

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014

FEDERATION MONDIALE DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS
23^e Réunion de la Commission Permanente des Affaires Européennes
Cetinje (Monténégro), 16-19 juin 2014

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**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
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**Albania
Report submitted by the National Organisation of Veterans of the Anti-Fascist National
Liberation Struggle of the People of Albania**

**Albanie
Rapport soumis par l'Organisation nationale des vétérans de la lutte antifasciste de
libération nationale du peuple albanais**

Veteran's Organization of Antifascist National Liberation War of Albanian People

Subject: On the activities held during 2012 – 2014 from the Albanian organization of veterans

To: WVF Secretary General
Mr. Mohammed Benjelloun

Honorable General Secretary,

As per your request with regards to main national activities of the Veteran's Organization of Antifascist National Liberation War of Albanian People for the period 2012 – 2014, we'd like to inform you as following:

During 2012:

1. Activities all over Albania with regards to the 100th anniversary of the independence of Albania
2. Commemorations with regards to the 69th anniversary of creation of the Offensive Partisan Brigade (the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th) as well as commemorations with regards to the 68th anniversary of creation of other 20 brigades, 8 divisions and 3 army corps.
3. There were held solemn commemorative meetings in all the cities of Albania.
4. Commemoration of all events and important dates of the Antifascist National Liberation War for the period from April 9th, 1939 to May 9th, 1945 and November 29th, 1944, liberation day of Albania.
- 5.

During 2013:

Many activities to commemorate the main events of the Antifascist National Liberation War where took parts most of the members of our organization.

These events were supported by the central and local governments.

Tributes were paid to the heroes and martyrs of the war in their cemeteries, in obelisks and monuments dedicated to them.

During 2014:

A lot of work is being done for festivities with regards to 70th anniversary of the liberation of Albania. It has been established a state committee and a commission for organizing festivities all over the country.

There is a specific focus on rebuilding the obelisks, martyr's cemeteries, monuments and commemorative memorials of the heroes and martyrs that have suffered damages by destructive extreme right forces that emerge in Albania.

These are reflected in the press in Albania. Veteran's Organization of Antifascist National Liberation War of Albanian People organized a special event to commemorate the victory day, on May 9th, 2014 where participated many members of the parliament and foreign ambassadors.

Rustem Peci

Chairman of the Veteran's Organization of
Antifascist National Liberation War of Albanian People

Azerbaijan
Report submitted by the Council of Veterans of War, Labour and Armed
Forces of the Azerbaijan Republic (CVWLAFAR)

Azerbaïdjan
Rapport soumis par le Conseil des Anciens Combattants, du Travail et des
Forces Armées de la République d'Azerbaïdjan

We present you with information about the work done by the Council of Veterans of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the period from January 1, 2011 year on December 30, 2013.

I bring to your attention that the Azerbaijani people in Azerbaijan Formed 72, 223, 402-416, rifle-National Division made an invaluable contribution to the victory over the fascist aggressors. And 223 and 416-e Division were military men from the Caucasus to Vienna and Berlin. 123 people, citizens of Azerbaijan in battles with German fascists were awarded the honorary title of hero of the Soviet Union. The military services veterans in World War II as always appreciated. The Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan are carried out purposeful work to tackle social, housing and utilities, material and other problems of war veterans. It is provided to the pension entitlements, the presidential AIDS free treatment at clinics, hospitals, spas, travel tickets on the countries of the Commonwealth of independent States, housing and motor vehicles. A Cabinet decision on the free provision of their vehicles, which they have already received more than 484 car. An order of the President of Azerbaijan Republic until the end of 2014, to ensure, without exception, all of the great patriotic war invalids free cars. To all participants of the great patriotic war pass medical examination. Every year, more than 100 people to a free spa treatment. Currently registered for the apartments are 30 participants of the great patriotic war. Day 70-year they will all be provided with apartments in newly constructed homes.

By the Decree of the President of the Republic from September 9, 2008, invalids of the great patriotic war, in addition to the monthly basic pension is paid to the presidential scholarship.

In the letter we have listed numerous l'gotov allowed veterans of the great patriotic war. The rest will be held by the Committee at the Conference said the European problems on 16-19 June 2014 year in Setine-Montenegro.

The Veterans of our country for its part have huge aggitacionno-propogandistskuû work among the younger generation to raise their patriotic feelings. The Republican Veterans organization scheduled lectures that will be read in higher, secondary and special agencies, military units, and other organizations.

Our veteran organization is in 2014. They all carry out activities among the population under the slogan: "no fascist configured manifestation in our society!"

Veterans ' Council of the Republic is a member of the international organization of veterans, as well as a member of the Coordinating Council of the International Union of the Commonwealth of independent States public organizations. The Coordinating Council of the International Union of public organizations of Veterans of the Commonwealth of independent States as a coordinating body for approximation does a lot of

veteran organizations of Commonwealth of independent States who gained extensive experience. The Council considers the report of the Board of Veterans of the Republics and with its recommendations into Veterans ' organizations, the Commonwealth of independent States countries, it plays an important role in the dissemination of lessons learned from best practices in Veterans ' organizations.

Good communication we have with Veterans ' organizations of Russia and Ukraine. Belarus, Kazakhstan and others. Speaking of the friendship of peoples to work together against extremism and fascism, I said that the recently warring together shoulder to shoulder against a common enemy-fascism, two neighboring nations are at war. Already 20 years as Armenian extremists and local separatists captured 20% of Azerbaijani territories and more legitimate million Azerbaijani citizens, children, the elderly, women turned to the refugees. In the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, in the full sense of the word genocide.

En masse, unfeeling, brutally killed 613 innocent innocent citizens. In the city left no living creature, uglumlâlis' over the corpses of children, women. Of the 106 people were killed women, 63 children, 70 old men, 487 people injured, handicapped, 155 people disappeared. Armenians have destroyed people, whole families, many children were left orphaned.

Despite the numerous decisions of authoritative international organizations including the United Nations for the unconditional release of the captured land, aggression launched in 80-ies of the last century is still going on. In captured by the Armenians of the Azerbaijani towns and villages of učinâetsâ vandalism.

We have created big problems, though we ask that at international conferences, along with English and French languages have entered and Russian language. We translated in English and French languages have difficulties.

So how have difficulty in translating the material received and documents from English and French. Please, in case the production of the International Conference to internationally recognized Russian language.

With respect!

The Vice-President of the Council
Veterans of war, labour and armed
Forces Of The Republic Of Azerbaijan
Colonel Aliyev K. M

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CYPRUS

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE CYPRUS VETERANS ASSOCIATION WORLD WAR II

CHYPRE

**RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS CHYPRIOTES DE LA
DEUXIEME GUERRE MONDIALE**

Honourable Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to bring before you the Report of our Association which covers the activities of the past three years. May I start by saying that during the Second World War, over 20.000 men and women from our small island, both Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, enlisted voluntarily in the Cyprus Regiment, the Cyprus Volunteer Force and the Women Auxiliary Services, served in the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. At that time Cyprus was a British colony. About 2.500 were taken prisoners of war in Greece and were transferred in camps in Italy, Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia. Over 600 had died and are buried in 58 cemeteries of 18 different countries.

Our members, very old people now, are Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot veterans. The Cyprus Veterans' Association is organized into a General Council, an Executive Committee and six Branch Offices throughout the island. Meetings of the Committees are taking place monthly and the General Council is convened twice annually with special meetings when needed. The Association is a member of W.V.F., R.C.E.L. and F.I.R.

Two main events are celebrated every year at which veterans and their wives are encouraged to take part. A commemoration service is held on the 8th of May each year, in a hotel, to mark VE Day and a Remembrance Day Service takes place on the 11th of November in front of the War Memorial in Nicosia. Invited to take part in these events are the President of the Republic, the Archbishop, the President of the House of Representatives, the leaders of political parties, members of the Government, Ambassadors of the Countries represented in Cyprus and other officials. They all come to lay their wreaths and to stand in silence to honour the dead of the two World Wars.

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(Cyprus)

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Also Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Veterans are invited to a ceremony at the Dhekelia Garrison to mark the Remembrance Day on or about the 11th November.

For some years now we mark the International Day of Peace on 21st September in co-operation with the U. N. Force in Cyprus. The ceremony takes place in front of the Ledra Palace Hotel (the H.Q. of the U. N. Force in Cyprus) and guests assemble between 18:0 – 18:30 hours. The programme includes an opening speech by the Special Representative of the Secretary General and Chief of the United Nations Operation in Cyprus, followed by an address by the President of our Association. We then light candles from the flame of the Peace Day Vigil Candle and a Minute Silence is observed bringing the ceremony to a conclusion.

To cope with special financial cases, which are beyond the means of our Association, we turn to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League in London for help. Grants are received for Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot Veterans and widows each year.

Through the efforts of the Association, a Law was passed in 2002 recognizing the contribution of the Cypriot volunteers in the struggle for freedom during the Second World War and the appointment of a 7-Member Committee who prepared a Register of all the Cypriot Volunteers for the preservation of their memory. The Committee is empowered to issue to each volunteer an Honorary Diploma confirming his participation in the Second World War.

