Pony Express Messengers Sworn In

John Wayne Post GR79 Member Don Chamberlain and Post Commander Max Rice being sworn in as Department of France Messengers.
Commanders Corner

Pictures always say more than a thousand words I’ve heard.

Last month, we featured National Commander Wong at the wreath laying ceremony during Memorial Weekend at Lorraine American Military Cemetery in St Avold/France. Certainly I could now insert my picture dressed in a white shirt, Department cap and standing in front of the American Flag. That would probably be the only time you will see me in that pose however, since I will always be dynamic and on the move. This month, you get a picture of (from left to right of John Wayne Post GR79 member Don Chamberlain - GR79 Post Commander Max Rice) after being sworn in as Department of France Messengers. GR79 Post Commander Rice is also our Department (FR) Adjutant and available under email colwichboy@yahoo.com

Travel in Europe costs a lot when you have to pay $8.25 a gallon for gas on the economy. Train travel can appear to be less expensive if you can plan travel way in advance, but by the time you figure in taxi fares for getting from home or from train station to Post, as well as the additional time necessary for transfers, it is not always less expensive or less time-consuming than driving. Our furthest Post west is Lisbon/Portugal, east Vilseck/Germany, north Copenhagen/Denmark and south Athens/Greece. From Vilseck to Lisbon, it’s about 2,700 kilometers, from Denmark to Greece, 3,000 kilometers. Our “small” Europe is not much smaller the area of the United States.

I am a Department of France American Legion Rider, so I may often show up on a motorcycle, no matter what the weather or occasion. I may be tired or wet, but I am definitely happy to visit your Post and I hope that you can appreciate the effort I made to make the visit. I plan to physically visit as many Posts as possible, failing that, I will at least see the Post commander or adjutant where available.

This past month, I travelled to Posts GR13, GR79 and GR45 and sat in for The American Legion at the job fair held at Ramstein AFB. I had also planned to visit Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and Fisher House after the job fair, but I still had a bad cold and didn’t want to pass it on. Department of France Chief Messenger “Fitz” Fitzgerald, his Messenger wife Susie and Department of France AL Rider Director Russ Junkin held a Legacy Scholarship Fund donation collection in Heidelberg on July 27th, which I was happy to attend and help greet our servicewomen, servicemen and their families as they went shopping. It really warms my heart to see folks in a rush, take a moment to receive a thank you for their service to our great Nation.

Every Legion Family head, Department Officer, Committee Chairperson, Program Director, Post Commander or Adjutant has received emails from me. In most cases, we have also spoken to each other by telephone, if not, I will talk to you this month.

Cooperation and mutual helpfulness are traits that we must stress and observe within our Department. I also cannot fail to express how important membership and membership numbers are for the Department of France. Everyone needs to be fully aware of this fact since, without the necessary membership numbers, we cannot survive as a department. If each of our posts had at least 500 active members and we continued to find new members, initiate them, retain them and mentor them (F.I.R.M.), we would be in good shape. I have asked, and will continue to strongly request, that all Department Officers and Posts concentrate on meeting our National and Department Membership goals for 2012 and 2013, which also means that transmittals are due from Posts in a timely manner.

Time doesn’t stand still and we are quickly moving into August and already heading toward September and school start. Think of our American Legion programs and goals and continue your Post training. Every Department and Post Officer should have completed the Legion Extension Institute course by September. August 7th is Purple Heart Day and August 14th marks the end of WWII with the surrender of Japan. September 3rd is Labor Day.

I’ll be representing the Department of France at the 7th Legacy Scholarship Run and have been asked to be the
Run Chaplain again this year. We arrive in Indianapolis in time for the National Convention which I will of course attend, both as S.A.L. delegate for Detachment of France and Department of France Legion delegate. I will return to Germany on September 3rd. I can be contacted by email during this time and will have my U.S. cell number running as of August 12th.

