$10 fee, POW
Tennessee	no charge	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
Vermont		no charge (also surviving spouse)
Washington	no charge	no charge (also unmarried surviving spouse)
West Virginia	no charge	no charge
Wyoming		no charge
Totals	31	40

NOTES: All of the states we identified as addressing prisoners of war refer specifically to *former* prisoners of war; none address current prisoners of war or their spouses.
SOURCES: State Statutes on LEXIS

- HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(7)

Date Referred to Committee: April 1, 2005

FURTHER REFERRALS: Finance

Date of Committee Action: 4-14-05

The HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS considered: HB 245

HOUSE BILL NO. 245

VETERANS' & POW'S VEHICLE FEES/TAXES

"An Act relating to registration and license plate fees for Purple Heart recipients, prisoners of war, Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, and spouses of current prisoners of war."

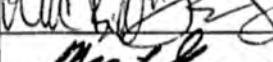
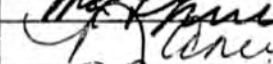
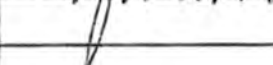
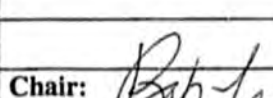
Recommends it be replaced with ☐ HCS or ☒ CS for HB245 ()

For Senate Bills with new title: ☐ Technical Title ☐ New Title: HCR_____ ☒ Same Title ☐ New Title

- ☐ attach amendments
☐ add new referral to _____ Committee
☐ Letter of Intent _____ Committee

*List of
Abbrev
for
Depts.:*
ADM
CED
COR
CRT
EED
DEC
DFG
GOV
HSS
LEG
LAW
LWF
MVA
DNR
DPS
REV
DOT
UA

[illegible][illegible]

Signing with recommendations		Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
		ELIZABETH	✓			
		Thomas	✓			
		Brandy	—			
		Deborah Clark	X			
		CISNA	✓			
Chair: 		LYNN	X			
Chair:						

SCOMM

139:13



Alaska State Legislature

Official Business

State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 29, 2005

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
House Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

Dear Representative Lynn,

As co-sponsors of HB 277, an act naming the Charles Gamble, Jr. – Donald Sperl Joint Use Facility in Juneau, and in honor of Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week, May 1-May 7, 2005, we ask that you waive this bill from your committee. We ask for this waiver simply to enable the legislature to pass this non-controversial legislation during a time when its passage can complement our recognition of Vietnam Veterans. These gentlemen both died as a result of their service in Vietnam and we should honor them appropriately.

We thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Thomas", written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Bill Thomas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth Kerttula", written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Beth Kerttula



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- > **[Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week](#)**

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week

VFW Posts worldwide will host Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week May 1-7, 2005. An array of activities are planned during the week to recognize Vietnam veterans and their families. For ideas and helpful hints in organizing your event, click on the links at right.

Related Links:

- > [Vietnam Veteran Week Brochure](#)
- > [Vietnam Veteran Certificate \(Blank\)](#)
- > [Vietnam Veteran Certificate \(Online Personalization\)](#)
- > [Veterans Return Years Later](#)
- > [Vietnam Center, Available Online](#)
- > [VFW Officials Vis on MIA Issue](#)



Veterans H

> [Click here for Info](#)
Orange

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Your Service Made a Difference

This Certificate of Recognition is Proudly Presented to:



In recognition of your service during the Vietnam War, the Veterans of Foreign Wars presents this certificate as a token of its respect.



Presented during VFW's Vietnam Veterans
Appreciation Week May 1-7, 2005

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week, May 1-7



Vietnam veterans
(clockwise from front
center) James Glavin,
Eddie Brooks, Paul
Connors, Don Sayer and
Frank Briones. They were
featured in the April 1997
issue of VFW magazine.

KICK-OFF:
VFW Loyalty Day,
Sunday May 1, 2005

Help recognize the more than 3.4 million veterans who served in the Vietnam War during this recognition week. Their service to our country is an important part of our history.

- **Host an open house at your Post.** Invite Vietnam veterans and their families. Put VFW memorabilia and awards on display. If your Post can't accommodate a large group, find a location that can. You may need to obtain a permit.
- **Have a recognition dinner or lunch.** Host a Post dinner or lunch to honor Vietnam veterans and their families.
- **Present Citations to Veterans.** Present the citation on the back page of this brochure to Vietnam veterans. Make copies at your local copy shop. VFW leaders should sign them.
- **Invite the community to participate in the ceremony.** Share the experience by inviting the public to be part of the recognition at your Post. People you will need or should consider as speakers are: the Mayor and other elected officials, a local military leader and the media.
- **Set up interviews.** Invite Vietnam veterans to be interviewed and video or audio tape their interview for the Library of Congress's "Veterans History Project." (For more information on the Veterans History Project call 1-888-371-5848 or (202) 707-4916. Or visit their Web site at: www.loc.gov/folklife/vets.)
- **Request a proclamation.** Have the Governor, mayor or selectman issue the proclamation on page 2.
- **Start promoting your event at least four to six weeks in advance.** Follow our sample press release on page 2 and send a typed news release to local news media and your local church, school or business bulletins in your community. Two weeks before the recognition week, send the suggested editorial/letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- **Ask local news media to highlight members' contributions to the community all week.** Prepare a list of Vietnam veteran speakers to be interviewed by the media. Use your Post or a local memorial location for the interviews.
- **During the week, promote "VFW Veterans in the Classroom" activities at local schools.** Form a panel of veterans who served in Vietnam and people who can talk about the homefront experience during the war. Make copies of the educational insert and distribute to teachers. While at the school, present a U.S. flag for display that will honor Vietnam veterans.



Note: This brochure is available on the VFW Web site: www.vfw.org starting February, 2005. Register your Post activity on-line or send a note to VFW's Citizenship Education Department: 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Describe your activity and provide a contact name and phone number.

Proclamation

Whereas, This nation is kept strong and free by the loyal citizens who preserve our precious American heritage through their positive patriotic declarations and actions, and

Whereas, All loyal citizens should make it their duty to inspire complete patriotism among all of our peoples, and

Whereas, We urgently need a vigorous display of true red, white and blue Americanism, thus convincing friends and foe alike that our nation is firmly united for self preservation, now

Therefore, I (name of official and title), of the City/State of (name of state), hereby concur with the Congress and President of the United States in designating the first day of May as Loyalty Day, celebrated annually for over fifty years throughout the nation, and I urge every individual, school, church, organization, business establishment and household within my official jurisdiction to publicly reaffirm their strong allegiance to our Flag and Country through active participation in patriotic programs being sponsored and recognize the start of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week," May 1-7, beginning on this Loyalty Day, May 1, 2005.



Official

Vietnam veterans fought to preserve democracy and freedom, not just here in America, but for all freedom-loving people around the world. The freedom and prosperity we enjoy today is in large part, guaranteed by all of those who served so honorably in Vietnam.

Vietnam War veterans were everyday people made extraordinary by events beyond their control. They did their duty not out of bravado or boldness, but out of a sense of duty and because they had a deep and abiding love for their country. Quite simply, they believed in the promise of the American dream and the essential goodness of America.

Because of the actions of Vietnam veterans, the flame of freedom burns brighter today than ever before throughout the world. The tradition of service demonstrated by those who served during the Vietnam War provides lasting testimony to the indomitable and tenacious spirit that resides in the heart of our Vietnam veterans.

During VFW's Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week, we also need to use this occasion to honor and remember the more than 3,403,000 military personnel who served in the republic of South Vietnam or elsewhere in Southeast Asia in support of the U.S. military operations in Vietnam.

Today, we have the opportunity to not only pause and reflect, but to remember and honor the memory of the more 58,000 men and women who gave so much — the ultimate sacrifice for freedom's sake.

(Greeting/Salutation)

For many long years, from February 20, 1961 to May 7, 1975, members of our armed forces fought on behalf of the South Vietnamese people.

SPEECH

All of us need to be forever thankful to all of them for their unselfish devotion and for their courageous willingness to put their life at risk.

We honor them because we appreciate what they have given us. Without their contributions the world would be a much different place ... a darker place. Our Vietnam veterans performed the highest form of public service. They are one of the reasons we stand apart from the rest of the world as a nation. When it all came down to it, they stood strong, and when it was needed, they answered the challenge.