The Cyprus Government continues granting the honourary pension to all living Cypriot veterans, which is transferable on death to their widows. This is the result of efforts for many years by our Organization towards the Government of Cyprus.

Thank you,

(N. Christodoulides)
Secretary General

Nicosia 13th March, 2014

FINLAND
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE FINNISH MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

FINLANDE
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LES ASSOCIATIONS MEMBRES EN FINLANDE

*Report of the Finnish Veterans' Associations:
The Main National Activities of the Finnish Veterans' Associations, June 2011-December 2013*

There are in Finland about 5,4 million inhabitants. The amount of the World War II veterans in Finland is about 32 000 (at the end of 2013). Almost all surviving war veterans served in the Finnish Army during the Second World War. The average age of the war veterans is already over 90 years. The need for social and health care of the last living veterans will still continue to the beginning of the 2020:ies.

There are in Finland three “old” member associations of the World Veterans Federation, namely *Disabled War Veterans Association of Finland* (established 1940, now 4 800 members), *Finnish War Veterans' Federation* (established 1957, now 19 000 members) and *Union of Front Veteran Soldiers* (established 1964, now 5 000 members). *Federation of Women Veterans in Finland* (established 1980) has finished its organization at the beginning of 2013. The majority of still living women veterans have joined as members to the other still continuing veterans' organizations. About 1000 Finnish war veterans are living in Sweden.

The Peacekeepers' Association of Finland (6 500 members) became a member of the WVF in 2009. So the Finnish representation and activities in the WVF will continue also after the time when the last veterans of the World War II have passed away.

1. The main activities in Finland during the period June 2011-December 2013

1.1. During the period 2011-2013 the veterans' associations of the WW II have not succeeded in adding and improving the care and rehabilitation of the old war veterans, their spouses, widows and war widows as well as they have tried to achieve. Some steps forward were however taken, when the Parliament in connection of the celebration of the 95 years' Independence of Finland adopted in its solemn session on 5th December 2012 as a distinction for veterans some improvements concerning rehabilitation of war veterans and institutional care of the disabled veterans. These improvements unfortunately do not cover enough the needs of all veterans of whom the great majority in spite of old age are still living at their own homes. They are waiting for more rehabilitation and services brought to their own homes.

1.2. Unfortunately the Government or Parliament have not adopted the proposals of the veterans' associations to extend the services arranged by the municipalities to veterans' at their

homes or institutional care to cover also other than the severely disabled veterans. Therefore the Assistance Project of three Veterans Associations with support of Ministry of Employment and the Economy has been important to ensure veterans coping with the problems of daily life at their own homes where most of them are still living. The Assistance Project started 1998 under the leadership of the Disabled War Veterans Association. Positive in this project is also that it provides employment for many earlier unemployed young people.

Altogether about 8000 disabled and other war veterans and their spouses and widows receive home care through this project today. A small allowance for veterans' services at home has been adopted in the State budget since 2011 but that is not enough compared with the needs of the ailing veterans and their spouses.

1.3. The project "Improving war veterans housing conditions" is continuing. The Slot Machine

Association of Finland has supported this project which since 1991 was run by the Disabled War Veterans Association and since 2001 by the Finnish Central Union for the Welfare of the Aged. There are still today 15 advisory officers in different parts of Finland available for the war veterans who need help for the repairs of their homes. The costs of the repairs have been funded partly by the State and municipalities partly from other sources (by the associations of war veterans, donations, and also partly by veterans themselves or their families).

A special Comrade Support Project for Peacekeepers was started in 2013. The Project is financed by Finnish Slot Machine Association. The aim of the project is to create a well working comrade support system covering the whole country and providing support which is easy to approach by PK-veterans and their families. The project is to be completed by the end of 2016.

A comprehensive veteran program for PK-veterans was also started in 2013. It was initiated by MOD and will concentrate in various support functions for PK-veterans after the deployment. In veteran issues Peace Keepers' Association Finland traditionally cooperates with other Nordic associations and in NORDEFECO (Nordic Defence Cooperation) with authorities as well.

2. Financial support of the war veterans' associations

War veterans associations have received financial support from Slot Machine Association of Finland. A very important way to finance the activities of the war veterans' associations in Finland is the fund-raising drives which the three veterans associations carry out together every year. The young military service recruits in the Defence Forces play an important role as money collectors. All the member associations have also received donations from the firms, foundations and from the friends of veterans.

3. Office accommodations

The offices (headquarters) of Disabled War Veterans Association of Finland (Sotainvalidien Veljesliitto), Finnish War Veterans' Federation (Suomen Sotaveteraaniliitto) and Union of Front Veteran Soldiers (Rintamaveteraaniliitto) are since 2008 situated in the same building near the railway station Pasila – four kilometers from the center of Helsinki. The

address of all these associations is Ratamestarinkatu 9 C, 00520 Helsinki, Finland. The removal to the same premises has improved the cooperation and diminished the expenses.

Peace Keepers' Association of Finland has not an office. The Association is operated totally based on voluntary contributions by members.

4. Respect for war veterans in Finland

The Finnish war veterans are esteemed as honoured citizens in Finland today. One visible consequence of the respect for war veterans is the National Veterans' Day that has been celebrated since 1987 every year on 27th of April. It is an official flag-raising day.

The three Finnish war veterans' associations are continuing their good cooperation in Delegation of the Finnish Veterans' Associations. This delegation for example prepares yearly the proposals in veterans' affairs for the government's budget proposal. On the National Veterans' Day 2003 the Finnish war veterans' associations established The Tradition Association Oak Leaf to keep in life the traditions of the war veterans of the Finnish Winter War, Continuation War and Lapland War. Also the younger generations are participating in its activities.

Disabled War Veterans Association (Sotainvalidien Veljesliitto)

Finnish War Veterans' Federation (Suomen Sotaveteraaniliitto)

Union of Front Veteran Soldiers (Rintamaveteraaniliitto)

The Peacekeepers' Association of Finland (Suomen Rauhanturvaajaliitto)

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GERMANY
REPORT SUBMITTED BY MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS IN GERMANY

ALLEMAGNE
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LES ASSOCIATIONS MEMBRES EN ALLEMAGNE

The German Armed Forces Association (DBwV) supports the Advisory Council on Reserve Activities which is active with consent of the Federal Ministry of Defense. Both associations are representing Germany within the World Veterans Federation. In close coordination with the Federal Ministry of Defense, both associations also founded standing working groups that deal with issues regarding the provision of welfare for soldiers, civilian employees and their families."

The report provided for the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs in 2011 reflected the benefits for injured and retired soldiers and their relatives in case of killed soldiers. Therefore, only significant changes will be mentioned later.

General Remark

The term „veteran“ is predominately used by the German society for retired soldiers and soldiers who have fought in wars. Actually this term is not seen in a close relation with the Bundeswehr. The terms used in the past for retired soldiers or former combatants were, “warriors,” ”former soldiers” or “returnees from war.” Also in the Bundeswehr, the term veteran is not very common, but has increasingly been used since the beginning of the debate some years ago.

The Bundeswehr has established its own tradition with a fundamentally different value system compared to former German Armies. Bundeswehr soldiers, who have been deployed on a mandated mission (NATO/UN), are called “soldiers with operational experience.” The German Ministry of Defence initiated in 2012 a public discussion about “soldiers with operational experience” to be called veterans. The aim was to establish a culture of recognition and to increase our citizens’ regard for our soldiers’ duties after their retirement. Due to the fact, that former soldiers whether they have been on a mission or not, get the same benefits after they retire the main aim is a immaterial recognition.

The development of a veterans’ policy for the Bundeswehr is still in progress.

Provision of Benefits

As the Bundeswehr has been participating in missions under NATO/UN mandates since 1992 the welfare measures in terms of prevention, treatment and aftercare for these “soldiers with operational experience (veterans)” have been intensified.

As a matter of principle, all soldiers are entitled to receive free medical care in the case of illness but also for injuries suffered on operations abroad.

(Germany)

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The Bundeswehr welfare basically consists of

- the Act on Benefits and Pensions Related to Missions Abroad,
- the Act on the Retention of Personnel Injured during Missions Abroad,
- the measures against PTSD and
- the support network for soldiers with operational experience (veterans).

As a general rule, eligibility for mission-related benefits and pensions is subject to an injury-related reduction in earning capacity. The level of injury-related reduction in earning capacity has been decreased from 50 to at least 30 percent in 2012.

Based on an initiative by Members of Parliament the individual amounts of single compensation payments have been doubled.

Throughout the last years some organisations/associations outside the Bundeswehr have been founded that deal with the topic "veterans". They provide former soldiers/veterans with support by a wide variety of measures, from social networks via counselling to monetary benefits. I will not mention all organisations in detail. As an example, I would like to point out to the "Soldiers and Veterans Foundation" of the German Armed Forces Association that was established at the end of 2013 and which supports active and former soldiers, civilians and their relatives with various measures.

