



WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

Editorial

It is appropriate to turn our thoughts to the scourge of terrorism threatening and disrupting lives at an ever alarming rate.

We are all deeply shocked and profoundly saddened by the frequent acts of terrorism across the globe. The Executive Board, on behalf of all our WVF Member Associations, has expressed solidarity, sympathy and support to all the Governments affected, amongst others France, Indonesia, Burkina Faso, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt, Cameroon, Nigeria, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Turkey, Mali and Belgium.

As veterans we know that freedom is the right of individuals to act as they all choose – that freedom however is taken away whenever and wherever terrorism strikes. Terrorism implants fear in to the minds of all and disrupts everyday actions. Veterans everywhere must step up and become a force for peace, torch bearers for the oppressed and role models for the next generations.

We salute the police and security forces who put their lives on the line daily to provide a peaceful and stable society for all to live in.

I have been hugely encouraged that the challenge set by the Secretary General for Member Associations to submit articles on their activities has been met with enthusiasm. This makes our Newsletter more inclusive and sets the template for future editions with more reports and photographs from across the WVF Regions.

I am also pleased to report that the Veterans Communications Platform (VCP) Project is well under way and making progress. The Secretariat Team is undergoing training to improve the support they are able to give to all Member Associations through the website and Facebook. The march is on and it is very exciting indeed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome new Member Associations from Namibia, South Sudan and Serbia whose application for WVF membership was approved at the last Executive Board meeting in March 2016, in anticipation of adoption by the next General Assembly.

Enjoy reading this Newsletter – a lot of hard work has gone into putting it all together for you.

With every best wish,
Dan-Viggo Bergtun
President



Find the **WVF's News in Brief** outlining recent events and activities on Page 4 of this newsletter.



For this Edition of the WVF Newsletter we have included several articles sent to us from our Member Associations around the world. We would like to encourage more WVF Member Associations to do the same, so as to make our Newsletter more inclusive, and to share some of the fantastic activities carried out for veterans worldwide.

The Activities of the Veterans Organisation of the Republic of Srpska—VORS (Bosnia & Herzegovina)

President of VORS, Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Milomir Savčić, introduces the activities and achievements of his association.

The Veterans Organisation of the Republic of Srpska is the largest NGO in the Republic of Srpska and one of the largest NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina with more than 130 000 members. In October 2007, the Government of the Republic of Serbia gave VORS the Status of Special Importance for the Republic. We have been highly decorated for our work by the highest institutions in our country.

Our main goal is to constantly improve the material and social position of war veterans, disabled war veterans and the families of fallen soldiers through:

- Insurance of personal and family pensions
- Insurance of financial security and health care for families of fallen soldiers
- Financial security for all war veterans (called “Veterans Supplemental”)
- Self-employment programs for demobilized soldiers and disabled war veterans through various projects
- Solving housing problems for disabled war veterans and families of fallen soldiers
- Improvement of health care for war veterans
- Mutual support and help in the process of healing trauma
- Enabling favorable credit lines for self employment in cooperation with The Republic of Srpska Investment-Development Bank (IRBRS)



VORS has also founded “Foundation HELP”, a project that provides scholarships, organises summer holidays for the children of fallen soldiers, war veterans and disabled war veterans, spa treatment for demobilized soldiers and disabled war veterans as well as many other activities. Our longstanding goal has been to open Veteran Clubs aimed at psycho-social support for veterans with PTSD across the country, however a lack of funding has been a problem. VORS also publishes a monthly magazine amongst other publications.

I would like to add that VORS are open to cooperation and exchange of knowledge with fellow Members and the WVF in general.



WVO arrange annual ceremony to honour war veterans of the whole country

The War Veterans Organisation of Thailand report on the event held to commemorate Thai Veterans Day.

On 3 February 2016, the War Veterans Organisation of Thailand (WVO) held a wreath-laying ceremony to mark the annual Thai Veterans Day. On this occasion, WVO were honored to welcome one of the King’s representatives to lay the wreath. The event was also attended by the Defense Minister and high-ranking Military and Government officials, military attachés, and war veterans from the WVO. The celebration also featured the parade of honor for the veterans of various battles.