Vietnam veterans are worthy of every praise, monument and memorial that we could offer. But the best way to honor the Vietnam veteran is to help them honor the vow they made to ensure that every new generation of veterans are appreciated and receive the dignity and respect they have earned: to see to it that every veteran receives the benefits and entitlements they deserve is one way of maintaining a link to the thousands of men and women who helped to secure so many blessings for us.

At this time, I would invite all Vietnam veterans in the audience to please stand or raise your hand to be recognized. (Start clapping when the veterans rise.)

The most generous honor we could bestow to the Vietnam veteran is to use the many opportunities that are afforded us to rededicate ourselves to our country, to America's veterans and to their families.

It is time for the nation to give our Vietnam Veterans their due and thank them for their noble efforts and achievements.



Veterans of Foreign Wars
NEWS RELEASE

Contact Information

Name: _____
Phone: _____

For Immediate Release
Community Invited to

VFW Recognize Vietnam Veterans Event

Date: _____
VFW Post _____
announced today that a Recognize Vietnam Veterans event will be held at _____ on Loyalty Day, May 1, at _____.

A spokesperson from the VFW said this event is one of hundreds that will be held this week by VFW and Ladies Auxiliary VFW members nationwide and overseas as part of VFW's Vietnam Veterans Recognition week, May 1-7, 2005.

"This is an excellent opportunity for the VFW to let our communities know that our Vietnam Veterans continue to serve our country and will continue to make the VFW the nation's leading veterans organization," said _____.

Page 1 of 1

Editorial

(Send this to your media two weeks in advance of the act of.)

The Veterans of Foreign Wars is designating May 1-7, 2005, as Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week.

More than 3,403,000 American military personnel served in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia during the war. The service of our armed forces reflected the true dedication they held to America, to freedom and to human rights. Vietnam veterans will tell you they fought for one reason: freedom.

Vietnam veterans often bore the brunt of a nation angry and divided by the war. Despite being treated with disrespect and derision upon returning home, and slighted by a nation that appreciated victory more than honorable service, Vietnam veterans proudly knew they fought the good fight, and their cause was a just one.

Vietnam veterans can be proud of their legacy, especially the vow they made to ensure that future generations of veterans will always receive the assistance and appreciation they earned.

Notwithstanding the stereotype sometimes depicted by Hollywood and in the media, the majority of those who served in Vietnam returned home and put the war behind them. Some became doctors or lawyers. Some became teachers or social workers. Some chose to run for political office. All in all, they made a decision to make a difference, to do what they could to make the world better.

The contributions Vietnam veterans have made to America and to society are endless. They deserve nothing but respect and admiration for their dedication to service and country.



Map courtesy of the West Point Museum Collection, United States Military Academy



Vietnam Warriors

A Statistical Profile

Confusion reigns when it comes to numbers and the Vietnam War. Listed below are some figures that may help sort out fact from fiction in many media reports concerning veterans.

- IN UNIFORM AND IN COUNTRY**
- Vietnam Vets: 9.7% of their generation.
 - 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the Vietnam era (Aug. 5, 1964 - May 7, 1975).
 - 8,744,000 personnel were on active duty during the war (Aug. 5, 1964 - March 28, 1973).
 - 3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).
 - 2,594,000 personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam (Jan. 1, 1965 - March 28, 1973).
 - Of the 2.6 million, between 1 and 1.6 million (40-60%) either fought in combat, provided close combat support or were at least fairly regularly exposed to enemy attack. 15% were in combat units.
 - Another 50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964.
 - 7,484 women (6,250 or 83.5% were nurses) served in Vietnam.
 - Peak troop strength in Vietnam: 543,482 (April 30, 1969).

- CASUALTIES**
- Hostile deaths: 47,418.
 - Non-hostile deaths: 10,811.
 - Total: 58,229 (includes men formerly classified as MIA and *Mayaguez* casualties). Men who have subsequently died of wounds account for the changing total.
 - 8 nurses died — 1 was KIA.
 - Married men killed: 17,539.
 - 61% of the men killed were 21 years old or younger.
 - Highest state death rate: West Virginia — 84.1 per 100,000 males (national average in 1970: 58.9).
 - Wounded: 303,704 — 153,329 hospital-

- ized + 150,375 injured who required no hospital care.
- Severely disabled: 75,000 — 23,214 100% disabled; 5,283 lost limbs; 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.
- Missing in Action: 2,338 (at war's end).
- Prisoners of War: 766 (114 died in captivity).

- DRAFTEES VS. VOLUNTEERS**
- 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members in WWII were drafted.)
 - Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.
 - Reservists killed: 5,977.
 - National Guard: 9,000 served; 22 KIA.

- RACE AND ETHNIC BACKGROUND**
- 88.4% of the men who actually served in Vietnam were Caucasian (includes Hispanics); 10.6% (275,000) were black; 1% belonged to other races.
 - 86.3% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasian; 12.5% (7,241) were black; 1.2% belonged to other races.
 - 170,000 Hispanics served in Vietnam; 3,070 (5.2% of total) died there.
 - 86.8% of the men who were killed as a result of hostile action were Caucasian; 12.1% (5,711) were black; 1.1% belonged to other races.
 - 14.6% (1,530) of non-combat deaths were among blacks.
 - 34% of blacks who enlisted volunteered for the combat arms.
 - Overall, blacks suffered 12.5% of the deaths in Vietnam at a time when the

- percentage of blacks of military age was 13.5% of the total population.
- Religion of dead: Protestant — 64.4%; Catholic — 28.9%; other/none — 6.7%.

- SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS**
- 76% of the men sent to Vietnam were from lower middle/working class backgrounds.
 - Three-fourths had family incomes above the poverty level; 50% were from middle-income backgrounds.
 - Some 23% of Vietnam vets had fathers with professional, managerial or technical occupations.
 - 79% of the men who served in Vietnam had a high school education or better when they entered the military service. (63% of Korean War vets and only 45% of WWII vets had completed high school upon separation.)

- WINNING & LOSING**
- 82% of veterans who saw heavy combat strongly believe the war was lost because of lack of political will.
 - Nearly 75% of the general public agrees that it was a failure of political will, not of arms.

- AGE & HONORABLE SERVICE**
- Average age of the Vietnam War GI: 19 (26 for WWII).
 - 97% of Vietnam-era veterans were honorably discharged.

- PRIDE IN SERVICE**
- 91% of actual Vietnam War veterans and 90% of those who saw heavy combat are proud to have served their country.
 - 66% of Vietnam vets say they would serve again if called upon (polled in the 1980s).
 - 87% of the public now holds Vietnam veterans in high esteem.

Compiled by VFW magazine. Please copy and distribute to educators.
www.vfw.org

From the pages of VFW magazine.

Vietnam Vets in the Public Eye

Successful In Every Field

Some 3.4 million Americans served in the Vietnam War. Many of them came home to make exceptional contributions in their chosen professions. Profiled here are just a few of the Vietnam veterans who are perhaps better known to the general public. But they are just a sampling of the tens of thousands of the war's vets who have made an outstanding difference in their communities. Despite the negative stereotype perpetuated by the media and Hollywood for decades, Vietnam vets have always played a positive role in the development of their nation.



COLIN L. POWELL
(1937-) b. Harlem, N.Y.
Secretary of State

Secretary of State since Jan. 20, 2001, Colin Powell is credited with energizing the morale of that Cabinet department and advancing U.S. interests abroad. As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (1989-1993), he was regarded as

the most powerful and popular ever. He also was national security adviser (1987-89) and was chairman of the National Security Council's policy review group.

During his first tour in Vietnam, Powell was an adviser to the 2nd Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., 1st ARVN Div., and later assistant adviser on the division operations staff. From July 1968 to July 1969, he was executive officer of the 3rd Bn., 1st Inf., 11th Inf. Bde., Americal Div., based at Duc Pho. Later, he served on the division operations and planning staff at headquarters in Chu Lai.

Powell also chaired America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth, dedicated to mentoring disadvantaged youth, from 1997-2000.



WALTER H. ANDERSON
(1944-) b. Mt. Vernon, N.Y.
Publisher/Editor

Chairman, CEO and publisher of *Parade* since 2000, he was editor of the world's largest circulation magazine (37 million) for 20 years. Throughout his career, he has helped steer the popular Sunday publication to phenomenal editorial and advertising success.

Anderson arrived in Vietnam in

March 1965. Stationed around Da Nang, he was a sergeant with a Radio Relay and Construction Team assigned to Marine Air Group 26. His unit established communications at Chu Lai. He returned home that December. "What I am today is a result of the Marine Corps," he once said.