My prayers continue for the safety and health of our servicewomen, servicemen and their families, no matter where they serve. My heartfelt thank you goes to every Veteran who has served our great Nation. My deep appreciation and thank you also goes to the Department of France Legion Family. May God continue to give us strength to continue to serve our Veterans and America.

For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore, GR05
Commander
Mobile: +49 (0) 172-7417812
e-mail: revronmoore@yahoo.de

Vice Commander at Large

My fellow Legionaries

I hope everyone had a great and safe 4th of July. I was invited to GR13 and GR79’s 4th of July events. Both programs were well done, my cap off to the two Commanders, Commander Cervenka (GR14), and Commander Rice (GR 79), for a Job well done.

Contact with GR45 has been reestablished, with Commander Henning; however he is going TDY again. We are in the process of setting up a meeting to establish an election date and a point of contact for GR45, until elections can be accomplished, thank you Commander for your direct involvement, in coordinating for this meeting.

GR79 is well on the way of bringing the Post back to its standards. They have redone their Constitution, and By-laws, and are having regular meetings again, and are planning for future Post events. This was made possible by the hard work of Commander Max Rice, Comrade Robert Hale, and Comrade William Bailey, and other members of the Post. Keep it moving GR79.

I was greatly saddened to hear of the passing of Comrade George Hall’s (GR03) wife Doris on the 16th of July. The funeral is planned for 3 August, at Gai-berg; at 1400 hours. Please keep the Hall family in your thoughts and prayers during this trying time.

I spoke with Commander Walker (GR1982), he had some issues that needed clarification. The issues were cleared via phone calls and e-mails, and GR1982 is continuing to move ahead in a positive direction.

By now all the Vice Commanders should have contacted their respective Post to start the communication process. If you have issues or concerns please contact your respective Vice Commander, or feel free to contact me anytime.

I wish all of you and your families a great and safe summer. In closing, please keep those in harm’s way and their families not only in your thoughts but your prayers also.

James Settles, GR42
VCAL
Phone: 07138-67359
E-mail: pisces@t-online.de

Department Vice Commanders Post Assignments 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VC STEPHEN WARD</th>
<th>VC THOMAS ROHDE</th>
<th>VC CHRISTOPHER HERNDON</th>
<th>VC CHRIS O’NEAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 06322-68168</td>
<td>Phone: 0711-20708219</td>
<td>Phone: 0160-90679626</td>
<td>Phone: 06303-8081155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:wardtrans@yahoo.com">wardtrans@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tarohde@hotmail.com">tarohde@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Christopher.Herndon@usafri.com.mil">Christopher.Herndon@usafri.com.mil</a></td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:chrisonoeal_99@yahoo.com">chrisonoeal_99@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST GR05</td>
<td>POST FR01</td>
<td>POST GR01</td>
<td>POST GR20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST GR07</td>
<td>POST FR05</td>
<td>POST GR03</td>
<td>POST GR30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST GR14</td>
<td>POST GC01</td>
<td>POST GR06</td>
<td>POST BE02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST IR02</td>
<td>POST IT01</td>
<td>POST GR09</td>
<td>POST DK01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST IR03</td>
<td>POST PO01</td>
<td>POST GR13</td>
<td>POST NL01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POST IR63</td>
<td>POST SP292</td>
<td>POST GR42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Vice Commander**

**Greetings Commanders & Comrades,**

Attended the VFW National Convention held at the Reno Convention Center, 21–25 July 2012. Assigned to the General Resolutions Committee Member. The website for the VFW Proposed Resolutions is: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) Click News & Events, Click 113th VFW National Convention Search Proposed Resolutions. President Barack Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney were present for the VFW National Convention.