A initiative to give retroactive effect to the period of coverage so that all individuals affected since 01 July 1992 may receive benefits is under discussion and a legal act is going to be prepared.

During the latest restructuring of the Federal Ministry of Defense, notions of setting up a central office for all questions and emergencies of soldiers with operational experience (veterans) and their families has been taken into account and is still under research. The experiences gathered at the past meetings and conferences within the framework of the WVF are taken into consideration.

Rainer Fiegle
MajGen (ret'd, German Air Force)
Advisory Council on Reserve Activities
- Chairman -

ISRAEL

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES VETERANS OF WAR ASSOCIATIONS
(TZEVEV)

ISRAËL

RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS DES FORCES POUR LA
DEFENSE D'ISRAËL

FOREIGN RELATION COMMITTEE

Association Report of the Main Foreign Relations Activities Performed During
the period June 2011- December 2013.

1. Tzevet, The IDF Veterans Association in General

Tzevet was established in 1960. Since its establishment the organization has grown and developed and it currently numbers 36,000 members. The organization has 40 branches throughout Israel, which are run by volunteers assisted by a small number of paid employees. Tzevet is an NGO and acts according to its articles of association and its democratically elected representatives. Many of Tzevet's members work in the public sector. In the General Elections of 2013, 11 Tzevet members were elected to the 19th Knesset (Parliament). In local government elections held in 2014, 18 Tzevet members were elected as mayors.

2. Tzevet goals among the most notable are:

To act on behalf of IDF veterans by safeguarding their rights, status and well-being.
To maintain ties between IDF veterans and the IDF and the other security forces of the State of Israel, to show affinity for matters of State and security.
To foster cultural and social activities on behalf of the Tzevet members and their families.
To further mutual assistance and provide medical assistance and aid to members in need.
To assist members find suitable employment.
To cultivate ties between Tzevet and other veterans organizations in Israel and abroad.

3. Report of Tzevet Activities Performed in the year 2011

3.1. * A memorial ceremony for Jewish soldiers, Partisans and underground fighters who fell during WW II took place on May 2nd 2011, at the YAD VASHEM Holocaust Memorial, Jerusalem. A wreath was laid by a Tzevet member.

3.2. * A State Memorial Ceremony of Remembrance and Dedication for the 694 fallen Jewish Soldiers, who served and fought against Nazi Germany during WW II, in the Jewish Brigade and with the British Armed Forces. The Ceremony took place on May 2nd 2011. At Mount Herzl, Jerusalem. A wreath was laid by a Tzevet member.

3.3 * Victorious Celebration Parades marking the end of WW II and the Allied victory over Nazi Germany took place on May 11th 2011 as follows:

3.3.1. *In the morning: a March Parade of 500 hundreds veterans at Jerusalem

3.3.2. *At noon time: a Remembrance Ceremony at the Partisans, Underground and Ghetto_Fighters Memorial at Latrun. A wreath was laid by a Tzevet member.

3.3.3. *In the afternoon: a Remembrance Ceremony at the Jewish Soldiers and Partisans Monument at YAD VASHEM. A wreath was laid by a Tzevet member.

3.4.* A Knesset State Ceremony Session to mark the end of WW II and the victory of the Allied nations over the Nazi Germany_ took place on May 21th 2011. Members of all the Israeli veteran's associations attended the Ceremony.

3.5.* Memorial Ceremonies of Remembrance and Dedication for the Jewish Brigade Soldiers who fought and fell in WW II with the British Arm Forces in the battle to liberate Italy from the Nazi German occupation. The Ceremonies were held on May 15th - 19th 2011 at Ravenna, Italy. 2 Tzevet members participated in the MOD delegation to the Ceremonies.

3.6. The 22nd meeting of the SCEA at Kiev, Ukraine in May 26th - 28th, 2011. Tzevet's participant at the event was Col. Ret. Mordechai (Maxi) Avigad)

3.7.* A State Memorial Ceremony to mark the unification of Jerusalem during the six day war and to pay tribute and dedication for the fallen soldiers. The ceremony took place at the "Ammunition Hall" on June 2011. Tzevet was represented by Maj. Gen. (Ret) Dr. Baruch Levy.

3.8. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA held its 116th Annual National Convention in August, 2011. Tzevet was represented by Maj. Gen. (ret) Baruch Levy.

3.9. A group of 31 "Tzevet" - The Israel Defence Forces Veterans of War Association_members visited Berlin, On September 12th - 19th, 2011. The visit was hosted by the German Armed forces Association (DBwV)

3.10. Israel Veterans Walk for Peace Combined with the Jerusalem municipality walk, took place on October 6th 2011. 600 Tzevet members participated in the walk. Together with other NGO organizations the participated numbered 30,000 people.

3.11.*A memorial ceremony for the fallen soldiers of the allied armies who died in the battle to liberate Palestine (Eretz Israel) in WWI from the Ottoman Empire occupation.

The ceremony was held on November 13th, 2011 at the British Military cemetery in Ramleh. Col.(ret.) Mordechai Avigad laid the Tzevet wreath at the memorial

3.12. The annual memorial ceremony and parade of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women in Britain (AJEX), commemorating the 3006 fallen Jewish soldiers of WWII who had been killed in action, while serving in Britain's armed forces, was held on 16 Nov. 2011 near the Cenotaph war memorial in the Whitehall, London. Tzevet was represented in the ceremony by Lt.Col. Ret. Alex Zilony.

3.13. The 2nd Meeting of the SCOW at Oslo, Norway, took place on November 16-18, 2011. Tzevet was represented at the meeting by Col. Ret. Mordechai (Maxi) Avigad.

Report of the Activities Performed in the year 2012

1. In general we can mark that all the regular memorial ceremonies in year 2012 are almost the same as in 2011, except for the exact dates. To avoid excessive writing we will list only new activities that are not the regular events * marked with a star (*).

2. Tzevet Hosted in Israel on February, 2012 a group of 30 Jewish war veterans from the USA. The group visited Tzevet Head Office for a political security briefing, Military installations and some holy and tourist sites.

3. Tzevet Hosted in Israel on April 30th - May 2nd 2012. Mr. Dan Viggo Bergtun Vice President WVF, Chairman SCEA. He visited Tzevet Head Office for a political security briefing and Zahal Disabled Organization at its installations in Tel-Aviv. As well he visited Military memorial sites.

4. The Jewish War Veterans of the USA held its 117th Annual National Convention on August 2012. Tzevet Association was represented by Maj. Gen. (ret.) Dr. Baruch Levy.

5. Israel Veterans Walk for Peace Combined with the Jerusalem municipality walk, took place on October 2nd. 600 Tzevet members participated in the walk. Together with other NGO organizations, the participants numbered 30,000 people.

6. A group of 19 members the German Arm Forces Association (the DBwV). Was invited to visit Israel, on September 30th - October 15th - by "Tzevet" - The Israel Defence Forces Veterans of War Association.

Report of the Activities Performed in the year 2013

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2. Tzevet Hosted in Israel on February, 2012 a group of 30 Jewish war veterans from the USA. The group visited Tzevet Head Office for a political security briefing, Military installations and some holy and tourist sites.

3. Tzevet Hosted on February, 2013. The British Jewish war veterans association – AJEX, who came for a MISSION GROUP TO ISRAEL. The group came to Tzevets' Head Office for a political security briefing. Latter on visited a Military installation and a defense industry and some holly and tourist sites.

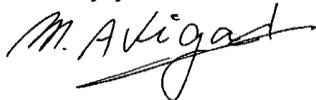
4. Peace and security Summit was held on May 28th – 30th, at Stoockholm, Sweden. Tzevet was represented at the Summit by Col. Ret. Mordechai (Maxi) Avigad.

5. The third meeting of the IAC - International Advisory Committee of Organizations of Reserve Officers was held on July 16th -18th, 2013 at Astana, Kazakhstan. The subject was to perform international humanitarian action to achieve a "Mission of Peace and Friendship". Tzevet was represented at the meeting by Col. Ret. Mordechai (Maxi) Avigad.

6. A group of 34 Tzevet- The Israel Defence Forces Veterans of War Association members visited to Berlin and Dressden, On September 31st – October 8th, 2013. The visit was hosted by the German Armed Forces Association (the DBwV).

7. Israel Veterans Walk for Peace Combined with the Jerusalem municipality walk, took place on September 24th 2013. At the capital of Israel. 600 Tzevet members participated in the walk. Together with other NGO organizations. The participants numbered almost 30,000 people.

Sincerely yours,



Mordechai Avigad, Col. (Ret.)
V. Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee

ISRAEL
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES VETERANS OF WAR ASSOCIATIONS
(TZEVET)

ISRAËL
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS DES FORCES POUR LA
DEFENSE D'ISRAËL

18 May 2014

The Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization Report

This report will emphasize the achievements of our organization regarding the improving of the health and support services for all the members of our organization.

After many years of negotiations between our organization and the Ministry of Defense, on many issues concerned to our rights, an agreement was signed by both parties and this agreement is awaiting to the government approval.