An award-winning journalist, he is highly respected in his field. He is the author of four books. Under his direction, *Parade* published many articles about and by Vietnam vets. Anderson worked with the New York Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program from 1984-89, which focused on employment.

A champion of literacy, he is a spokesman for general educational development, as well as an accomplished public speaker.



FREDERICK W. SMITH
(1944-) b. Marks, Miss.
Businessman

Founder of Federal Express, Fred Smith runs the world's largest express transportation and logistics company. Beginning in 1971, it now operates in 215 countries and has \$26 billion in sales. He was essentially the creator of

overnight delivery.

Smith's first tour (March 1967-April 1968) in Vietnam was with companies I, L and K of the 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Div., as a rifle and mortar platoon leader and K Co.'s commander. Returning to Vietnam in October 1968, he flew 200 missions with Marine Observation Squadron 2, based at Marble Mountain, until July 1969. He earned a Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and a Navy Commendation Medal for valor.

He has been actively involved with the WWII Memorial (co-chairman) and Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He also is a member of the CATO Institute. Smith was named CEO of the year by *Chief Executive* magazine in 2004.



J. CRAIG VENTER
(1945-) b. Salt Lake City, Utah
Scientist (Biochemist)

For his pioneering work as a "gene mapper," J. Craig Venter is credited with "jump-starting a biological revolution." *Time* named him runner up for "Man of the Year" for helping crack the human genetic code—one of the most important scientific milestones of the century. A scientific dynamo, Venter has

founded four research institutes and one foundation since 1992. Their scope of research includes human genome mapping, biological energy alternatives, pharmaceutical development and possible cures for cancer. He is currently focusing his research on discovering new species of marine life by sampling water from every ocean in the world.

Venter served in the Navy from 1965-68. He was a medical corpsman stationed at the U.S. Navy hospital in Da Nang from July 1967 to August 1968.

One of the most cited scientists in biology and medicine, Venter has authored some 222 research articles. He is a prominent member of several scientific societies and his work has garnered many prestigious scientific awards.



JAMES V. KIMSEY
(1937-) b. Washington, D.C.
Businessman & Philanthropist

A corporate trailblazer who helped shape technological trends, James Kimsey founded America Online, the world's most widely accessed online service. Today, he is chairman emeritus, as well as chairman of Kimsey Foundation, a

philanthropic institution devoted to assisting disadvantaged youth in Washington, D.C.

Kimsey was a company commander in the 82nd Airborne Division in the Dominican Republic in 1965. From 1965-66, while stationed near Duc Pho in Vietnam, he led a district advisory team and constructed and ran an orphanage. On his second tour, 1968-69, he was assistant to the commanding general of special operations at MACV, where he oversaw projects in the field.

On the boards of 54 non-profit groups, Kimsey also annually donates millions of dollars to many charitable causes. He is co-chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Corporate Council.



JAMES H. WEBB, JR.
(1946-) b. St. Joseph, Mo.
Writer

Characterized as "one of the four or five most important writers in this country," Jim Webb has written seven books. His *First, Fields of Fire* (1978), sold 1 million copies.

He also is a contributing editor to *Parade* and a frequent contributor to the *Wall Street Journal's* editorial page. He won an Emmy for covering the Marines in Beirut.

A platoon leader and then commander of D Co., 1st Bn., 5th Marines, 1st Marine Div., Webb fought in the An Hoa Basin from March 1969 to February 1970. He earned the Navy Cross, Silver Star, two Bronze Stars (for valor) and two Purple Hearts.

Webb served as Navy secretary (1987-88), as well as assistant secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (1984-87). He also was the first Vietnam vet House Veterans Affairs Committee counsel.



DENNIS FRANZ (SCHLACHTA)
(1944-) b. Maywood, Ill.
Actor

Known best for his role as Detective Andy Sipowicz in the police drama *NYPD Blue*, Dennis Franz has been in six other TV series and several TV movies. Since 1978, he has acted in 17 films. He

won four Emmy awards for best actor on *NYPD Blue*, which has featured Vietnam veteran characters.

A member of recon platoons in D and E Cos., 1st Bn., 505th Inf., 3rd Bde., 82nd Abn. Div. and HHC and E Co., 1st Bn., 506th Inf., 101st Abn. Div., Franz fought in Vietnam from May 1969 to April 1970.

A "genuine Hollywood rarity," Franz has won Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe awards for his acting. He received VFW's Hall of Fame Award in 1998 for serving as national chairman of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. In 1999, he was honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.



JACK SMITH
(1945-2004) b. Paris, France
Journalist & Media Consultant

Until his death, former national ABC News correspondent Jack Smith ran a consulting firm that advised Internet companies on how to communicate with clients and the public. During his 25 years (1976-2001) at ABC, he won

notoriety, especially as a technology reporter.

Arriving in Vietnam in September 1965 with the 1st Cavalry Division at An Khe, Smith served with C Co., 2nd Bn., 3rd Bde., 7th Cav Regt., as a rifleman. He was severely wounded at Landing Zone Albany during the Battle of Ia Drang Valley that November, earning a Bronze Star. He left Vietnam in August 1966.

Smith had hosted shows on The Discovery Channel, A&E Biography and The Learning Channel, including a six-part series on Vietnam in 1997-98. He also was instrumental in promoting the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in its early stages, as well as other veterans causes.



VIC SNYDER
(1946-) b. Medford, Ore.
Congressman and Physician

Doctor, lawyer and public servant, Vic Snyder currently serves Arkansas in the House of Representatives. He sits on the National Security and Veterans

Affairs committees. VA medical care is a primary focus; elderly health needs, Social Security and education are top priorities, too.

Snyder served in Vietnam as an administrative clerk with HQ Co., 1st Marine Div., in Da Nang and An Hoa from March 1968 to April 1969. He earned the Navy Achievement Medal for treating a wounded Marine under fire.

Training at VA hospitals, Snyder later worked in emergency rooms and as a family doctor in central Arkansas for 15 years. He also participated in humanitarian medical missions to Thailand, Honduras, Sierra Leone and Sudan where he cared for war refugees.



ROCKY BLEIER
(1946-) b. Appleton, Wis.
Football Player & Motivational Speaker

President of Rocky Bleier, Inc., of Pittsburgh, Rocky Bleier today makes motivational speeches to organizations, corporations and universities. As a Pittsburgh Steel

ers running back (1970-80), he was one of the team's leading ground gainers and played in four Super Bowls.

Bleier served as a rifleman with 1st Pl., C Co., 4th Bn., 31st Inf., 196th Light Inf. Bde., Americal Div., from May to Aug. 20, 1969, when he was wounded in both legs in the Hiep Duc Valley. He battled for two years to overcome his wounds.

He is active on behalf of charitable groups such as the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and International Special Olympics. And he is a member of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial National Sponsoring Committee.

www.vfw.org

Alaska State Legislature

Chair

Military and Veterans Affairs Committee

Member

Labor and Commerce Committee
State Affairs Committee
Econ Dev, Int'l Trade & Tourism
Education Committee
Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees

Labor and Workforce Development
Community and Economic Development
Military and Veterans' Affairs



A Communication From REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN Chairman

House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

Session:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931

Fax: (907) 465-4316

Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:

716 W. 4th Ave., #350
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

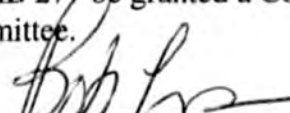
Phone: (907) 269-0205

Fax: (907) 269-0207

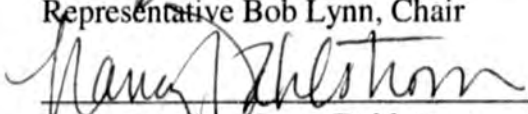
Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us

To All Concerned:

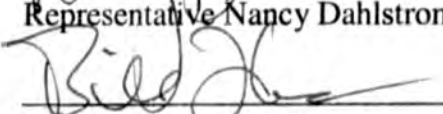
We the undersigned members of the House Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee request that HB 277 be granted a Committee Waiver out of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.