Received from the Post Commander Ron Moore, Post GR05 Moerfelden-Walldorf Report. Post Meetings held once each Month follow by Social. Participation in the Department Convention, 1st DEC, and plan to attend the 2nd DEC, Kaiserslautern, and 3rd DEC, Ansbach. Currently the Post Membership at 75%

Plan to attend the Post GR07 Mannheim schedule for: 7 August 2012 at Spinelli Barracks, 7 p.m. Also, plan to attend T.W.B Post GR14 held at the Landgasthof Schroth Budingen/Orleshausen. Post IR03 plans to have their Post meeting 15 September. I plan to attend their Post Elections and Thanksgiving Dinner 22 November. The Irish Posts IR02/IR03/IR63 have created a website: [www.americanlegion-ireland.com](http://www.americanlegion-ireland.com)

If the Posts require any recruitment assistance, please contact me by email or call me. Many thanks Commanders and Comrades for what you do for The American Legion.

Stephen A. Ward, GR01 Vice Commander Phone: 06322-68168 Cell: 0171-4378855 E-Mail: wardtrans@yahoo.com

---

**Vice Commander**

Hello fellow Department of France Legionnaires. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Tom Rohde and I’m one of the newly elected Department vice Commanders. I’ve been Legion member for over 11 years (CP01) as well as the 40/8. It truly is an honor to be given the opportunity to serve as your Department Vice Commander for this upcoming year.

As many of you already know, I have been assigned some our smaller, but well established Posts that are spread throughout the European footprint. These Posts are located in France (FR01 & FR05), Greece (GC01), Italy (IT01), Portugal (PO01) and Spain (SP292). I’m looking forward to working with them and provide any Department level assistance that they may need.

Due to resources, I cannot promise that I will be able to visit your each of your Posts. However, I very much would love to hear about what your Post is doing for the Legion and the local community. So if your post has a quarterly or monthly newsletter, please send me a copy via email. If not, an email with a blurb on what you are doing with some photos would be great. Or if your post has its own website please send me the link. This way I can stay informed and involved. I have already received a newsletter from Gilbert Wells, the Adjutant from NUNO ALVARES PEIREIRA POST - PO01 (Portugal). Their newsletter was well written and interesting to read. Thanks!

One of my first initiatives as the new Vice Commander was to convert a stack of random Department of France history documents and photos (papers) and convert them electronically into PDF format documents. This took a bit of time as some of the papers were not in the best condition and kept jamming my scanner. I sent these all to H. Ownby and a few others. These will be submitted as part of a package to Legion headquarters lobbying them to have the upcoming American Legion’s 100th anniversary celebration in Paris, France, the birthplace of the American Legion. So if any of you have any significant or old Department photos or historical documents that would be helpful; please send them to myself or H. Ownby as a PDF file.

Again, I’m looking forward to working with you and hearing about the great things that your Post is doing. Let me know if I can assist you Post in anyway.

Thomas Rohde, CP01
Vice Commander
Phone: 0711-20708219
Email: tarohde@hotmail.com

---

**From the Chaplain’s Desk**

**Fellow veterans**

This month I had the opportunity to visit the Army hospital at Ramstein for my wife to have some tests done. In doing so, I saw something that reminded me that we still have young men and women in harm’s way. I was sitting in the waiting room when I heard an announcement asking for all available personnel to the E.R. Being curious, I went to look and there I saw many ambulances waiting to be unloaded with the wounded from the war. What a chilling sight to see, but it also filled me with great pride, knowing that there are still young men and women willing to give their all in the defense of our great country. You could see it in their faces that they are doing this with love for their country and for us left behind. So with this picture still fresh in my mind, I am asking you, fellow veterans, to keep these young men and women in our prayers and in our thoughts. Also, we must still pray for those who are still in harm’s way every day, here and abroad, for they are the future of this great nation. Also pray that they will all return home to their families safe and sound, just as I do every day for my son who is also down range.

Also let us keep in our prayers, those members who are sick and dying. May they never be forgotten. A special prayer goes out to two people who have passed away this month. CSM (Ret) Joseph Cheek, GR1982

Mrs. George Hall (wife of George Hall)

Please forgive me if I miss any one else and may God have mercy on them and on those left behind. Please e-mail me with the names of those sick and dying so I can pass on the word.