This new agreement cover more than hundred articles that were changed by the government during the years which resulted a deterioration of the rights of our members. The Ministry of Defense by it's rehabilitation department agreed and understood that services must be improved and they have to concede the special needs of the disables.

The main articles that was improved now are:

1. Service Charta between our organization and the government.
2. A satisfaction questionnaire to be filled by our members in order to improve the rehabilitation department services.
3. Improve of the health services in many areas.
4. Improve of the rights of the PTSD injured members.
5. Improve of the services in the area of the therapist treatments, like hydrotherapy and physiotherapy.
6. Improve of the services to the oldest members.

7. Improve of services and the rights of the disabled women.
8. Reduction of the electricity and water fees for most of the disables.
9. As was mentioned above this is part of the main and majors articles that was agreed and signed by both parties.

International Activities

Our organization continue its activities versus friends organizations in many countries over the world.

Recently we joined the International Advisors Committee of Organizations of reserve officers, and participated in their meeting in Astana and Belgrade.

— Beit Halochem

— Beit Halochem is a unique concept in the world. It is a Rehabilitation, Sports and Recreation center which provides a place where the disabled veterans can undergo the various physiotherapy and hydrotherapy treatments, which they need for as long as they live. Here, too, they participate in sports and related activities suited to their individual disabilities.

— Sports programs contribute to successful rehabilitation by maintaining the members' physical fitness and preventing deterioration of their health. Each center also offers a wide choice of social and creative activities for members. Most centers house an auditorium, multipurpose gymnasium, classrooms, fitness rooms, swimming pool, occupational therapy unit, physical therapy unit, cafeteria, offices, and a social wing.

— A very important feature at Beit Halochem is the meeting of “generations” of disabled, thus bringing together old-timers with newcomers who must learn to adjust to the difficult and complex world of disability.

— Beit Halochem applies the philosophy that the disabled should be cared for in an environment that is both congenial to them and to those around them. In keeping with that philosophy, Beit Halochem offers a variety of activities to occupy the family – grown-ups and children alike – while the disabled veteran is undergoing necessary treatments.

Such Beit Halochem exists in 3 districts , Jerusalem, Haifa and Tel Aviv two years ago we opened a new one in Beer Sheva for the southern districts and in the coming years we are planning to build one more in Ashdod.

International Sports Activities

Great emphasis is placed on achievement oriented sports and competitive sports activities. For years, the ZDVO has been actively involved in international competitions which serves not only as an important rehabilitative factor but enables its members to become goodwill ambassadors overseas, expanding the boundaries of its activities to new parts of the world.

This manifests itself annually in participation in European and World Championships as well as the Paralympics Games by athletes in as diverse fields as: wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis, swimming, Olympic sailing, table tennis, archery, golf, badminton and Latin wheelchair dancing. We are preparing our teams to the Israel host this month the European championship of the wheelchair basketball where 12 countries took part.

Abraham Yanai
ZDVO Representative

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the
Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014**

NETHERLANDS

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE NETHERLANDS ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY WAR VICTIMS

PAYS-BAS

RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION NEERLANDAISE DES VICTIMES DE GUERRE MILITAIRES

A. DUTCH VETERAN LAW:

SUMMARY VETERANS LAW.

(Unauthorized, unofficial summary and translation)

On 11 February 2012, the Veterans Law was ratified. This law describes the duty of the government regarding the consequences that military deployment can have on the physical and psychological health of soldiers, even if those effects only become apparent after a prolonged time.

The Veterans Law is an initiative of several political parties who consulted with military unions, veterans organizations and other organizations in society, to gain support for this initiative. The purpose of the law is to create a comprehensive, proactive and preventive veterans policy. This bill has been supported by all parties in parliament and the Veterans Law was published officially in April 2012.

The comprehensive policy now provides one single address to which a veteran can apply with any question he may have. At the same time, this provides an opportunity to monitor whether the services are delivered in a timely and adequate manner.

The law also indicates, that the responsibility of the government should be aimed at the prevention of health problems as well as at providing assistance for the next of kin of the veterans. The rapid recovery of the veteran, but also continued support for veterans with health problems is not dependent on the moment in time at which these problems become manifest. This support includes material support, social support and mental health care, but also provides assistance with finding a new job. The law clearly defines who is responsible for what kind of assistance and care, and through this, the lines of responsibility and accountability are also clear.

This law applies to all former soldiers and to soldiers who are still in active service, and who have been deployed in peacekeeping missions or in a war. This is an extension to the existing definition, in which only former soldiers are recognized as veterans.

It further stipulates that the Minister of Defense should promote appreciation and recognition for veterans in society, through a number of activities and facilities. Examples are the Dutch Veterans Day, the Veterans Insignia and free railway tickets.

THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE CARE.

The responsibility to provide care is defined as a duty of the government towards its military personnel and veterans. The assistance, support and care before, during and after deployment also involves the primary relations of the veteran. This is organized, for example, through information days, socio-medical and psychological support during and after deployment and through reunions and meetings, also for the home front.

THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE CARE

The special responsibility to provide care applies to veterans who return from their mission with physical or mental health problems. This support is aimed at restoring the possibilities to participate in social and professional life as soon as possible. A distinction is made between primary care, such as that provided by a military doctor, and social work, and care on a second, more specialized level, like the Military Mental Health Care or the Military Hospital.

Re-integration is provided by the 'Service for Re-integration'. The objective of this service is to find, as soon as possible, a suitable and appropriate position for personnel who can no longer be deployed for socio-medical reasons. It also sets out which financial claims can be brought forward regarding this disability (taking into account different degrees of disability).

NATIONAL VETERANS CARE SYSTEM

The National Care System for Veterans is a network of health care institutions in the field of social services and of the military and civilian mental health care. The law stipulates that a veteran can apply to the so called Central Access Point of the Veterans Institute 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The demand or need for care is assessed and, as a next step, the veteran will be referred to an institute that provides the care that suits or fits the needs of the veteran best. In most situations, the veteran is offered a choice between care provided by a military service or department or by a civilian institution.

VETERANS REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Furthermore, the Ministry of Defense is obliged to set up and maintain a Veterans Registration System. This guarantees that every veteran is identified, and it provides the means for the Ministry to communicate with every veteran. This data can also be used for policy development or research. The law also stipulates that the Minister promotes scientific research into diseases or disorders related to being deployed as a soldier .

OTHER MEASURES

The Law specifically offers the option to extend employment for three months, to prevent a soldier from leaving the service directly after returning from a mission. It further guarantees that a veteran will receive an income of 80% of the last earned salary, in case of disability and during reintegration.

A case coordinator supervises the implementation of all these measures, and this case coordinator monitors every step in the process. Also, a Veterans Ombudsman will be appointed, extending the possibilities for a veteran to submit a complaint regarding the acting and services of the government and of official public services. This function is accommodated by the National Ombudsman. The Veterans Ombudsman can conduct an inquiry or investigation upon request by a veteran, or on its own initiative and he reports to both Houses of Parliament and to the Minister of Defense.

The law is currently (April 2014) being elaborated in detailed legislation and administrative measures. Within two years after the law has become effective, an evaluation will take place on the effectiveness and impact of this law. From then on, this evaluation will take place every two years, thereby creating a legal base for the Veterans White Paper to be sent bi-annually to Parliament.

B. THE VETERANS-DESK

VETERANS DESK

As requested by the House of Parliament, a Veterans Desk will be established as a department within the Veterans Institute, providing access to all services and care for veterans, military service and war victims. This desk also aims at strengthening cooperation between these services.

Up until now, three portals are available for services and care for the material and non-material needs of veterans. Starting in June 2014, this desk will combine these three portals, providing one joint front office. Questions regarding the aforementioned areas will be addressed by the Veterans Desk, and, if necessary, directed to the existing back-offices, at the Veterans Institute, providing access to the general and at the Veterans Mental Health Care System, at the Department of Special Defense Provisions at the ABP Pension Fund processing disability and other financial claims, debt restructuring and repayment services, and at the Basis for training and aftercare. The existing duties, responsibilities and competences of these – independent – back-offices will not change. As a front-office, the Veterans Desk, will also be responsible for the coordination of care. Case coördinators will assist and guide veterans/clients throughout the process, in the application of assistance for material and non-material needs. They are the central point of contact for their clients. This case coordinator will develop and supervise a care and treatment plan for every individual client, while the actual care and treatment will be delivered by the various back-offices.

C. RECOGNITION OF PTSD AS A WORK RELATED DISORDER FOR MILITARY AND POLICE

NEW GUIDELINES FOR PTSD IN THE POLICE FORCE.

On 1 January 2013 a new directive regarding posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the police force was adopted. This defines how, on a national level, the police should deal with this condition. It involves both the prevention of PTSD as well as medical and legal procedures. The directive is an implementation of the agreements with the police unions in the Employment Agreement 2012-2014. Various police departments had different procedures, regarding the assessment of PTSD as an occupational disease. This means that inequality existed for employees of the police. The premise is that if PTSD is recognized as an occupational disorder, it will also be recognized as an occupational disease in the legal sense. So far, the assessment of this took place differently in different police units. This inequality now belongs to the past. In addition, this directive stresses the importance of investing in the prevention of PTSD. Recently, several measures have been adopted to improve the physical and mental health of the police and thereby reduce the risk of developing PTSD.