Representative Bob Lynn, Chair

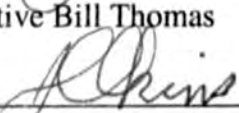
29 Apr 05
Date


Representative Nancy Dahlstrom

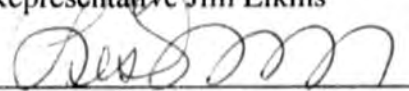
29 Apr 05
Date


Representative Bill Thomas

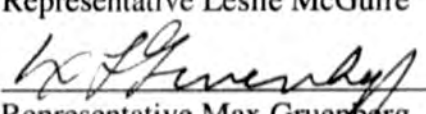
29 April 05
Date


Representative Jim Elkins

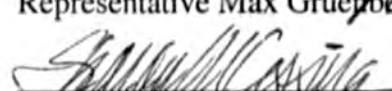
29 Apr 05
Date


Representative Leslie McGuire

4/29/05
Date


Representative Max Gruenberg

4/29/05
Date


Representative Sharon Cissna

5/2/05
Date

SCOMM

139:14

Alaska State Legislature

Chairman

Military & Veterans' Affairs Committee

Member

Labor and Commerce Committee

State Affairs Committee

Economic Development, Trade & Tourism
Committee

Education Committee

Joint Armed Services Committee

Finance Subcommittees

Labor & Workforce Development

Community & Economic Development

Military & Veterans' Affairs



A Communication From **REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN** **District 31 Anchorage**

E-Mail: Representative_Bob_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us
"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" AlaskaDistrict31.blogspot.com

Session:

Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931

Fax: (907) 465-4316

Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

Interim:

716 W. 4th Ave., #650
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205

Fax: (907) 269-0207

Sponsor Statement **HB 354**

Currently, the governor of Alaska is free to appoint any citizen of Alaska, without other qualifications to be Adjutant General. This bill remedies that situation by recognizing additional guidelines for appointees, such as serving at least five years in the Alaska National Guard/Alaska Air Guard – the current requirement for an *Assistant* Adjutant General.

Qualifications for appointment must be tailored to the unique requirements of the Alaska's Adjutant General's mission, without political considerations. The nature of the job requires substantial experience and understanding of military operations in general, and the Alaska National Guard /Alaska Air Guard in particular. Other civilian business and managerial experience is valuable but, in itself, not comparable to high-level military operations. Business people cannot operate their business like the military; likewise, the military cannot conduct operations like a business.

In addition, operating conditions in Alaska are unlike any other jurisdiction. As a result, extensive guard experience in Alaska is critical. This Alaska experience, as well as qualifications at operational or strategic levels of military leadership, is essential to the best interest of Alaska. It's also important to the interaction of Alaska with national homeland security, national disaster agencies, and national war efforts.

In summary, an Alaska Adjutant General should be selected from a cadre of professional Alaska officers that goes through the military educational process with active duty military. This will insure the success of the Adjutant General of Alaska's mission. Your support of this bill is respectfully requested.



ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER'S ASSOCIATION

200 West 34th Avenue, PMB 727, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

16 JANUARY 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD: Proposal to Amend Alaska Statute (AS 26.05.160) Reference
"Qualifications for the Position of Adjutant General"

Based on present statutory and constitutional language, this proposed amendment specifically addresses the position of "Adjutant General" in AS 26.05.160 without contradicting the constitutional language that specifies "department head appointed by the governor". The two titles "department head", or "The Adjutant General" (TAG) may be used separately or mutually at the discretion of the Governor.

Many other states already have statutory requirements similar to what we are requesting. For example, Texas requires ten years Texas Guard membership. Other states have made the political appointment of TAG from junior ranks (Warrant Officer, a Major, civilians) with mixed results. Lack of experience or qualifications at the operational or strategic levels of military leadership and/or lack of understanding and background of Alaska and its National Guard have been at the center of many of our historic areas of concern. We feel that a person being appointed to the highest military position in the Alaska National Guard and the Alaska State Militia forces should have a significant understanding and experience of the Alaska National Guard and of the State of Alaska.

In Alaska, the Adjutant General position also is a political appointee, civilian, State Commissioner by the Governor, under the State Constitution with additional criteria in statute. In both capacities, TAG reports to the Governor in his roles as State Commander in Chief (military title) and as the Chief Executive (civilian title). As The Adjutant General, the primary responsibility is control of the Alaska National Guard in support of State missions. As a military general/flag officer, TAG is uniquely responsible for the melding of the Federal funding and missions of the National Guard while balancing the two distinct lanes (State and Federal) of resourcing and execution. This requires individuals with a strong background in National Guard (State/Militia) experience, as well as an overall general military experience and education.

Many Alaska National Guard (AKNG) officers have succeeded at the highest levels with recent service around the world in combat, peacemaking or peacekeeping roles in command of active duty, multi-national and multi-service components. Most have served in State Homeland Security/Emergency Response missions. Many of the functions of senior military officers are equal to and exceed civilian business management and leadership tenets. Bringing in a civilian from the business world without military credentials would not be in the best interests of the military missions of the Alaska National Guard and could negatively affect the morale of qualified Alaska National Guard Officers now and in the future.

We have a professional officer cadre that goes through the military schooling system with the active Army and Air Force and are required to have civilian education commensurate with their rank. We believe these officers should have first priority to serve at the highest military rank in Alaska's National Guard. Statutory specification to that effect would ensure this goal.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

((ORIGINAL SIGNED))

Colleen Hough

President

Mike Bridges

Legislative Liaison

Thomas Katkus

Board Member

Roger Schnell

Board Member

PROPOSAL FOR A STATE OF ALASKA RESOLUTION AMENDMENT

RELATING TO QUALIFICATIONS IN ALASKA STATUTE AS.26.05.160. FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

BACKGROUND: Currently in the State of Alaska, the Governor is essentially free to appoint nearly anyone he/she chooses to be The Adjutant General (TAG) for Alaska, the highest military position of the Alaska National Guard. At the same time, the requirements for appointment of the two (Army and Air Guard) Assistant Adjutant Generals, require that they have served at least five (5) years in the Alaska National Guard, be able to be Federally recognized as General Officers, and other specific statutory and regulatory requirements. Additionally, in a group of peer Adjutants General, a non-Federally recognized TAG is not an equal amongst his/her peers particularly when addressing the Federal resources and missions relating to the National Guard of the State(s).

This creates both a real and perceived disparity between two militarily qualified General Officers and their potential immediate military leader that is unacceptable. Also, someone who has no knowledge of the Alaska National Guard tends to spend most of their time just trying to learn about our capabilities and challenges, the Alaska military and political environments and the State military needs. This is contrary to someone who has come from within the organization. Also, the military training, experience, schooling requirements to include the War College are intense and cumulative to achieve the level of General Officer in today's National Guard. Someone who has not served in the higher military ranks also should not be considered to be placed in a military command position at the level of Adjutant General.

As this proposal has not been able to be accomplished through administrative action, it is hereby presented for support through the Alaska State Legislature.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION AMENDMENT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA TO A.S. 26.05.160: Appointment, Qualifications, and Duties of Adjutant General.

"An Act relating to qualifications of the adjutant general; and providing for an effective date."

* Section 1. AS 26.05.160(a) is amended to read:

Sec. 26.05.160. Appointment, qualifications, and duties of adjutant general. (a) The adjutant general of the state is appointed by the governor. The governor shall prescribe the grade of the adjutant general, which may not exceed major general. To be eligible for appointment as adjutant general, a person must be a citizen of the state and must be a federally recognized general-grade officer in the Alaska National Guard or an officer who has the qualifications to gain federal recognition as a general-grade officer, either in active status or in retirement status eligible for reappointment as a general-grade officer; in appointing the adjutant general, the governor shall consider and give preference to persons with at least five years' service in the Alaska Army National Guard or in the Alaska Air National Guard. The adjutant general shall make returns and reports to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and to the governor or to the officers designated by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the governor, at the times and in the form prescribed.

* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

Sec. 26.05.160. Appointment, qualifications, and duties of adjutant general.

(a) The adjutant general of the state is appointed by the governor. The governor shall prescribe the grade of the adjutant general, which may not exceed major general. To be eligible for appointment as adjutant general, a person must be a citizen of the state. The adjutant general shall make returns and reports to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and to the governor or to the officers designated by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the governor, at the times and in the form prescribed.

(b) The adjutant general shall execute a bond running to the state in the penal sum of \$20,000 conditioned upon the faithful performance of the adjutant general's duties. The attorney general shall approve the bond and the bond shall be filed with the Department of Administration. The state shall pay the cost of the bond.

(c) The adjutant general is the official liaison between the state and the active military in the state. The adjutant general shall provide advice and assistance to state agencies having dealings with the active military in the state.

(d) The adjutant general is the official liaison between the state and the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The adjutant general shall provide advice and assistance to state agencies having dealings with the federal Department of Veterans Affairs.