Photos on left starting from top : The wreath-laying ceremony at the Victory Monument in remembrance of Thai soldiers who died in war. The Parade of Honor to remember military service at the 11th Infantry Regiment, King’s Guard in Bangkok.



Turkish Veterans Celebrate 65th Anniversary of Kumyangjang-ni Battle

Col. Sükrü Tandogan, President of The Turkish War Veterans Association, writes about the 65th Anniversary of this important battle, in honour of Turkish veterans of The Korea War.

On 25 June 1950, North Korea began its occupation of South Korea with a sudden attack across the demarcation line, following years of tension between the neighbouring countries. Before long, North Korean Forces had invaded a large portion of the country. As a result of this occupation, the South Korean people and their country faced complete destruction. UN forces gave assistance to the people of South Korea, rendering the war an international affair, and defeated the North Korean Army, forcing them to leave South Korean territory. At this point, it seemed that the Korean War would result in the victory of the UN Forces. However, on 26 November 1950, the Communist Chinese Forces unexpectedly attacked UN Forces and quickly advanced into South Korean Territory.



The advancement of the Communist Chinese Forces continued and could not be stopped. UN Forces were left no choice but to withdraw by 450 kilometres, leaving Seoul, South Korea's capital, to be captured by the opposing forces. The undeterred advances of the Chinese Forces created a dangerous situation for the UN Forces in Korea. In November 1950, under these conditions, the Turkish Brigade was given a reconnaissance mission to discover the enemy's strength and position, as well as their movements intentions. The Turkish Brigade fought against the opposing forces in Kunu-ri for two months. This battle proved to be an important moment in the war, allowing UN Forces to regroup, having been heavily fragmented prior to the Turkish Brigade's advances. Following the victory, the Turkish Brigade was awarded with "Distinguished Unit Citation" by the US congress and "Presidential Unit Citation" from the President of South Korea.

21 212 Turkish military personnel fought in Korea and 892 of them lost their lives during the war. We remember our martyrs and the deceased Korean War Veterans with respect and mercy. We wish the living Korean War Veterans tranquility and well-being. In Korea, Turkish soldiers fought for the peace, freedom and sovereignty of the Korean people and for world peace by showing an example of heroism and courage. We are proud of our Korean War Veterans.





WVF News in Brief

2016 saw a busy start at the WVF secretariat with the President and Secretary General travelling to Paris for a working meeting, chiefly to start the groundwork for the Veterans Communication Platform (VCP) project with the help of Mr. Per Lennartson of the Swedish Veterans Federation. V-Fonds have confirmed their support for this important project, which is now well under way on a number of fronts.

Later in January WVF President Dan-Viggo Bergtun visited Poland where he had the opportunity to meet with all of the WVF Member Associations there. He also spent time working with the newly elected Chairman of the Standing Committee on European Affairs (SCEA), Gen Stanislaw Wozniak on future developments for the SCEA and also the Peace and Security Division, of which Gen. Wozniak is also Head.



President Bergtun also visited Lyon (France), where he met with representatives of a prospective Member Association, the Soldiers of Peace International Association, at their headquarters. Secretary General Lt. Col. (Ret.) Joseph Falzon met with members of the UK Parliament with a particular interest in care and support for veterans, where he presented the WVF and its work. In February the WVF was extremely proud to learn that our esteemed colleague and long-time member of the WVF, Cmdr. José Eduardo Gaspar Arruda (President of AD-FA Portugal and Chair of the SCEA Working Group for Southern European Countries) was awarded the Degree of Grand Officer of the Order of Infante D. Henrique by the President of Portugal, Aníbal Cavaco Silva, GCC, in a public ceremony on 24 February 2016. We congratulate him on this singular honour.



In March the WVF Executive Board held its 154th meeting; for the first time ever the meeting was held by telephone conference. Despite some technical difficulties the experience was generally positive and it is hoped that this new way of communicating can be repeated in future in our drive to improve efficiency and to reduce costs. The meeting saw the accession of four new member associations to the WVF: The Serbian War Veterans Association, the Namibia Ex-Soldiers Organisation and the South Sudan Veterans Association. We are sure you will join us in welcoming these new Member Associations into our Federation and we look forward to establishing strong and fruitful cooperation with them in the future.