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the
Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014**

POLAND

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS VETERANS ASSOCIATION OF POLAND

POLOGNE

**RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS DES MISSIONS DE
MAINTIEN DE LA PAIX DES NATIONS UNIES**

Dear Sir,

In response to the letter of January 23, 2014 sending report made by the UN PVA of Poland ventures in 2013

The primary objective of the Association of Combatants of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in 2013 was the integration of environmental veterans missions outside the country and popularize in society and among school children , the idea of peace carried by Polish soldiers and the role and importance of the United Nations.

About Running Summit in Jordan in November 2012. have been informed of the Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs and the Polish National Security Bureau . Under the adopted proposals Association signed a cooperation agreement with the Association of the United Nations Association - Poland in Warsaw.

President of the Association Dr. Maj. Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak actively participated in the work and meetings of the Sejm and the Senate Committee on National Defence. During the session he participated in the drafting of the amendments of veterans missions outside the country .

Association participated in the following activities :

- May 29, 2013, celebrated "Veteran's Day activities outside the country" and the " International Day of UN peacekeepers "
- Middle School in Międzyrzec Podlaski was given the name " Soldiers Blue Helmets " ;
- Conducted conferences on " 60 years of Polish participation in missions outside the country ," and on " 25 years of UN forces to give the Nobel Peace Prize " ;
- Together with the City of Bydgoszcz was founded banner for the Primary School . " UN Peacekeeping ," and was given the same name as one of the roundabouts in the city center ;
- Literary competitions organized in secondary schools and basic on " Tradition peacekeeping 1953-2013 " ;
- Conducted a series of meetings with youth under the popularization of the objectives and tasks of peacekeeping missions ;
- In many educational institutions presented a photo exhibition depicting the " Polish Army in International Missions " ;
- Members of the Association together with the Wielkopolska Provincial Office , conducted a collection of gifts destined for children in Afghanistan;
- Established a close cooperation with the veterans organizations operating in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Ukraine ;

Yours sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Dr Stanislaw Wozniak
President

UN Peacekeeping Mission's Veterans Association of Poland



.../...

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the
Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014**

**PORTUGAL
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE VETERANS LEAGUE**

**PORTUGAL
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LA LIGUE DES COMBATTANTS**

Liga dos Combatentes is the biggest Portuguese Association of Ancient Combatants with more 60.000 members and with 93 delegations in cities all over country and in Portuguese Islands of Madeira and Azores and ten delegations abroad (4 to Canadá 3 in France, 1 in Guinea-Bissau and 2 in Mozambique.

Portuguese Liga dos Combatentes has a plurianual planning of activities that are being accomplished with success.

These programs are: "Program to build Homes to the elderly combatants" in cities more isolated or with more need of assistance;

Program "of health care" that has the purpose to help and support the ancient combatants in medical care and psychological treatment;

Program of "citizenship, culture and defense" that has the purpose to give combatants opportunities to visit museums, libraries, and other cultural programs;

Program of " Inovation and Modernization" to provide all delegations of our association with computing and communications;

Program of "Memories and graveyards" where we locate, identify and dignify all the graves of Portuguese combatants that die and are buried in Africa (Angola, Guiney-Bissau and Mozambique) and in Europe from the I World War.

From all these programs that we have been developing during the last years, we call your attention to the program "Health Care", where we achieve very good results, because we made seven centers of medical, psychological and social care in places far from the big cities and where we get the support of teams of professional care doctors that volunteer to help ancient combatants that need more medical and psychological care (PTSD). We have several delegations where we can have medical treatment and personal that support and accompanies the problems of traumatic stress.

In the matter of Memories and graveyards we are doing a great job, visiting the countries where our soldiers are buried and looking for the graves to give them places to rest with more dignity.

We proceed with a program that pursuits the intention of showing the young generations the meaning of our country, our flag and our values, visiting young combatants that are serving in humanitarian and peace missions abroad, and giving lectures in schools to dignify our soldiers and combatants.

Liga dos Combatentes increases their members every year despite of the economical problems the country is suffering (pensions and salaries cutted) and we lost some members(550 deceased) and even so, we gain two thousand new members by year.

Every year Liga dos Combatentes celebrates the following dates with ceremonies participated by many combatants and their families.

(Portugal)

-2-

Combatants Day – April 9 –Military ceremony in Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória in the city of Batalha, where are located the” thumbs of the unknown soldier” from the I WW and from the African War. All the delegations participate in this ceremony with their own flags.

July 10 – Portugal and Communities Day – Ceremony near the Monument to the Soldiers that die in Africa War – We make a great homage to the ten thousand combatants that die in that war, with religious ceremony and flowers laid by all combatants associations.

October 16 – Aniversary of Liga dos Combatentes – Comemoration of the anniversary of our association in a ceremony with a military parade near the Monument of Soldiers that died in African War. All delegations participate with their representative flags.

November 11 – Signature of Armistice of IWW – Near the Monument of I WW located in center of Lisbon we celebrate this date with flowers and one minute of silence. In all the major cities of Portugal this day is celebrated with ceremonies made by the delegations of Liga dos Combatentes and thecolaboration of local administrative authorities.

All these ceremonies are participated by many combatants and their families.

PORTUGAL

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ARMED FORCES HANDICAPPED

PORTUGAL

RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES HANDICAPES DES FORCES ARMEES

The Association of Armed Forces Handicapped / Portugal - ADFA

Activity Report (Summary), from June 2011 to December 2013

After the SCEA meeting held in Kiev, Ukraine, from May 26th to 28th, under the motto "Friendship beyond Frontiers", where ADFA was elected to lead the Southern Europe Working Group, the second half of the year was marked by the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the colonial war (1961/1974). A war which lasted 13 long years and was fought on three fronts – Angola, Mozambique and Guinea Bissau - , with more than one million Portuguese soldiers being involved, out of whom 10,000 casualties and over 30,000 disabled. ADFA celebrated this event with a series of four conferences attended by two former Presidents of the Portuguese Republic, i.e. Dr. Mario Soares (also former Prime Minister) and General Ramalho Eanes, as well as by two illustrious personalities of the Portuguese culture, Profs. Eduardo Lourenço and Adriano Moreira. The excellent organization of this commemoration once again confirmed ADFA's capacity of intervention in the Portuguese society.

Other 2011 highlights are as follows:

- The Quality Certificate granted to ADFA by the Portuguese Certification Association (APCER) ;
- The 37th Anniversary of ADFA as well as of ADFA's Journal "ELO" (The Link), celebrated with a conference devoted to "The Colonial War – its consequences on the moral and material compensation owed to the Handicapped of the Armed Forces ;
- 2090 books sent by ADFA to East Timor under the Protocol signed with the FALINTIL Foundation ;
- ADFA's participation in the 7th Conference on Legislation organized by the WVF in Paris from 26 to 28 November, including in the Preparatory Committee thereof.

Year 2012 :

- ADFA's 38th Anniversary : Solemn Meeting chaired by the Deputy Secretary of State in the Ministry of National Defence; Seminar including the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding on International Exchanges and Cooperation among the BNMO (the Dutch WVF Member Association), the Netherlands Veterans' Institute and ADFA;

-
- The International Seminar titled “Reflecting on a Decade since the creation of the National Support Network (RNA)” with a tribune enhanced by the presence of Lt. Gen. Campos Gil, Vice Chief of the General Staff of the Army, Dr. Francisco George, Health Director General and Mr. Gielt Algra, representing the Veterans’ Institute of the Netherlands.

Year 2013

On the occasion of ADFA’s 39th Anniversary, May 14th, the first of the three conferences held under the high patronage of General Ramalho Eanes, former President of the Portuguese Republic, was chaired by the National Defence Minister, Dr. Aguiar Branco. We quote from his statement : “...this country and the republic owe a debt to the handicapped of the armed forces. A priceless debt...” ;

“...the MAGNA CHARTA of the Rights of the Military Handicapped is an initiative on which our Ministry is keen to work together with ADFA and involve all activities and bodies that are of relevance to this achievement ...”

The keynote speaker was Prof. Sampaio da Nova, Rector of the Lisbon Classical University, who conveyed a strong and eloquent message on “The Military Handicapped as a Full Body of Citizenship” ;

In his turn, the trade union leader Dr. Carvalho da Silva, dwelt on “Work, Citizenship and Human Dignity – Inclusiveness at the dawn of a New Era”, with a remarkable approach to this topical and relevant issue ;

This cycle of conferences was closed by Dr. Leonor Beleza, President of the Champalimaud Foundation, with a brilliant speech about “Citizens’ Initiatives, Social Progress and Freedom” ;

Under the Memorandum of Understanding concluded by ADFA with the BNMO and the Netherlands Veterans’ Institute, a delegation was sent by ADFA to the Netherlands to attend a series of tripartite meetings ;

The Military Hospital of Hamburg, Germany, hosted the commemoration of fifty years of rehabilitation treatments offered to Portuguese military handicapped. Attending were German and Portuguese officials, ADFA representatives and members who had been treated at the said hospital ;

To celebrate the World Peace Day – the 21st of September –, ADFA organized the Peace Fighters’ March in partnership with the “Liga dos Combatentes” (Veterans’ League), an event attended by more than two hundred participants.

