



# THE BLADE



A Newsletter of the 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Here we are again with the start of a new year. Our Association is doing well financially, but we do need to all work on building our membership.

This makes me recall when I was a Specialist in the 415<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Management Detachment in the early 1970's and we were directed to take a card table, and some flyers to a shopping center in El Monte to "recruit" new members into the USAR.

Why the leadership thought this would get people to join I still don't understand (this was when the draft had ended and Viet Nam was still raging) but we did as we were told.

Now I'm not proposing that you go to your local market and set up a table, but I would like it if you would talk up the Association with your USAR friends and get them to join.

As you are aware one of our challenges has been the reorganization of the USAR with the relocation of the 63d to Moffett Field with a new support mission, not a command and control mission.

This means that there is not a down trace of 63d units from which we would draw our membership. To be able to accept new members we need to make another change to our

By-Laws to open membership to all that have served in the USAR. Specifically we are proposing that **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE** be revised as follows:

**“ARTICLE II. PURPOSE:** The purpose of this Association shall be: To perpetuate the history and honor of the 63d Infantry Division, the 63d Army Reserve Command (ARCOM), 63d Regional Support Command (RSC), or the 63d Regional Readiness Command (RRC), or have been based in the geographic area of responsibility of any of the foregoing organizations; ***to open membership to any active, reserve, or retired member of the United States Army, in good standing;*** to promote and enhance the national security of the United States of America through a strong military program; and to provide assistance and support to the members and their families.”

*Change identified in emboldened and italicized words.*

This proposed change will be presented to the membership at our April Annual Meeting to be held on 17 April 2016. See you then.

Chuck Ebner  
BG USA Retired

## NATIONAL INTEREST REPORT

*By COL Alfred M. Diaz, USA (ret)*

On December 2, 2015, President Obama signed the FY 2016 Defense Authorization Act. It includes many provisions that have been advocated by Pentagon civilian bean counters for many years, that will unfortunately reduce retirement benefits for military personnel who begin their service in or after 2018.

Starting in 2018, new service members will no longer have the traditional 20-year, all-or-nothing retirement plan. It will be replaced with a blended pension and investment system, with automatic contributions to a Thrift Savings Plan and an opportunity for government matches to personal contributions. Eligibility for a military pension will begin after only ten years of active military service.

The new system is expected to give roughly four in five service members some sort of retirement benefit when they leave the military, as opposed to the current system which benefits only one in five. The extra costs will be covered by reducing pensions for those who serve 20 years or more.

One disturbing result will be a reduced incentive for military personnel who are separated from active duty after ten years to continue their service in the Reserve Component. It is an unfortunate, unintended consequence.

The authorization act also includes language to stop President Obama from closing the detention facilities at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a ban on a new Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) round, a ban on "paid patriotism" with sports leagues and teams, easier rules for military animal adoptions, and requires development of "gender-neutral" standards for all military jobs.

On December 18, 2015, President Obama signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2016, one division of which may be cited as the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2016. It is this act that permits the Department of Defense to start new programs and acquisition plans.

The two acts authorize and appropriate funds for a 1.3 percent pay increase for military personnel, which once again is about one percent less than the increase in the Employment Cost Index that is supposed to be used as the basis for military pay increases. Pay for general and flag grade officers is frozen at FY 2015 rates.

Another unfortunate provision is housing allowances for active military personnel that will increase out-of-pocket expenses by 1%. That's in addition to the fact that military families in on-base housing are now required to pay for utilities such as electricity, water, and natural gas.

The cuts in pay, benefits, and retirement, are intended to civilianize military pay and benefits.

## My Activation Story

*By COL Jim Wisenbaker, USA (ret)*

One caution, this is a No-BS story, meaning that I can stretch the truth a bit, and readers are cautioned to suspend most of their normal disbelief, at least for this reading. That said, I'd started in aerospace, just as the Reagan started re-vitalizing the military. Intelligence had just discovered the Soviets were putting in new facilities into Grenada, just as they'd done in Cuba, despite previous accords. The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne was deployed, along with Marines and Reserve units. At the 63<sup>rd</sup> HQ, I heard they'd requested our Intel Bn (CEWI). I'd quietly warned one of the members (a co-worker), "Donny" that his Bn was being considered. I later found that he'd taken it badly, quite upset that some DA staffer would consider activating just his Bn; but he'd said nothing to me, it seemed normal jitters.