(e) The adjutant general is the official liaison between the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the state. The adjutant general shall provide advice and assistance to state agencies having dealings with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

History -

(Sec. 17 ch 150 SLA 1955; am Sec. 1 ch 4 SLA 1965; am Sec. 1 ch 57 SLA 1967; am Sec. 1 ch 6 SLA 1992)

Amendment Notes -

The 1992 amendment, effective April 14, 1992, added subsections (c)-(e).

Collateral Refs -

53 Am. Jur. 2d, Military, and Civil Defense, Sec. 35.

57 C.J.S., Militia, Se

Sec. 26.05.160. Appointment, qualifications, and duties of adjutant general.

(a) The adjutant general of the state is appointed by the governor. The governor shall prescribe the grade of the adjutant general, which may not exceed major general. To be eligible for appointment as adjutant general, a person must be a citizen of the state. The adjutant general shall make returns and reports to the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and to the governor or to the officers designated by the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the governor, at the times and in the form prescribed.

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Collateral Refs -

53 Am. Jur. 2d, Military, and Civil Defense, Sec. 35.

57 C.J.S., Militia, Sec. 11.

Sec. 26.05.170. Governor's command and instructions exercised through the adjutant general. The governor's command is exercised through the adjutant general, who shall carry out the policies of the governor in military affairs. The adjutant general represents the governor and shall act in conformity with the governor's instructions. The adjutant general shall exercise control over the military department of the state.

History -

(Sec. 18 ch 150 SLA 1955)

Sec. 26.05.180. Headquarters staff of Alaska National Guard.

(a) The headquarters of the Alaska National Guard is composed of an Army National Guard component, an Air National Guard component and a Naval Militia component. The Army National Guard component and the Air National Guard component shall each be commanded by an assistant adjutant general appointed by the adjutant general with the concurrence of the governor. An assistant adjutant general shall, while holding office, have the grade of brigadier general or a lower grade that the adjutant general may prescribe. On initial appointment an assistant adjutant general must hold a federally-recognized field-grade commission with at least five years service in the Alaska Army National Guard or in the Alaska Air National Guard.

(b) The adjutant general may appoint necessary officers, enlisted persons, and civilian

Take Note

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH REPORT

JANUARY 19, 2006



REPORT NUMBER 06.098

QUALIFICATIONS FOR NATIONAL GUARD ADJUTANTS GENERAL IN OTHER STATES

PREPARED FOR REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN

BY PATRICIA YOUNG, MANAGER

In anticipation of a hearing on HB 354, which would add eligibility requirements for the position of adjutant general in Alaska, you asked for information on the requirements for the position of adjutant general (TAG) in other states. You also wished to know if any states' adjutants general gain the position by a process other than appointment by the governor.

According to Bernie Phelps, legislative analyst, National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), governors appoint the adjutants general in every state except South Carolina and Vermont.¹ In South Carolina the TAG is elected by popular vote.² In Vermont the TAG is elected by vote of the legislature every two years.³ For the District of Columbia, the U.S. president appoints the adjutant general. In at least eight states, the governor's appointment is approved by the Senate.

Neither the NGAUS nor the Adjutants General Association of the United States has compiled information on the qualifications of adjutants general. We therefore sent requests to the TAG of each state. At this time, we have information on 25 states. While the time constraints of this request have allowed only a quick review of states' statutes, we note the following features:

¹ Bernie Phelps, legislative analyst, National Guard Association of the United States, can be reached at (202) 408-5884.

² Under the state's constitution, the only requirement for election is qualification as a registered voter in South Carolina; no military experience is required. By statute, if the office is vacated by the elected TAG, the governor appoints an officer in the active National Guard who holds the rank of lieutenant colonel or above, is a registered voter, and has a minimum of 15 years' active commissioned service in the state's National Guard. Danny Stewart, South Carolina TAG Administrative Coordinator.

³ Major General Martha Rainville, Adjutant General of Vermont.

- ♦ Most of the states we reviewed require that the candidate be a federally recognized officer with substantial (5 to 15 years) previous experience in the armed forces, generally as a commissioned officer.
- ♦ Some states limit the appointment to individuals under the age of 64 or 65.
- ♦ Among the states we reviewed, Tennessee and South Carolina (like Alaska) were alone in having no qualifications other than state residency. The TAG in Tennessee notes that they probably should rewrite their code.⁴

Several responders to our request for information added comments about the qualification requirements. Because you may find them to be useful, we include those comments here:

Arizona—We are very satisfied with our rules as they apply to the appointment of the Adjutant General. They have taken the "Politics" out of the process, and made the job competitive only for well-qualified individuals. Over the years we continually look at the laws, and have not changed them because they give the Governor an opportunity to pick from a large pool, but again, only the most senior officers, and who were, or are, members of the AZ NG. Major General David P. Rataczak, TAG, Arizona.

Florida—Some states' policies weaken the TAGS ability to make decisive decisions when actions must be taken for good order and discipline. Having a TAG easily replaced usually shows up in [diminished] readiness ratings and detracts from strong leadership. Major General Douglas Burnett, TAG, Florida.

Idaho—Please note that we amended [the statute], deliberately raising the minimum appointment eligibility from lieutenant colonel to colonel. Two basic reasons for the change: the increased experience held by more senior colonels, often including graduation at War College, and the fact that senior colonels typically will have a quicker and easier process obtaining federal recognition at the ranks of brigadier and major general. Major David Dahle, Judge Advocate, Idaho.

Maine—The law [in Maine] is silent on the requirement of the Adjutant General or Assistant Adjutant General to be able to attain federal recognition as a General Officer. In my personal opinion, the law should require the TAG/AAG to be able to obtain federal recognition. If we as TAGs are to be considered "legitimate" General Officers among our peers on Active Duty, we should meet the same educational and promotion standards they do. Major General John W. Libby, TAG, Maine.

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

⁴ Major General Gus L. Hargett, Jr., Adjutant General of Tennessee.

2-9-06

HB 354 – Passed MLV as amended

Amendments:

Page 1 Line 12 after governor: delete shall and replace with *should*

Page 1 Line 12 after consider: delete and give preference to

Page 1 Line 14 after guard: Conceptual amendment by Thomas. Beginning your regular service enlistment in Alaska. In other words, if you start your enlistment in Alaska – move away and come back to Alaska, without having five years of Alaska National Guard experience, you should still be able to be Adjutant General.

Page 2 Line 3: Delete the entire line about the act takes place immediately.

1:55 pm 2-9-06 Hb2450 Brian Kane - Legal
gave him info for the CS. Amendments

24-LS1450A

HOUSE BILL NO. 354

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Introduced: 1/9/06

Referred: House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs, State Affairs

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to qualifications of the adjutant general; and providing for an effective
2 date."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 26.05.160(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) The adjutant general of the state is appointed by the governor. The
6 governor shall prescribe the grade of the adjutant general, which may not exceed
7 major general. To be eligible for appointment as adjutant general, a person must be a
8 citizen of the state and must be a federally recognized officer in the Alaska
9 National Guard or an officer who has the qualifications to gain federal
10 recognition as a general-grade officer, either in active status or in retirement
11 status eligible for reappointment as a general-grade officer; in appointing the
12 adjutant general, the governor ^{should} consider ~~and give preference to~~ persons with
13 at least five years' service in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Air National
14 Guard. The adjutant general shall make returns and reports to the Chief, National

HB0354a

add
Thomas Conceptual
amendment

-1-

New Text Underlined [DELETED TEXT BRACKETED]

Take out

HB 354

1 Guard Bureau, and to the governor or to the officers designated by the Chief, National
2 Guard Bureau, and the governor, at the times and in the form prescribed.

3 * Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

out

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

February 9, 2006

1:11 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Bob Lynn, Chair
Representative Jim Elkins
Representative Bill Thomas
Representative Sharon Cissna
Representative Max Gruenberg

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Lesil McGuire
Representative Nancy Dahlstrom

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

HOUSE BILL NO. 354

"An Act relating to qualifications of the adjutant general; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED CSHB 354 (MLV) OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 354

SHORT TITLE: QUALIFICATIONS OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

SPONSOR(s): MILITARY & VETERANS' AFFAIRS

01/09/06	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/09/06	(H)	MLV, STA
01/19/06	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124
01/19/06	(H)	Bill Postponed
02/09/06	(H)	MLV AT 1:00 PM CAPITOL 124

WITNESS REGISTER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE BRIDGES, President
Alaska National Guard Officers Association
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified as to the reasoning behind HB354.