These last two and a half years were extremely busy in terms of political outreach to the Government, the Parliament and political forces with a view to defending the acquired rights and improving the current legislation. We have been quite successful on this front since, despite the economic crisis, we have achieved some breakthroughs such as enlarged rights, improved medical and pharmaceutical assistance as well as better tax-related arrangements for the handicapped servicemen.

As to the resolutions adopted by the last General Assembly held in Amman, Jordan, those corresponding to the Portuguese reality have been, by and large, implemented. However, improving their application is our daily mission.

Russia

ALL-RUSSIAN PUBLIC ORGANIZATION OF VETERANS « BATTLE BROTHERHOOD »

Russie

ORGANISATION PUBLIQUE RUSSE DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS “FRERES D’ARMES”

**Events Held while Preparing for the International Round-the-World ‘Battle Brotherhood’ March of Veterans
*for summit speech***

Unlim 500+ High-Speed Car Show Held in Podmoskovye

On May 19, 2013, the 10th anniversary stage of the Unlim 500+ race of sports cars with engine capacity of 500 or more horsepowers took place at the Dmitrov Autodrome, Moscow Region.

The crews and cars of the International Round-the-World ‘Battle Brotherhood’ March of Veterans took part in the event as honored guests.

Moreover, all the cars participating in the race bore the symbols of the March!

Battle Brotherhood Supports the ‘Anti-Terror: the Voice of the Young, the Choice of the Young’ Campaign

On June 19, the closing ceremony of the ‘Honor’ interregional patriotic youth camp was held to commemorate the soldiers of special forces who were killed in the course of their military duties.

Veterans of the ‘Battle Brotherhood’ Round-the-World March took part in the event.

The camp took place on June 6–20 as part of the Russian ‘Anti-Terror: the Voice of the Young, the Choice of the Young!’ Training Project under the auspices of the Educational Center of the Presidential Regiment of the Federal Guard Service of Russia. The project itself is implemented with participation of veterans of our country’s special forces and the Vypel military and patriotic center, additionally supported by the National Antiterrorist Committee and the Ministry of Sport of the Russian Federation, and with the assistance of the Federal Security Service, the Federal Guard Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Main Directorate of the Federal Penitentiary Service and the Federal Bailiffs Service of Russia.

‘No to Drugs!’ Round-the-World March of Veterans Supports the Youth Campaign

The ‘No to Drugs’ campaign held in Moscow was dedicated to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It was organized by the capital’s Culture

Department together with the Moscow Department of the Federal Drug Control Service of Russia.

Members of the Organizing Committee of the 'Battle Brotherhood' March of Veterans took part in the event.

Over a thousand children and their parents attended this grand festive occasion. An exhibition of special forces' arms was held in the foyer of the concert hall, presented by Boris Nikolayev, the commander of the 'Saturn' special division and member of the 'Officers of Russia' Presidium.

The children were delighted to see the guns, sniper rifles and pistols from the arsenal of the special division fighters. Moreover, anyone could try their hand in the electronic shooting gallery.

In the foyer, there was also an exhibition of children's drawings featuring anti-drug motifs. In a separate sector, volunteers were anonymously tested under the supervision of drug abuse specialists (psychologists) of the Center for the Prevention of Socially Significant Diseases

June 17, 2013

The March of Veterans Supports the International 'Candle of Memory' Campaign

On the Day of Memory and Grief, an international memorial campaign titled 'Candle of Memory of June 22' and nationwide mourning events dedicated to the beginning of the Great Patriotic War began in Moscow with a requiem service in Moscow's Bogoyavlensky Cathedral.

Veterans of the 'Battle Brotherhood' March took part in the event.

During the requiem service in the Elokhovo Bogoyavlensky Cathedral, a nationwide candle of memory was ceremonially lit in memory of those who died in the Great Patriotic War, and the traditional international campaign 'Candle of Memory of June 22' was officially opened.

The 'Honor' camp was held in the Moscow Region.

Cars of the March of Veterans on Red Square. Day of Airborne Troops Celebrated in Moscow

Thousands of paratroopers and members of their families gathered on the Red Square on August 2 to celebrate the Day of Airborne Troops – Elijah's Day.

The cars of the 'Battle Brotherhood' International Round-the-World March of Veterans, scheduled to start in May 2014, lined up near the Kremlin wall.

At a special concert, Andrey Chernyshev, who served in Afghanistan as a soldier of the 9th Company of the 345th Regiment, performed songs from his new album called 'Battle Brotherhood'. David Lyon, a veteran of the US Marine Corps, explosive ordnance disposal technician, and disabled Iraq and Afghanistan combatant, who came from America for this event, took to the stage and congratulated the audience on this special occasion.

August 2, 2013

Russian Delegation Visits Rehabilitation Center in San-Diego

The 'Battle Brotherhood' public organization is getting ready for the world's first round-the-world car rally as part of the International March of Veterans.

Not only veterans of combat operations, but also disabled veterans, are going to take part in the auto rally as crew members. David Lyon, an explosive ordnance disposal technician and sniper, stepped on a mine in Afghanistan and lost his legs.

In the Peter Harsch Rehabilitation and Medical Center, disabled veterans take a rehabilitation course, supporting each other both morally and physically. They have decorated their high technology prostheses, engineered based on the latest scientific achievements, with the same emblems as the rally cars.

September 19, 2013

March Cars at the Autumn Stage of Unlim 500+.

All cars participating in the autumn stage of Unlim 500+ bear the Battle Brotherhood emblem. Each car has a legendary military prototype and history of its own. Many engineering solutions were tried and tested on them in hard combat conditions. By sticking the emblem to their car, the spectators and participants of the competition support the international campaign and help attract public attention to the problems of veterans and disabled people and strengthen the brotherhood and cooperation of people around the world.

September 27, 2013

American and Russian Veterans Lay Flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Solder by the Kremlin Walls

A delegation of the US' Veterans of Foreign Wars includes the Commander in Chief, William A. THIEN, and Executive Director of the Washington office, Robert E. WALLACE.

Russia was represented at the ceremony by the members of the 'Battle Brotherhood' International Union and National Organization, members of the peacekeeping Solders' Affairs Committee of the Council of CIS Government Heads, and representatives of the Commission of the Central Council of the United Russia Party for Veterans and Pensioners.

Gennady Shorokhov gave a speech on behalf of the 'Battle Brotherhood' International Union and National Organization.

September 29, 2013

On October 28, Sergey Shoygu Holds Regular Meeting of the Public Council of the Ministry of Defense of Russia at the Armed Forces Culture Center at Suvorov Square

The commission of the Public Council actively discussed the areas of activity of the Russian Armed Forces requiring the special attention of the public.

One of the issues discussed at the meeting of the Public Council was the concept of a Memorial in the western zone of Victory Park on the Hill of Respectful Salutation.

The alley leading from the Great Patriotic War memorial complex to the Afghan Solder monument has been recently gaining more popularity among Russians.

The proposal for construction of the Memory Wall and the concept outline of the architectural solution were presented at the meeting of the Public Council by the Battle Brotherhood initiative group as one of the events of the International Round-the-World March of Veterans.

October 30, 2013

David Lyon and Evgeny Lyapin. Battle Brotherhood

David Lyon is a veteran of the US Marine Corps, an explosive ordnance disposal technician and sniper. Since 2010, when David stepped on a mine in Afghanistan and lost his legs, he has been wearing artificial limbs. David is a member of the international 'Battle Brotherhood' organization.

When David was in Moscow, he offered to donate his spare artificial limbs to a Russian disabled veteran who also lost his legs in Afghanistan – Yevgeny Lyapin, an artillery gunner.

Members of the international 'Battle Brotherhood' organization, G.N. Dzhavadyan, I.I. Galiev, L.P. Upyr, V.A. Shebanov, and Roman Gen arranged David Lyon's visit to Moscow and the coordination of actions for the donation to and individual adjustment of the artificial limbs for Yevgeny Lyapin, the disabled veteran. Yevgeny too is a member of the international 'Battle Brotherhood' organization.

November 27, 2013

Veterans from Other Countries Come to Moscow

Invited by the heads of the International March of Veterans, Iskander Galiev and Gennady Shorokhov, veterans from other countries, came to Moscow to join their friends in the events dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Afghanistan.

Among them are the American veterans David Lyon, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, a sniper, and Staff Sergeant of the US Marine Corps, and Andrew Bottrell, a demolitions engineer and Staff Sergeant of the US Navy, attached to the 10th Navy Seal Division. Roman Gen, a member of the 'Battle Brotherhood' international organization, accompanied them from America. Donna Murakami, a medical worker, 3rd rank captain of the Royal Canadian Fleet, came from Canada.