Sincerely yours, Dave

David Boedeker
Chaplain
Phone: +49 (03221) 2274818
E-Mail: dbgufight4er4@gmail.com

---
2012 Legacy Fund Donation Collection Procedure

Greetings Messengers, Way Station Managers, Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units and S.A.L. Squadrons,

We are collecting the funds for transfer to the States. I will be leaving for the States in August, so August 8th should be the last date of pickup for delivery to me.

As of June 24, 2012, Howard “Fitz” Fitzgerald has been appointed as our Department of France chief messenger. His email is susiefitz@t-online.de

Please coordinate pickups or send U.S. $ check/money order donations, made out to A.L. Legacy Scholarship Fund, to him or me. Please ensure that your Post or personal address and name are on the check or money order, so that the National Commander can send the donor a thank you letter (above $100) or a plaque (over $500).

I will be participating in the 2012 Legacy Run and we will leave Niagara Falls with the National Commander on August 20, 2012. Chief Messenger “Fitz” will meet me at Niagara Falls to turnover the checks he has collected to me.

The following Posts have messengers or participate in the system now:

ALR GR07, CP01, GR01, GR03, GR05, GR07, GR09, GR14, GR42, GR1982 and IR63. Since our last newsletter, Posts GR13 and GR79 have each supplied messengers who have been duly sworn in.

I ask the following Posts to contact us to get on board to help recognize and support the children of our fallen heroes:

BE02, DK01, FR01, FR05, GC01, GR06, GR20, GR30, GR45, IR02, IR03, IT01, NL01, PO01, SP292

Remember, your full donation goes into the Legacy Scholarship Fund with no deductions. Our Department is credited and thanked for the amount of money we bring to Convention, but that isn’t what is important. Every penny helps the children of servicewomen/men who die or died while on active duty or federalized service since September 11, 2001. Please be generous.

Rev. Ronald “Gypsy” Moore
Commander
E-Mail: revronmoore@ahoo.de
Howard “Fitz” Fitzgerald
Chief Messenger
E-Mail: susiefitz@t-online.de

Detachment Commander,
Sons of The American Legion

My fellow Comrades,

I hope all had a safe and happy 4th of July. I attended GR13 and GR79’s 4th of July events. Both of the events were well prepared. I was able to meet with other Legionaries, and the camaraderie was great. I also was able to meet with the Department of France Commander, Comrade Moore, at both events. Comrade George Hall, GR03 Squadron Commander, wife passed away on 16 July 2012 after a yearlong battle with an illness. Please keep Comrade Hall and his family, not only in your thoughts, but your prayers also, during this trying time. I was informed by our NEC-Man Comrade Odom Sr., that there is a WWII Veteran living in Kansas. This veteran, Don Revest, will turn 100 on the 27th of August 2012. This hero of WWII has no living family and resides in a Nursing Home. I think it would be a wonderful gesture for us to send him a birthday card and let him know he is not forgotten. I encourage the Squadrons within the Detachment to send Mr. Revest a Birthday card for his 100th Birthday. Mr. Revest address is below. I wish each and every one of you and your families a happy and safe summer vacation wherever you may be going. In closing, please keep those in harm’s way and their families not only in your thoughts but your prayers also.

Mr. Revest Address:

Don Revest
c/o Villa Maria
116th South Central Avenue
Mulvane, KS 67110

Yours in Comradeship
Service to God and Country

Joshua J. Settle
Detachment Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Phone: 07138-67359
EM: josh.sal@hotmail.com
The first of the carriers now is under construction. The Flight III is scheduled to appear in the 2016 budget, and the SSBN(X) in 2019.

While the report highlighted familiar differences between CBO and the Navy, the service took the somewhat unusual step of issuing a blog statement about how its cost forecasts are calculated.

Titled “The Rigor Behind Costing of the Navy’s 30-Year Shipbuilding Plan,” the blog post was posted late Thursday. It was written by Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research Development & Acquisition) Sean Stackley and Vice Adm. John Blake, the deputy chief of naval operations, integration of capabilities and resources, known as N8.