ACTION NARRATIVE

CHAIR BOB LYNN called the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting to order at 1:11:07 PM. Representatives Lynn, Elkins, Thomas, and Cissna were present at the call to order. Representative Gruenberg arrived as the meeting was in progress.

^#hb354

HB 354-QUALIFICATIONS OF ADJUTANT GENERAL

1:11:19 PM

CHAIR LYNN announced that the only order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 354, "An Act relating to qualifications of the adjutant general; and providing for an effective date."

1:11:37 PM

CHAIR LYNN informed the committee that he had consulted with Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs (DMVA) administrators and based on their suggestions had an amendment to offer.

1:11:50 PM

CHAIR LYNN moved that the committee adopt Conceptual Amendment 1, as follows:

Page 1, line 12;
Delete "shall"
Insert "should"

Page 1, line 12;
Delete "and give preference to"

1:12:23 PM

REPRESENTATIVE LYNN clarified that the new version would read: "the governor should consider persons with at least five years' service in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Air National Guard."

REPRESENTATIVE ELKINS commented that he liked "shall" more than "should".

1:12:44 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA inquired as to the reasoning behind the DMVA requesting "should" as opposed to "shall".

CHAIR LYNN explained that the concern was in regard to the separation of authority between the legislature and the [governor]; the legislature would potentially be dictating how [the governor] appoints the adjutant general.

1:13:29 PM

REPRESENTATIVE ELKINS opined that if [line 12 of HB 354] reads "should", the governor wouldn't be able to appoint whomever he/she desired. Therefore, maintaining "shall" allows the governor to appoint whomever he/she desires.

REPRESENTATIVE ELKINS objected to adopting Conceptual Amendment 1.

1:13:44 PM

A roll call vote was taken. Representatives Thomas, Cissna, and Lynn voted in favor of Conceptual Amendment 1. Representative Elkins voted against it. Therefore, Conceptual Amendment 1 was adopted by a vote of 3-1.

1:14:16 PM

CHAIR LYNN explained that the purpose of [HB 354] is to ensure that Alaska has an adjutant general who is knowledgeable about Alaska. Currently, the governor of Alaska is free to appoint any citizen of Alaska, without other qualifications to be the adjutant general. This legislation attempts to remedy that situation by recognizing additional guidelines for appointees because the nature of the job requires substantial experience and understanding of military operations in general, and the Alaska National Guard/Alaska Air Guard, in particular. He opined that an Alaska adjutant general should be selected from a cadre of professional Alaska officers who go through the military educational process with active duty military.

1:15:18 PM

LIEUTENANT COLONEL MIKE BRIDGES, President, Alaska National Guard Officers Association, remarked that the National Guard is unique among the military services because it serves two unique audiences. The National Guard serves both the federal government/commander in chief when "federalized" as well as the active component of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, which provide the majority of its [resources]. He noted that

depending on funding and [resources], the National Guard is federally obligated to be equivalent in training, experience, and capabilities to its active component peers.

1:16:37 PM

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIDGES stated that the aforementioned is a major component of the [Alaska National Guard's] request that the Alaska adjutant general be federally recognized as a general officer. When the Alaska adjutant general is beyond Alaska borders, it is important that he/she is equivalent in standing to active duty general officers and adjutant generals of other states, who are federally recognized as general officers. He noted that if the Alaska adjutant general is not federally recognized as a general officer, there is a significant difference in his/her standing.

1:17:29 PM

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIDGES explained that in regard to the National Guard, Alaska is unique in that it has unique criteria, conditions, population, demographics, and emergency situations. He opined that it would take a long time for a general officer from the Lower 48 to become knowledgeable about Alaska. He opined that the Alaska National Guard Officer Core has grown/will grow "high quality" [officers] and they should be looked at first for adjutant general.

1:18:45 PM

CHAIR LYNN, upon determining that no one else wished to testify, announced the closure of public testimony.

1:18:51 PM

REPRESENTATIVE ELKINS opined that [HB 354] is a good bill, except for the "should".

1:18:56 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA added that the only problem she foresees is the [Alaska National Guard] not having enough [officers to select from for the adjutant general position]. She suggested that the committee hear testimony on that particular issue in order to ensure that it isn't making it difficult to fill [the adjutant general] position.

1:19:29 PM

CHAIR LYNN reiterated that he had talked with the [DMVA] administration.

1:20:00 PM

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS added that a general officer who is originally from and/or enlisted in Alaska should be eligible for the Alaska adjutant general position.

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA surmised then that enlistment in Alaska should be an alternative to five years of [service in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Air National Guard].

CHAIR LYNN, attempting to clarify, stated that the adjutant general could be an Alaska resident, knowledgeable about Alaska, who served outside of Alaska. He then reiterated that HB 354 doesn't require that the governor [appoint a general officer with at least five years of service in the Alaska National Guard or Alaska Air National Guard to fill the adjutant general position].

1:21:23 PM

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS opined that retired Alaska residents should be eligible for the [Alaska] adjutant general [position].

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA inquired as to whether the committee would be able to make [Representative Thomas' suggestion] a conceptual amendment.

CHAIR LYNN responded that he didn't think such was necessary.

1:22:43 PM

REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS moved that the committee adopt Conceptual Amendment 2, as follows:

Page 1, line 14;

Insert ", or began their regular service
enlistment in Alaska."

There being no objection, Conceptual Amendment 2 was adopted.

1:24:26 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA moved to report HB 354, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes.

1:24:58 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG asked whether there's a need for an immediate effective date.

CHAIR LYNN responded that he was unaware of a reason.

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG remarked that he doesn't generally favor [effective dates], unless there's a need [for them].

1:25:19 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA withdrew her motion.

1:25:46 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG added that typically, laws don't take effect until 90 days after the governor signs them, unless there's a reason for an immediate effective date, which requires passage by a two-thirds majority.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL BRIDGES informed the committee that there isn't a specific reason for an immediate effective date.

1:26:22 PM

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG moved that the committee adopt Amendment 3, which would delete the immediate effective date, thus deleting Section 2. There being no objection, Conceptual Amendment 3 was adopted.

1:26:28 PM

REPRESENTATIVE CISSNA renewed her earlier motion to report HB 354, as amended, out of committee with individual recommendations and the accompanying fiscal notes. There being no objection, CSHB 354(MLV) was reported out of the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.
#

There was discussion regarding potential legislation, including a specialized license plate for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) as well as appropriation/federal funding for the CAP.

1:28:56 PM

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Special Committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

SCOMM

139:15

Never rec'd
request for a
hearing

SCOMM

139:16

Never rec'd a
request to
hear

SCOMM

139:17

PT28- 17/4

The emerging world of vessel tracking

Captain Ed Page, U.S. Coast Guard (Retired), President, Maritime Information Services of North America, Juneau, Alaska, USA

For ages, the allure of going to sea, has been the ability to cast off all lines, escape all ties with civilisation and sail the oceans blue. Similarly, years ago aviators flew the skies free as a bird. Regrettably, those carefree days are behind us! The high stakes of an aviation or maritime incident, and the demand for greater efficiencies in our transportation systems, have led to the evolution of tracking technologies, which to date, have been slow in coming for the maritime community.

The aviation community has had a comprehensive aircraft tracking and control system in place for years through the use of radars and aircraft transponders. The maritime community is now finally moving in the same direction through the use of new satellite and line of sight VHF communication technologies that are providing worldwide vessel tracking.

The need for vessel tracking

The one watershed event that accelerated vessel tracking was the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. Authorities quickly realised a terrorist incident involving vessels could have even greater impacts, and some opined the maritime transportation sector was the least secure and most vulnerable. U.S. Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Tom Collins highlighted the importance of tracking vessels when he stated "with regard to Maritime Domain Awareness, which is the centrepiece of our maritime security strategy, we believe that the installation of Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Long Range Tracking Devices will aid enormously in providing the necessary information on in-bound maritime shipping, long before ships reach our ports."