February 13, 2014

SERBIA

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ALLIANCE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS OF THE FORMER FIGHTERS OF THE
PEOPLE'S LIBERATION WAR IN SERBIA (SUBNOR) – COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION OF SUBNOR OF SERBIA**

SERBIE

**RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LA FEDERATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS DE LA
GUERRE DE LIBERATION NATIONALE DE SERBIE (SUBNOR) – COMMISSION POUR LA
COOPERATION INTERNATIONALE DE SUBNOR SERBIE**

Activity of SUBNOR Serbia in recent years has been very comprehensive and diverse. Along with that, there has been a significant generation renewal in local organizations and leaderships at all levels. In addition to War Veterans, a large number of descendants and followers of former combatants and younger people of antifascist orientation was admitted to SUBNOR, as well as Veterans mobilized in defense of the country from the NATO aggression in 1999. As a result of these activities, SUBNOR in its ranks has approximately 100.000 members and is the most representative and respectable Veterans organization in Serbia. Priority directions of its activities in the past period were:

a) Work on improving material and social position and protection of rights of War Veterans, military invalids and their families. In achieving these goals, SUBNOR regularly follows the basic economic and other parameters that affect the position and rights of its members and their families. Assessments and views based on these analysis are submitted to the Government and parliament, as well as to local self-government bodies. In addition, the bodies of SUBNOR actively participate in proposing legislative acts in this field.

Such SUBNOR activity has undoubtedly contributed to the basically satisfying legal regulation of the position and rights of veterans' and invalids' protection at the national and local level. In so doing, however, one should have in mind the fact that Serbia, similarly to the other countries, was hit by the world economic crisis in recent years, with consequences affecting all segments of citizens, especially veterans. Therefore SUBNOR seeks to constantly build up the system of war-veteran and invalid care, and to coordinate it with development of the country and its material potentials.

When it comes to veterans of World War II, given their age, it is necessary to provide additional care of our organization and the entire social community. SUBNOR, in co-operation with the competent central and local authorities, is making efforts of providing to all of them, in addition to necessary geriatric protection, provide an organized non-institutional protection, medical care and rehabilitation. With this in mind, SUBNOR is trying to the rights and the system of war-veteran and invalid permanent protection, and to coordinate it with the development countries and its material potential. This because the regulations are not fully applied due to shortcomings in their implementation.

b) Cherishing of tradition of the National Liberation War (NOR) and other liberation wars of Serbia is one of SUBNOR priorities. It implies, among other things, regularly marking the most important dates of the National Liberation War of the people of Serbia, maintaining memorials and organizing the commemorative ceremonies. By acting actively and in an organized manner, SUBNOR defies all attempts of certain elements to diminish and falsify the truth about National Liberation War, spreading falsehood on its participants, including attempts to revise the results and character of the World War II, and efforts to justify quislings and collaboration with occupying forces, to rehabilitate them, with the tendency to belittle the country liberators from fascism, and even to present them as enemies of the Serbian people. As part of this activity, in the last few years, SUBNOR has launched action of legal rehabilitation of the victims of terror of quislings and other collaborators, considering it as moral obligation towards victims and their descendants.

Condemning the use of force in international relations without UN SC approval, and faithful to the politics of strict respect of UN Charter and international law, SUBNOR Serbia together with other patriotic associations, organizes commemoration ceremonies on the occasion of the anniversary of NATO aggression on Serbia (FR Yugoslavia), on 24. March 1999, in order to curtail Serbian province of Kosovo and Metohija. The main goal of these activities is to remind domestic and international public of the human victims, material destruction and other grave consequences of such brutal aggression, so as they never be repeated in any other country. As a guardian of antifascist traditions, SUBNOR is vigorously opposing to appearances of desecration or destruction of monuments constructed in memory of the fighters against fascism in

During the Second World War; it defies the phenomena and procedures which insult feelings and memories on millions of fighters who gave their lives in the fight against fascism and for freedom of their countries, as well as memory on the countless victims of crimes of the occupiers and their collaborators. An important pillar in this activity is a resolution, based on a proposal from SUBNOR, which was adopted at the last General Assembly of WVF, in Amman (Jordan), held from 18-22. November 2012., "Against the Revival of Fascism and Glorification of the Nazi Past".

Significant SUBNOR's means in cherishing the antifascist tradition is literary Foundation "Dragojlo Dudic". By its literary-historical and novelist competition organized every year for already more than 40 years, the Foundation helps out of anonymity the unpublished works with themes from National Liberation War and liberation wars of Serbia.

c)The international co-operation. In addition to active role and substantive activity on the internal plan, SUBNOR Serbia has a very developed international activity, to which it pays special attention. Thanks to such efforts, SUBNOR has good relations and co-operation with large number of national Veterans Organizations, with the World Veterans Federation (WVF), and the International Federation of Resistance Fighters and Anti-Fascists (FIR).

Within the framework of international activities, SUBNOR Serbia pays a special attention to improving contacts and co-operation with related Veterans Organizations of the neighboring countries. We especially have in mind a positive development of contacts and co-operation with organizations of Veterans of the World War II of the former Yugoslavia. Through improving these relations and co-operation, SUBNOR Serbia contributes to overcoming of the consequences of recent common turbulent past, rebuilding and strengthening of mutual trust and mutual understanding, better connections between our peoples and countries, in the interest of peace, stability and security in the region.

As far as veterans organization from the broader area of Balkans and Europe are concerned, during last few years, SUBNOR Serbia had regular contacts and good co-operation with Veterans Organizations of Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus, Hungary, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan. Due to lack of regular bilateral meetings and visits with some other close veterans organizations, SUBNOR uses international meetings for contacts and for exchange of views with representatives of these organizations, which

proved to be mutually beneficial. During recent years, this kind of useful contacts our representatives regularly hold with veterans organizations of Poland, Norway, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Portugal, Morocco, Turkey etc..

In the framework of cooperation in the region, particular place has the co-operation of local authorities of SUBNOR Serbia, with cross-border local branches of Veterans Organizations of the neighboring countries - Croatia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Experience shows that this has a positive impact on creating a climate of greater trust and closeness, thus contributing to better business, cultural, sports and any other connections and closer relations among citizens from both sides of the border.

d) Activities on information plan. An important aspect of SUBNOR activities in recent years is an attempt to regularly inform its membership and broader public about activities, opinions and events in the country and abroad. Those are the magazine "Borac" (Combatant), the central and local media, official press releases, conferences for media.

Particular place has Portal on Internet, which in the first two years of intense existence exceeded 500.000 visitors in Serbia and in the world. The fact that it is translated automatically in to several languages, contributes to spreading information about the work of SUBNOR Serbia on a broad plan.

SUBNOR Serbia relates with attention to the recommendations adopted by the Standing Committee for European Affairs and the General Assembly of WVF. SUBNOR uses them often as the basis and support for elaboration of its certain positions, above all, when it comes to material and social position and rights of Veterans, War Invalids and their families. Resolution mentioned above "Against Revival of Fascism and Glorification of Nazi Past", represents a significant tool for activities of SUBNOR on the internal plan. With this in mind, SUBNOR is interested in more active engagement of WVF in formulating and adopting such documents.

Belgrade, 11. 03. 2014.

SLOVENIA
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SLOVENIAN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

SLOVENIE
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LES ASSOCIATIONS MEMBRES EN SLOVENIE

Report on the activities of veterans' organisations in Slovenia between 2011–2013

The Republic of Slovenia has four veterans' organisations that are also members of the World Veterans Federation (WVF). These are the Union of the Associations of War Veterans and Participants of the National Liberation Struggle of Slovenia (ZZB NOB), the Federation of Disabled War Veterans' Associations of Slovenia (ZDVIS), the SEVER Association of Police Veterans' Society and the Association of Veterans of the War for Slovenia, the latter of which represented Slovenia within the WVF during the previous term.

The report contains information on the activities of veterans' organisations during the meeting between the European Committee and the WVF in Kiev (Ukraine) and the current meeting held at Cetinje in Montenegro.

The legal status and rights of war veterans and victims of war in the Republic of Slovenia is regulated by the:

- War Veterans Act
- War Disabled Act
- Act on Victims of War Violence
- Act on Special Rights of the Victims of the Slovenian Independence War in 91
- Act on Financing the Union of Associations of Fighters in the Slovenian National Liberation War and
- War Grave Sites Act.

The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs is responsible for implementing the provisions of the laws mentioned above as well as equal opportunities.

The laws regulate all of the rights of war veterans, war disabled and victims of war, both in terms of their economic and social situation as well as providing rights pertaining to medical care. Until 2012, their statuses were in line with the standards adopted at WVF legislative conferences.