The blog post is quoted here in its entirety:

“Based on a report issued by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), there has been media reporting and discussion about the cost estimating methodology used by the Navy to forecast over the 30-year shipbuilding plan.

“The Navy’s 30-year plan assesses Department of the Navy investments in battle force ships in three 10-year periods, called near, mid, and far-term. “The near-term 10-year period (fiscal year 2013-FY22) comprises the FY13-FY17 Future Years Defense Program (FYDP) and the next FYDP. The mid-term planning period covers the two FYDPs between FY23-FY32, and the far-term planning period covers the two FYDPs between FY33-FY42.

“Confidence in cost estimates over these time periods inevitably declines over time. Unsurprisingly, then, the difference in Navy and CBO forecasts for new ship construction increases over time. Depending on the costs being considered, CBO’s numbers are 9 to 11 percent higher in the near-term planning period, 11 to 13 percent higher in the mid-term planning period, and 30 to 33 percent in the far-term. “The Navy’s confidence in our cost estimates in the FYDP (i.e., the current budget window) is extremely high. From FY13 through FY17, there is great stability in our shipbuilding programs. Pending Congressional approval, DDG 51 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and SSN 774 Virginia-class submarines will be procured via fixed-price incentive multiyear contracts. Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) are being bought under fixed price incentive block buy contracts through FY15 and it is envisioned follow-on fixed price incentive block buys or multi-year contracts will be used. The CVN 79 aircraft carrier and LHA 8 assault ship will be procured under fixed price incentive contracts. The Navy’s Oiler Replacement (T-AOX), as all other auxiliary ships, will be procured using fixed price contracts. The stability afforded by fixed price, long-term contracts, particularly on these mature programs with stable ship configurations, lends greater confidence in the Navy’s estimates for the first FYDP in the near term. In fact, Navy and CBO estimates for this time frame are within five percent.

“The second five-year period of the near term continues to build stable designs of the Virginia, LCS, LHA, T-AOX, and DDG 51 classes.

“There are two lead ships that will be introduced during the second five years. The Navy is focused on balancing requirements with affordability for these and all new ship classes. The Navy will begin the LSD (landing ship dock amphibious ship) replacement in FY18. While the design for this ship is not yet finalized (analysis is ongoing) — this is a replacement for the LSD 41/LSD 49 Class — the cost to build this class of ships is well understood.

“The other lead ship introduced at the end of the near-term period is the SSBN(X) Ohio Replacement. The department has already established affordability targets for the lead and follow Ohio Replacement and is investing research and development in order to meet these targets.

“The focus on stable designs and focus on affordability for future platforms is considered in the Navy’s cost estimates for the mid and far-term periods. During the mid-term period (FY23-FY32), there is relative stability in all classes of ships as the Navy continues to build existing designs. Any new designs during the mid-term period will also focus on affordability and be informed by the class it is intended to replace.
place. Clearly, however, uncertainty regarding the future requirements, related costs and external factors such as escalation, increases during the mid-term.

“The far-term period simply assumes a one-for-one replacement for ships expected to retire in that period. The Navy estimates for these ships are based on the cost knowledge of today’s ships escalated to the far-term.

“Overall, the Navy’s 30-year plan is built upon the confidence in our estimates during the next five years and the affordability focus placed on our new shipbuilding programs. The Navy acknowledges in the 30-year plan that the accuracy of its estimates decrease in the mid to far term planning periods. However, our 30-year plan provides the best estimate possible balancing stable costs in the near-term and cost projections of capability required over time.” (Navy Times 7/26/12)

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

TOPIC 1: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES TREATY
Three Republicans helped pass the United Nations treaty on people with disabilities out of committee on Thursday.

Sens. Dick Lugar (R-Ind.), John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) joined the 10 Democrats on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to pass the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which has the support of advocacy groups across the country. Proponents say it would merely require the rest of the world to catch up to the United States’ high standards created by the Americans With Disabilities Act while protecting Americans with disabilities abroad, but opponents — including a number of home-schooling groups — have raised concerns about international standards being imposed on America.