These concerns led to a series of U.S. and international regulations and treaties to bolster security. In 2002, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) passed the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code requiring a suite of enhanced security measures. These included the installation of worldwide satellite tracking equipment, Ship Security Alert Systems (SSAS) and a line of sight VHF radio vessel tracking devices, AIS on vessels sailing the oceans to aid the monitoring of vessels' present positions, past port calls and transits. The IMO also passed a resolution which in part stated that the IMO "urges contracting governments to take, as a matter of high priority, any action needed at national level to give effect to implementing and beginning the long-range identification and tracking of ships." Clearly, the U.S. and the international community are poised to implement systems that track the approximately 60,000 vessels that ply the seas. For the U.S. alone, some 8,000 deep draft vessels call on U.S. ports annually making vessel tracking a daunting challenge.

While vessels have been installing these new communications technologies to provide a worldwide vessel tracking system, the equipment and processes required to receive, evaluate and disseminate this surge of information is years off from being fully implemented by governments. The biggest challenges are building and operating the shore based receiving stations around the world to process the vessel information transmitted by vessels AIS transponders and determining the systems to be used in collecting and sharing this information.

The role of MISNA

Recognising vessel tracking is the wave of the future, several commercial and non-governmental entities are developing the



systems needed to receive and process vessel position data today. One organisation, the non-profit Maritime Information Services of North America (MISNA), comprised of a network of Maritime Exchanges in U.S. and Canada, has developed the capability to bring in both AIS and satellite generated data into a hybrid vessel tracking system called the Automated Secure Vessel Tracking System or ASVTS. MISNA advocates information on vessels' positions when shared with government and commercial maritime interests can aid "safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations." In most cases MISNA's vessel tracking system uses existing on board satellite and VHF communications systems to economically track vessels around the world for a US\$3 a day, a cost every shipper should be able to easily absorb. MISNA has also built a network of AIS receiving stations around the U.S. which report a vessel's position every minute when in an AIS covered area. When a vessel is outside an AIS area, which is 95% of the time, position reports are provided every few hours by the satellite tracking systems.

To date, participation in the Long Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) component of MISNA's secure vessel tracking system is voluntary and is evolving into the "Standard of Care" for responsible ship operators. The owner, operator and affiliates can all view vessels' positions through use of a user name and password on a secure internet site, information that aids the efficient



AIS and satellite tracking by MISNA's Automated Secure Vessel Tracking Service



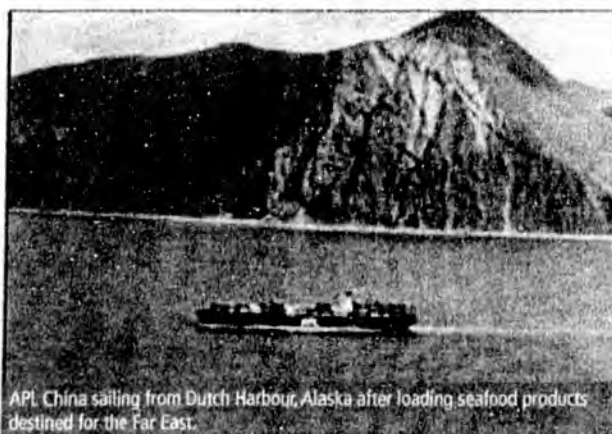
Vessels operating in Alaska – Summer 2004 (Voluntary participation in ASVTS)

mobilisation of tugs, pilots, shore gangs and agents. Their password determines which vessels they are authorised to see. The Coast Guard has a "master password" and sees all participating vessels. Over time the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection and other agencies will view participating vessels as lower risk vessels and non participants as "high risk" aiding their port clearance and inspection decision process. Vessel charterers will also evaluate a vessel's participation in a tracking system as part of their vetting process.

The U.S. Coast Guard Admiral in charge of Alaska operations, Admiral Jim Olson, realised the quickest way to increase his ability to protect vessels sailing his enormous operating area was to ask vessel operators to voluntarily participate in the ASVTS tracking programme. As a result, his Operations Centre, Captain of the Ports, Coast Guard security vessel patrols and boarding



Ability to determine where a vessel has been before arriving in port



APL China sailing from Dutch Harbour, Alaska after loading seafood products destined for the Far East.

teams, are all able to view the locations of all tankers, cruise ships, ferries and many tugs and container ships plying Alaska waters and the Pacific. This information helps the Coast Guard identify anomalies in a vessel's transit, positively identify prior ports of calls, and respond to emergencies. The tracking system essentially provides a safety and security net for vessels. The owners and operators of the vessels are also realising benefits in having this information available. The Alaska programme may well serve as a model for a 'today solution' for implementing a practical, low cost tracking system that aids both government and the marine industry. It is proving to be a 'cheaper, better, faster' industry developed solution.

The expression "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade" applies to the onset of the vessel tracking initiatives. If the days of casting off all lines and escaping civilisation are over, the challenge is to make vessel tracking a useful, value added tool. Several in the marine industry are doing just that and finding ways to accelerate an industry developed vessel tracking solution that meets the needs of governments while also aiding commercial interests.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Captain Ed Page is a 1972 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy who served as a commissioned officer for 29 years before retiring to start the Marine Exchange of Alaska. Captain Page served in a variety of marine safety positions around the U.S. and overseas including an assignment as Captain of the Port for Los Angeles/Long Beach, one of the U.S. busiest ports, and as Chief of Marine Safety and Security for the Pacific Coast. He presently is the President of the Maritime Information Services of North America and resides in Juneau, Alaska.

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

Maritime Information Services of North America (MISNA) is a coalition of non-profit maritime information service organisations dedicated to providing information, communications and services to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. Established in 1995, MISNA represents the commercial maritime community's shared commitment to proactively address the challenges faced by the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, other federal and state agencies and industry in a cooperative and cost efficient manner.

ENQUIRIES

Marine Exchange of Alaska
2 Marine Way
Suite 222
Juneau
Alaska
United States 99801

Tel +1 (907) 463 2607
Fax +1 (907) 463 2593
Website www.misnadata.org

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: HB465-DMVA-COMM-02-27-06
 () Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____

Dept. Affected: Military and Veterans' Affairs

Title Marine Safety & Security

RDU Military and Veterans Affairs

Sponsor Military & Veterans Affairs

Component Homeland Security &

Requester _____

Emergency Management

Component No. 2657

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012
Personal Services	168.5	168.5	168.5	168.5	168.5	168.5
Travel	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Contractual	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Supplies	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type--Do not abbreviate)						
TOTAL	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5	188.5

Estimate of any current year (FY2006) cost: 0.0

Mark this box (X) if funding for this bill is included in the Governor's FY 2007 budget proposal: ☐

POSITIONS

Full-time	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Part-time	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Temporary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Personal Services:

.5 FT Grants Administrator II - \$35,000
 1 FT Emergency Management Specialist II - \$64,000
 1 FT Micro/Network Tech II - \$69,500

Contractual:

Legal Support, Office Space, Technical Support

Prepared by: John Cramer
 Division: Administrative Services Division
 Approved by: Craig E. Campbell, Commissioner
 Agency: Department of Military & Veterans' Affairs

Phone (907) 465-4602
 Date/Time 02/27/06 @ 3:10 pm
 Date 2/27/2006

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair:
Legislative Council

Member:
Community and Regional Affairs
Judiciary
Labor and Commerce – Vice Chair



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3777
Fax: (907) 465-2819
Toll Free (877) 861-5688

Interim:
10928 Eagle River Road – Suite 238
Eagle River, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 694-8944
Fax: (907) 694-8945

REPRESENTATIVE PETE KOTT DISTRICT 17 – EAGLE RIVER

Sponsor Statement For House Bill 465

“An Act relating to Marine Safety and Security; and providing for an effective date.”

The issues of Marine Safety and Security have become more prevalent since September 11, 2001. Keeping Alaska waters safer from terrorism and marine disasters is the purpose of HB 465. The State of Alaska has set in place the automated secure vessel tracking system to monitor ship traffic of the Alaska Marine Highway and vessels with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. HB 465 expands the monitoring 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

House Bill 465 adds a new section to Alaska Statute 44.35 to implement the Alaska marine safety and security act. This Act will direct the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs to cooperate and support the Marine Exchanges Automated Vessel Tracking System and their Marine Center to track the locations of vessels navigating Alaska water. This will compliment and augment the United States Coast Guard and marine industry safety and security initiatives and other services.

HB 465 authorizes the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs to provide funding for the non-profit Marine Exchange of Alaska to expand, maintain, support and operate five automated identification system-receiving sites to track the movements of Marine Vessels. This system could eventually track and monitor all marine vessels and commercial vehicles in Alaska.