However things changed, later, when the President also decided we'd resolve our problems with a Dictator in Panama; a bigger country & they had to activate more units. It came as a slight surprise, later (at a Farewell Party) that I received a set of Orders, activating me for "6 months or the duration" to support Security Operations in Panama. I suddenly wasn't worried about the party; I was engrossed in making a list of what I needed to deploy. I later heard others didn't believe how calmly I was taking it. As the party hit a break point, I excused myself and used the pay phone to inform my boss.

Just as I was dialing, one of the other Managers ("Tom Van") came up and cut off my call. Donny had confessed the Hoax to him, after I started concentrating.

Somehow, "friend" Donny felt he was "getting even" for his previous discomfort and fear. He was more worried than he'd said & held it against me. He'd recruited one of our co-workers, to deliver his set of "fudged up" orders and hoping I'd break down, as he had. I'd disappointed Donny badly after his "Joke" was exposed. Tom stated he'd gotten unbelievably mad that Donny would be that petty and vindictive. Personally, I was so focused on the orders for my potential deployment, that I'd not stopped to consider the impact to my life and family that this would have had; or was I just in shock?

The Bottom Line- Every soldier, even those prepared by our Mobilization briefings, are really ready to "ruck-up" when the call comes. As a Commander during OIF/OEF deployments in I attempted to bring that focus & understanding to difficult notifications and activations of people who were convinced it really was only a 1 weekend a month, & 2 weeks in the summer. I realized I couldn't count on everyone taking activation orders in a rational manner; as a Commander, I had to be on the lookout for those who started behaving unexpectedly.

**What is your story? Send it in for our next Blade issue!**

# California Launches Veteran Driver License and ID Card

## California Launches Veteran Driver License and ID Card

Veterans can apply for "Veteran" designation beginning November 12

# Veteran Driver License and ID Available

HAVE YOU EVER SERVED IN THE U.S. MILITARY? YOU MAY QUALIFY TO PROUDLY DISPLAY **VETERAN** ON YOUR CALIFORNIA DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTIFICATION CARD.

**IT'S AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3!**

**1** Find your military discharge certificate (DD214). If you need assistance obtaining your military records, then contact your County Veteran Service Officer (CVSO).

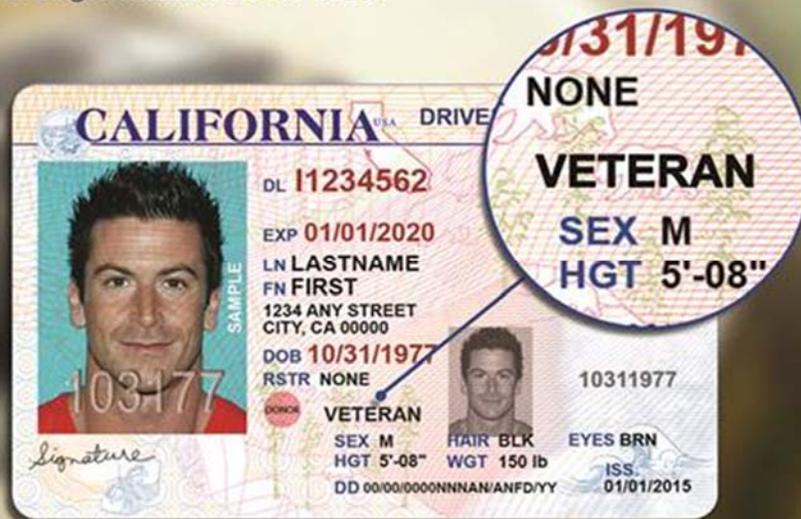
**2** Take your DD214 and government identification to your CVSO to obtain your Veteran Status Verification Form.

**3** Go online or call DMV for an appointment. Then bring your Veteran Status Verification Form to DMV. Complete your application, pay any fees including the \$5 fee to add the Veteran Designation.  
*Note: tests may be required.*

For faster CVSO service, schedule an appointment by finding your local CVSO at [www.calvet.ca.gov](http://www.calvet.ca.gov) or calling 1-844-737-8838.