The treaty, said panel Chairman John Kerry (D-Mass.), “raises the standard to our level without requiring us to go further.”

Abortion was the only issue to divide lawmakers along partisan lines.

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) proposed language saying the treaty “does not create any abortion rights.” All nine Republicans on the panel voted for it.

But Democrats said that would have allowed treaty signers to discriminate against people with disabilities — refusing to provide the full range of family planning services under domestic law — in violation of the spirit of the treaty. Instead, Kerry offered an amendment saying the treaty does not address “the provision of any particular health program or procedure,” meaning the treaty doesn’t create any new abortion rights beyond the duty not to discriminate against people with disabilities.

The anti-abortion rights Susan B. Anthony List however said abortion itself is often a form of discrimination against people with disabilities.

"Ironically, when special needs children are identified in the womb, they often become a prime target for abortion," SBA List President Marjorie Dannenfelser said in a statement. "Over 90% of children diagnosed with Downs syndrome in utero have their lives abruptly ended. Abortion in no way promotes the rights and dignity of people with disabilities."

Lawmakers also sparred over how far to go in requiring that the United States not be required to change its domestic laws. Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), who has led opposition to the treaty, fought for a reservation to the treaty but was voted down when Sens. Lugar, Barrasso, Isakson and Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) joined Democrats who offered a less binding declaration.

DeMint’s language would have stated that the United States “does not accept any obligation under the Convention to enact legislation or take other measure in any fashion”; alternative language from Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.) merely has the Senate declaring that “current United States law fulfills or exceeds the obligations of the people with disabilities.”

"The last thing we want as a country is for our courts to deem some of our disabled policies against the law, because they’re different," DeMint said. "Because we want them to be better than what the United Nations can do."

But Kerry said DeMint’s language amounted to a “sweeping statement that [the treaty] doesn’t mean anything.” Rather, he said, the United States, by signing onto the treaty, is vowing to abide by the standards set forth in the Americans With Disabilities Act, which turned 22 on Thursday.

Supporters of the treaty hope to get it to the Senate floor before summer recess at the end of next week. Ratification requires a two-thirds majority, or 67 senators.

TOPIC 2: ARMS TREATY UPDATE
The arms trade treaty being hammered out by the United Nations is nearing completion, and the current draft shows it could lead to perpetual attacks on the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment and American foreign policy, critics say.

The document, which critics say has been framed by countries hostile to U.S. interests, allows for future amendments to be approved by just two-thirds of states showing up at an amendment conference. That means it could be agreed to by the U.S., put into effect and then changed over Washington’s objections. And even if the U.S. Senate refuses to ratify it, the deal could have a huge impact on the global arms trade, where the U.S. is the biggest player.

“The talks … are now being dominated by skeptical governments including Iran, Syria and Cuba.”
- Statement from Control Arms, group seeking global arms control

“This alone is grounds for rejection,” said Ted Bromund, senior research fellow with the Washington-based Heritage Foundation’s Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, as he pored over the text.

But even without amendments, there is plenty for the U.S. not to like in the draft, say critics. The treaty could set the stage for legal challenges to U.S. aid to allies like Israel and Taiwan, and it could also expose private information about U.S. gun owners.

But release of the draft so close to Friday’s deadline for a final text sends a strong signal that the treaty’s broad strokes are already set, observers say.

While critics say U.S. gun owners and interests would be left exposed by the draft, it has drawn criticism on other fronts. Activists on the political left say it is a gift to illicit gunrunners around the world, and the only group
that seems to like it is the rogue states leading talks, say critics.

“The talks ... are now being dominated by skeptical governments including Iran, Syria and Cuba, intent on having a weak treaty, or no treaty at all,” Control Arms, a global movement that says illicit gunrunning is fueling conflict, poverty and serious human rights violations worldwide, said in a statement. Other activists named North Korea, Egypt and Algeria as additional spoilers of the UN’s stated aims for the treaty: to keep conventional weapons out of the hands of rogue regimes, terrorists and criminals.