Passage of HB 465 will make our waters safer to disaster and terrorism. I welcome your support.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Chair:
Legislative Council

Member:
Community and Regional Affairs
Judiciary
Labor and Commerce – Vice Chair



Session:
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3777
Fax: (907) 465-2819
Toll Free (877) 861-5688

Interim:
10928 Eagle River Road – Suite 238
Eagle River, AK 99501-2133
Phone: (907) 694-8944
Fax: (907) 694-8945

REPRESENTATIVE PETE KOTT
DISTRICT 17 – EAGLE RIVER

Memorandum

To: Representative *Bob Lynn* - Chairman
House Special Committee for Military & Veteran Affairs

From: Representative *Pete Kott*

Date: February 16, 2006

Re: HB 465 "An Act relating to marine safety and security."

Chairman Lynn,

House Bill 465 was introduced on the House Floor. I respectfully request that HB 465 be scheduled for a hearing with the House Special Committee for Military & Veteran Affairs at your earliest possible convenience.

Thank you for your consideration.

2-16-06

*Have to X 3/1/06 in order.
we need sponsor letters for
these two bills. He said
he would get them drafted.*

*2016
Hik 30 final note
done*

Nancy Manly

From: Cliff Stone [cliff_stone@dps.state.ak.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 01, 2006 4:38 PM
To: Nancy Manly
Cc: Rep. Bob Lynn
Subject: HB465/concerns for the record

Hi Nancy...

Here are concerns that I received from the field re HB465.
Please include in the bill packet for the committee's consideration.

Tks ~ cliff

It looks like the bill drafter thinks that ADF&G vessels are the state's enforcement vessels. They don't mention being able to track or monitor our enforcement vessels as well as the ADF&G research vessels.

The other thing it doesn't seem to do is to address the confidentiality of the information. It seems like they need to make sure that not just anybody can access or have this information such that they might be able to plan an attack or thwart enforcement efforts. I don't see anything that makes any of this confidential in any way.

--

Cliff Stone

Spec.Asst/Leg.Liaison to the Commissioner
Alaska Department of Public Safety
Mailstop 1200

(907) 465-2649 / Voice
(907) 465-4362 / Fax

SCOMM

139:18

20 January 2005

The Honorable Mr. Bruce Weyhrauch
Alaska State Representative
Juneau, Alaska

SUBJECT: Operational Deployments of the Alaska National Guard

DEPLOYMENT STRENGTH: The Alaska Army National Guard currently has over 250 soldiers on Federal Active duty with approximately 170 of those involved in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) overseas. Over 80 soldiers are on Federal Title X duty at Ft. Greely with the National Missile Defense security mission. 36 Soldiers have just completed Federal Title X duty of two years securing Kulis Air Guard Base and 67 Aviation Battalion soldiers recently returned from nearly a year in Kosovo.

PENDING MISSIONS: Current pending missions include an Aviation Company (UH60 Blackhawk Helicopters) to OIF late this Spring 2005 (18 months total Federal time), and beginning early Summer 2006 through Spring 2008, approximately 320 Infantry soldiers will deploy to the Horn of Africa (HOA) in support of the Global War On Terror (GWOT) with two, 150-plus man unit rotations of 12 months "boots on the ground" time each rotation).

LENGTH OF MISSIONS: Army Guard missions are primarily 12 months boots on the ground if part of OIF or OEF for a total of 18 months with train up/mobilization and demobilization time. Other missions are generally from 6-12 months. Overseas deployment training missions (ODT) are usually 3-4 weeks if outside Alaska. The Haiti mission is a Nation-Building/Humanitarian mission starting in February and running through June, with Aviation Platoons going for 3-4 week rotations covering the duration.

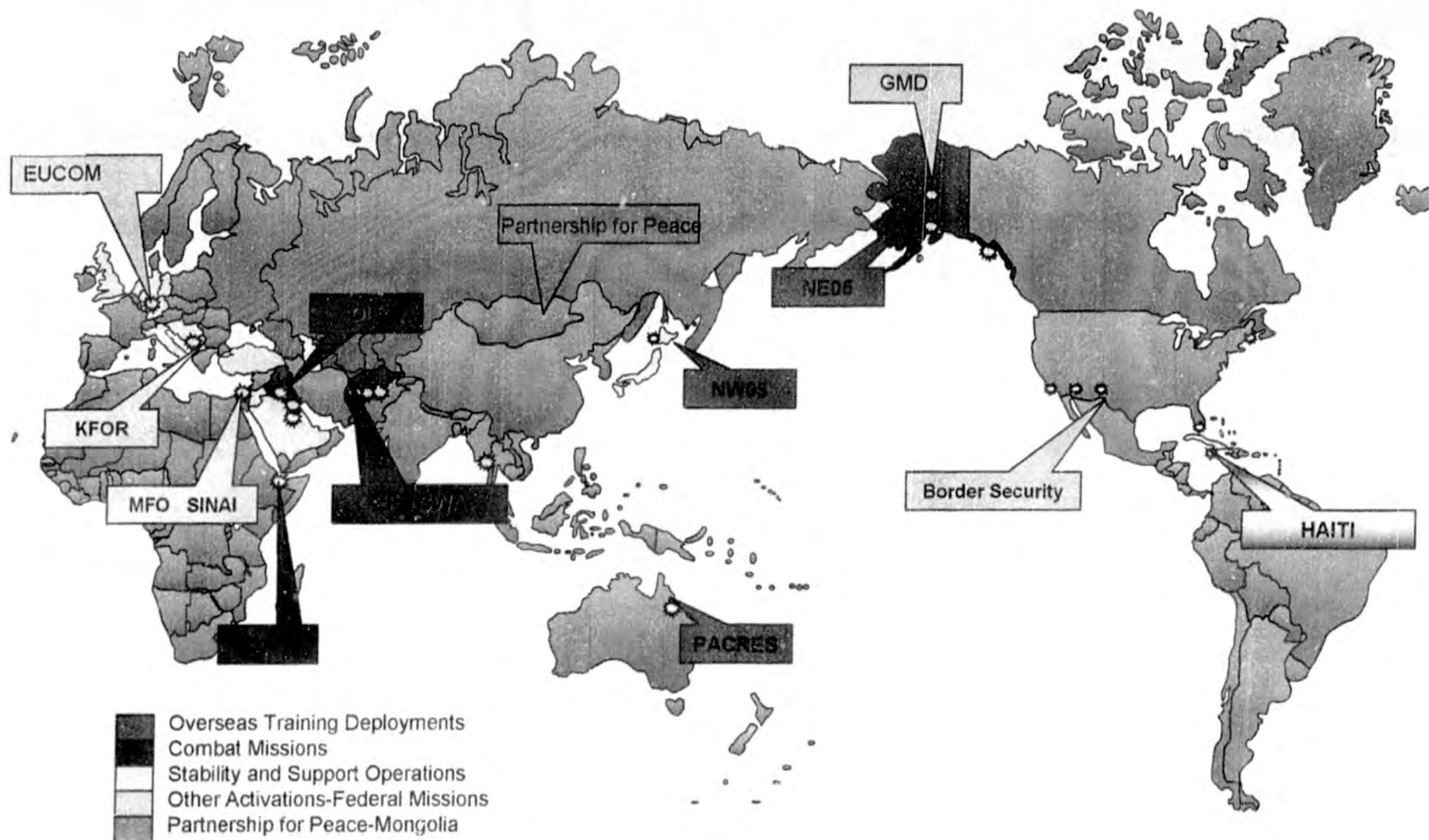
WHERE THEY ARE FROM: These Army Guard Soldiers are from communities all over Alaska from Ketchikan to Barrow, and around the entire Rural periphery from Kotzebue to Togiak, Kodiak, Kenai and throughout the Southeast.

TROOP BACKGROUND: In their civilian lives these soldiers are mechanics, truck drivers, cooks, business managers, small business owners, pilots, fishermen, accountants, police, fire fighters, mill workers, salespeople, state and federal public employees, you name it, they are part of the civilian communities they come from.

Point of Contact for this information is: Lieutenant Colonel Mike Bridges at (907) 428-6503, email: mike.bridges@ak.ngb.army.mil

Alaska Army National Guard Operational Deployments

(As of January 2005 and pending)



M & V Affairs-February 17, 2005

Testifying via telephone on behalf of HJR 8

Brigadier General Craig Christiansen, Assistant Adjutant General-
Army; Commander Alaska Army National Guard

Lieutenant Colonel Mike Bridges, Deputy Commander-207th
Infantry Group, Scout. Alaska Army National Guard