To schedule an appointment at a DMV, visit [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov) or call 1-800-777-0133.

**CALVET**  
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



## Fake US Soldiers Robbing Women Online

### Military Advises: Asking for Money Always a Red Flag

The U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID) warns that women in the U.S. and around the world are being scammed by persons pretending to be U.S. soldiers, whose promises of true love only "end up breaking hearts and bank accounts."

According to CID, the pretend heroes sink so low as to be using the names, ranks and even pictures of actual U.S. soldiers - some killed in action -- to target women 30 to 55 years old on social media and dating web sites.

"We cannot stress enough that people need to stop sending money to persons they meet on the internet and claim to be in the U.S. military," said Chris Grey, Army CID's spokesman in a press release. "It is heartbreaking to hear these stories over and over again of people who have sent thousands of dollars to someone they have never met and sometimes have never even spoken to on the phone."

According to Grey, the scams typically employ romantically worded requests for money to help the fake "deployed soldier" buy special laptop computers, international telephones, military leave papers, and transportation fees needed to keep the "relationship" going.

"We've even seen instances where the perpetrators are asking the victims for money to 'purchase leave papers' from the Army, help pay for medical expenses from combat wounds received, or help pay for their flight home so they can leave the war zone," said Grey.

Victims who ask to actually talk to the fake soldiers are told the Army does not allow them to make phone calls or that they need money to "help keep the Army internet running." Another common thread, according to Grey is for the "soldier" to claim to be a widower raising a child on their own.

"These perpetrators, often from other countries, most notably from West African countries are good at what they do and quite familiar with American culture, but the claims about the Army and its regulations are ridiculous," said Grey.

Report Them: All forms of financial fraud, which is exactly what these fake, "love for money" soldiers are trying to pull, can now be reported through the StopFraud.gov website: <http://www.stopfraud.gov/report.html>

NOTE: No branch of the U.S. military charges service members money for permission to take leave. Leave is earned, not purchased. As the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command recommends: Never Send Money - "Be extremely suspicious if you are asked for money for transportation costs, communication fees or marriage processing and medical fees."

In addition, be very suspicious if the person you are corresponding with wants you to mail anything to an African country.

Where to Turn Them In: If you suspect or know you have been victimized by a fake soldier scammer, you can report the incident to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3).

Also See: Military Removes Online Personnel Locator Services

Out of a concern for the safety and privacy of their service members, all branches of the U.S. military have removed their web-based, online personnel locator services.



**Membership Application 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR**

Rank/Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Bus. Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Present or former assignments in  63d Inf Div WWII  63d Inf Div USAR  
 63d ARCOM  63d RSC/RRC or geographic area of responsibility of any of  
 these organizations

Life Membership \$50                       3 Years \$25                       1 Year \$10

Make check payable to 63d Inf Div Assn USAR

Send application and payment to:

CW4 Layland A. Carson, 28535 Jenny Lane, Menifee, CA 92584-9237

***HELP US KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU! Please send your current email address  
 to our Secretary at [Jwisenb662@gmail.com](mailto:Jwisenb662@gmail.com),***



# JOIN US FOR THE 50th Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the 63d Infantry Division USAR



to Celebrate the Great History of Our Organization

**Sunday 17 April 2016 1100-1400**

The Hotel Fullerton, 1500 S Raymond Ave, Anaheim, CA

Bring a first time guest (who is eligible for membership) for the discounted rate of \$25.

Be prepared to share a favorite memory - sit with members of your former unit/command

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places @ \$45.00 (deadline 10 April 2016) .....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_-places for first time guest @\$25.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/we would like to sit with 63d HQ\_\_ 311th\_\_ 2nd Med\_\_ 176th \_\_ 326th\_\_ 349th\_\_ USAR

School\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_

My contribution to keep the 63d Inf. Div. Assn. going ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In memory /honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to: 63d Infantry Division Association, USAR* Total Remitted \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Mail to , LTC Beverley A. Houghton, 11307 Martha Ann Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 90720.*

Will join the group gathering on Saturday evening, 16 April 2016, at the hotel? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

I am not able to attend but am attaching a memory I would like to share

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