The draft treaty’s amendment provisions have become a new point of focus for campaigners keen to protect the integrity of U.S. Second Amendment rights to gun ownership and other U.S. interests.

Language stating that amendments are only legally binding on a country if “accepted” by its government is ambiguous, according to some experts. Past practice dictates acceptance is necessary if an amendment is to carry legal weight in a country, but the terms of this treaty have already veered from the norm with the UN General Assembly’s acceptance of the agreement-by-consensus provision.

The draft treaty’s amendment rules also fail to stipulate a quorum for an amendment vote which could be done with just ten states.

The Second Amendment is protected only by sovereignty and lawful private ownership references in the draft’s preamble — a part of a treaty that is not typically legally binding.

Critics say these shortfalls are an invitation for gun control activists to cite the treaty in their campaigning even as the treaty’s supporters say it is clearly about international arms transfers.

Some provisions appear that critics have said may straitjacket U.S. foreign policy, including one that could facilitate opposition to U.S. arms sales to Israel or other states involved in conflict. The provision does this by citing human rights and humanitarian law as criteria for considering halting arms sales.

But while the so-called “automatic majority” of Arab and Muslim states and their allies at the UN paint Israel as one of the world’s worst human rights abuser states, Russia and China have balked most at the human rights and humanitarian rules, insiders say.

While declining to discuss specifics of a draft “under active negotiation,” the U.S. official close to the talks said the United States seeks a treaty that “improves global security by requiring countries to establish export controls to prevent illicit transfers of arms, including to terrorists, criminals, known human rights violators, and those subject to United Nations arms embargoes.”

But the draft falls short on even those goals, according to campaigner from across the political spectrum.

Activists on the political left are angry ammunition is not listed as within the treaty’s scope. The United States was among countries that sought the omission as U.S. gun lobbyists and their supporters said tracking ammunition was unworkable.

The draft that emerges will become international law for countries that ratify it once 65 of them have done so. But analysts say it could take 10 years to reach that number.

At least 58 U.S. senators have pledged to not ratify the measure “if it includes civilian firearms,” Wayne LaPierre, NRA executive vice president, told the UN treaty conference this month. For a treaty to become U.S. law, two-thirds of the Senate must vote to ratify it. Still, experts told FoxNews.com that if the Obama administration signs on and the Senate does not expressly reject it, the treaty may later be enforceable in the United States as international “customary law” — absent a successful challenge based on the Constitution.

TOPIC 3: POW/MIA WEEKLY UPDATE

AIRMEN MISSING FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED

On June 19, 2012 the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, were identified and returned to his family for burial with full military honors.

Air Force Capt. Clyde W. Campbell, 24, of Longview, Texas, will be buried June 21, at Arlington National Cemetery near Washing-
access to eastern Germany restricted by the Soviet Union, the remains of the seven remaining unaccounted-for crewmen—including Wasilewski—were declared non-recoverable.

In 1991, a German national who was digging a grave in the cemetery in Neustadt, discovered a metal U.S. military identification tag and notified officials. German burial law restricted further site investigation until 2007, when the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) surveyed the area. In 2008, the site was excavated and the team recovered human remains and military equipment.

Scientists from the JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used forensic identification tools and circumstantial evidence, including dental comparisons and chromosome DNA—which matched that of Wasilewski’s nephew—in the identification of his remains.

Of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II, more than 400,000 died. At the end of the war, the U.S. government was unable to recover and identify approximately 79,000 Americans. Today, more than 73,000 are unaccounted for from the conflict.

**MILITARY REVIEW BOARDS**

This week ending July 27, 2012 our Military Review Boards staff assisted 29 former service members with new, upcoming and pending petitions prepare their case for review by the Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military Records. Case development included: 16 phone calls, 17 emails, 5 correspondences, and 4 service officer inquiries and 2 hearing reviews.

One of our success stories for this week was a former Marine Corps Lance Corporal, now 37 years of age, separated with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge in July 1998 following 1 year and 4 months of total active duty service due to Failure to Participate in accordance with Marine Corps Separation and Retirement Manual (MARCORSEPMAN) 6213.

Positive aspects of this former member’s service included award of the National Defense Service Medal and excellent Proficiency/Conduct Markings of 4.5/4.6.

This Applicant’s record of service was marred by missing 13 drills over a period of 12 months. Following numerous contacts by his command regarding the missed drills he failed to make any of them up. Accordingly, he was processed out of the Marine Corps Reserves Under Other Than Honorable Conditions.

At his personal appearance hearing this Applicant contended that his post-service conduct warranted consideration for his discharge to be upgraded to General (Under Honorable Conditions). The Navy Discharge Review Board (NDRB) considers outstanding post-service conduct to the extent such matters provide a basis for a more thorough understanding of the Applicant’s performance and conduct during the period of service under review. The Applicant provided several letters of reference and documentation regarding his employment, education and training, criminal record, family and personal status, and community service. After a careful review of the Applicant’s post-service documentation and official service record, and taking into consideration his testimony and the facts and circumstances unique to this case, the NDRB determined relief is warranted based on equitable grounds.

The Board voted unanimously to upgrade the discharge characterization to General (Under Honorable Conditions) but not change the narrative reason for separation.

**HEROES TO HOMETOWNS**

Marlene Hall, Assistant Director of Outreach, Heroes to Hometowns is continuing to process requests for assistance from wounded soldiers. This past week she helped to assist 11 wounded soldiers. The Heroes To Hometowns Facebook page has 189 followers, up from 173 followers last week, and a twitter account that has 644 followers, up from 633 last week. There are currently about 32 Department websites linking Heroes to Hometowns to their website.

H2H helped a wounded vet in FL at post #373 to receive $1,069 for temporary financial assistance. She attended the Pat Tillman Foundation event and networked Tues night.

American Legion has designed a logo and now we are coming up with 3 booth designs (table cloth, tent, and standing posters). The booth will be at the American Legion National Convention. She is visiting Walter Reed almost every Friday to do outreach.

Marlene Hall met with Steve Brooks of the American Legion to discuss social media. She has joined the social media team at the American Legion. She is setting a meeting up with Randy Puschert of the Wounded Warrior Project at Walter Reed. She is setting up a meeting with the USO. She is working with 1st Sgt Matlock to attend Tues meetings at Walter Reed with wounded troops’ spouses that share what they need. She met with Luke’s Wings that provides flights to wounded soldiers and their families. She visited Walter Reed last Friday.

John Stovall, Director
National Security-Foreign Relations Division
202-861-2700
Week Ending 7-27-12

---

**2013 National Commanders Visit**

As the Department VIP Chair, I would like suggestions from the Posts as to what they would like the Department to schedule for the new National Commander. There are three things we must provide; the briefing at Stuttgart and Ramstein and the visit to LRMC. The rest of the time we, the Department Members should have him and the Auxiliary President visit with us, some of our Posts and hear what the Membership has to say. Now that I have said all that, we are looking at a five or six day window for the visit. With any luck we can accomplish the necessary briefings and visit to LRMC in three days, leaving the rest of the time to us. Please send any suggestions to me, so I can start putting a plan together. The Department has to respond to National with our suggested three dates NLT 15 Jul 2012, so I’m asking that any and all suggestions be sent to me by 8 July, so I can formalize a plan for the Commander Moore to review before we send it to National. Let’s put our heads together and plan a whirlwind visit that the National Commander will remember for a long time.

Thanks Legionnaires.

John H. Miller PDC, ANEC
VIP Chair
E-Mail: miller-roth@t-online.de
GR09 Receiving Awards

Keith Abernathy receiving the Department of France Commander of the Year Award

Presentation of the National Commander’s Outstanding Commander of the Year Award

Post Commander Keith Abernathy receiving the Department Small Post of the Year Award from Commander Joe Brown
GR13 4th of July Celebration
GR79 4th of July Celebration