The situation has drastically worsened after the parliamentary election in 2011. The new government, due to the aggravation of the economic situation, has started with the introduction of restrictive saving actions. With the intention of cutting budget expenses, the government has prepared a Public Finance Balance Act (ZUJF) which was adopted by Parliament in a very quick procedure. The very process of adopting the law has excluded the participation of the interested civil and professional public in its formation. Among

numerous saving measures, the government has also envisaged reductions in pensions, especially those for which the State was paying part of the contributions to the pension fund under special legislation. Among these pensions, as from 1 July, pensions of war veterans, war disabled and victims of war violence from World War II have also been reduced by 20-25%. This measure has affected approximately 7,000 rightful claimants and is discriminatory as it only limits the rights of one group of people while the others are not affected by it. Receipts of war veterans, war disabled and victims of war violence are not of a social nature but they represent the indemnification for physical and mental pain and suffering, and are a token of gratitude and indemnification for the moral and physical damage these people suffered during active military service.

In the performance of the ZJUF, due to a mistake by the Institute of Pension and Invalidity Insurance of Slovenia (ZPIZ) as the executor of pension policy and pension payments in Slovenia, about 2,000 veterans from the period from the Slovenian Independence War in 1991 also suffered injuries. The mistake occurred due to a different interpretation of the regulations of the ZUJF among the relevant Ministry (MDDSZ) and the ZPIZ. After a strong response by the veterans' organizations, the MLFSA and ZPIS have reached an agreement on the elimination of mistakes or a reduction of the pensions of war veterans in this category. At the same time, the veterans' organizations have requested the Ombudsman to file an initiative for the assessment of the constitutionality of the disputed article of the ZUJF.

The Government of the RS has made the requirements for the acquisition of war veterans rights considerably stricter by increasing the age limit by five years as well as determining a financial threshold for the eligibility for benefits. The state has ceased the funding of supplementary health insurance for war veterans, excluding those which are socially insecure and are entitled to a so-called veterans' benefit. This provision has negatively affected more than 80% of beneficiaries. Also spa and climate therapies were terminated, while public transportation and funeral benefits were already intended for a select circle of war veterans (persons awarded the highest state decorations and socially underprivileged persons).

The enforced provisions are grossly discriminating, as they do not apply to every war legislation beneficiary equally. The governmental austerity measures apply only to war veterans and not to victims of war violence (deportees and prisoners of war), the rights of which remain untouched.

In connection with the deprived rights, numerous activities were undertaken by the veterans' organisations in the Republic of Slovenia, such as:

- Direct communication with the relevant ministry
- Communication with political groups and the Government
- Collecting of signatures in support of the submission of the legislative initiative for the change of legislation (more than 5,000 certified voters' signatures) for the restoration of rights
- Submission of an initiative with the constitutional court for the ruling on certain stipulations of the Fiscal Balance Act, which deprived certain groups of a portion of their retirement benefits, which resulted in a serious deterioration of their material situation
- Participation in public demonstrations (countrywide uprising), where individuals demanding change in the field of politics were backed Participants in demonstrations were

- often enthusiastic about the participation of war veterans, as well as respectful. Unfortunately, the then political leadership triggered minor offence proceedings against the responsible persons of the Association of Veterans and Sever Association, thus recognising the mentioned organisations as organisers of illegal protests. Our appeal against the accusations was successful, as the minor offence proceedings were withdrawn.

In 2013, after the exchange of the Government, the pressuring of veterans' organisations ceased, while communications with the new Government were reinstated. We hope that in the future, at least part of the retracted rights will once again be reinstated.

Special rights are granted to war disabled and families of those killed in the Slovenian Independence War in 1991. Family members are granted special rights which regulate their economic situation. Sadly, since 2010, the situation for this category of beneficiaries has worsened substantially. However, the widows of the victims of the war in 1991 are the most affected, as due to their relative youth (below the legally prescribed age), they were not considered independent holders of certain benefits. As co-benefactors of these rights along with their children, they were deprived of a portion of their income after their children completed their university-level education or in the event that the upper age threshold determined by legislation was exceeded. Because of the recession, a large number of widows were left without regular employment. It was not until the end of 2013 that the relevant ministry responded to our initiative by preparing appropriate measures for the remedying of the mentioned issues. The veterans' organisations contribute to the organised care of the state for widows while holding regular conferences for widows as well as their children. Annually, they are also treated to a free-of-charge health weekend at spas throughout Slovenia.

In the Republic of Slovenia, there are 12,274 World War II veterans, 60,892 veterans of the Slovenian Independence War from 1991. There are also 4,020 war disabled and 44,234 victims of war.

The main purpose and duties of the veterans' organisations in the Republic of Slovenia are:

- Commemoration of important historical events
- Representation and implementation of the rights of membership before public authorities
- Provision of professional help to members in the implementation of rights
- Implementation of the adopted resolution of the WVF
- Erection and preservation of memorials
- Collecting of various historical and archive materials
- Organisation of memorial ceremonies
- Implementation of special healthcare programmes
- Development of patriotism
- Journalistic activity
- Volunteer training
- Club activities

In order to implement all of these activities, it is also necessary to provide substantial funds. Organisations are partially funded from the national budget through the relevant ministry based on an annual agreement. Some organisations also receive part of their funding from

special funds that have been established for the operation of disability organisations. In 2012 and 2013, every organisation received more than 50% less funding from the relevant ministry, which in turn meant that the execution of the planned activities was extremely difficult, while some of them even had to be cancelled.

Veterans' organisations in the Republic of Slovenia engage in mutual cooperation, as formalised by means of an agreement which clearly stipulates the relationships, rights and obligations of the participants. Each organisation also cooperates with similar organisations in countries which border the Republic of Slovenia, as well as the broader territory of Southeast Europe.

In 2011, delegates from the veterans' organisations of the Republic of Slovenia participated in the WVF women's committee meeting held in Oslo.

Based on decision no. 22 of the meeting of the European Committee, a group was founded for the region of Southern Europe, presided over by Portugal. During this period, we also responded to the questionnaire communicated by the presiding state, while no other activities were engaged in.

Every year, the International Day of Peace is commemorated. At the memorial of the protectors of the Slovenia territory in Cerje, the central ceremony is held along with the traditional walk of veterans, which sees the participation of over 1,000 individuals. Participants are addressed by high state representatives on the importance of peace on a global scale. In 2012 and 2013, the official speaker was the President of the Republic of Slovenia.

Unfortunately, we have established that the status of war veterans has deteriorated significantly in the period between 2011–2013. We hope that in further discussions and agreements with the state, we will be able to reinstate certain lost rights, and especially that these rights will be arranged in such a way as to make them permanent and inviolable.

**WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the
Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014**

**SWEDEN
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE SWEDEN MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS**

**SUEDE
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LES ASSOCIATIONS MEMBRES EN SUEDE**

Report from the Swedish Veterans Federation's (SVF) activities 2011-2013.

On 1 January 2011 the legislation "Armed Forces Personnel in International Military Operations" came in force. The law, shortly, clarified the Swedish Armed Forces responsibility to actively follow up the situation for each individual veteran for a period of five years after completion of service in international operations. In case the veterans is suffering from physical or psychological injuries, the Armed Forces have the responsibility to enable an active and independent milestone for the Swedish Veterans and gave the Swedish Veterans Federation the framework for further efforts to support the Veterans.

2011 the Swedish Veterans Federation started an intensive work to, on the political level, highlight the veterans situation. This was a follow up to the implementation of the legislation on veterans. Several individual veterans destiny was described which gave an important support to a solid implementation of the veteran policy.

During 2012 a process started to transform Peace Berets Sweden from a companion association to a more robust interest organization for veterans. One step in the direction was to rename from "Fredsbaskrarna Sverige" (eng. Peace Berets Sweden) to "Sveriges Veteranförbund Fredsbaskrarna (in eng. "Swedish Veterans Federation"). An intensive work started to reform statutes and accordingly the structure of the organization.

2012 was an important milestone in the almost 30 years since foundation H.R.H. Prince Carl Philip accepted to be the patron of SVF. This event was important for SVF as such, but first of all as a sign of recognition for the Swedish veterans.

In fall 2012 it was finally decided that SVF would host World Veterans Federation's Peace and Security Summit 2013. This was a considerable challenge in terms of funding and manning of a project organization. However, the Swedish government and the Swedish Armed Forces indicated their support for the commitment. Furthermore, a few other agencies and nonprofit organizations supported SVF with manpower for the project. Due to mutual efforts the conference in May 2013 went very well

On 29 May 2013, The Veterans Day- H.M. Carl XIV Gustaf inaugurated the "Veterans Monument". The monument is created by the sculptress Monika Larsen Dennis. It is mad of solid white marble with a base of concrete. The sculpture has human proportions and has the form of a bud at an early stage. It has drop-like cavities on the surface. The concrete base has a mándala pattern. Mándala (Sanskrit) is a magic diagram with a symbolic meaning. Mandala symbolizes balance and healing. Mándala is associated with completeness and is

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also a genuine peace keeping symbol.

We had initially a debate in parts of the veterans community whether this monument meet the veterans expectations. What we can feel today is that it is accepted. The big thing is that we now have a Veterans Monument and the monument is including all personnel involved in peace support and humanitarian operations – military as well as civilian.

On the annual meeting 2013 a new framework for SVF was adopted. A new board was elected, a SVF secretariat was established in Örebro and new statues for the organization were decided by the annual meeting. The secretariat, headed by a secretary general, was manned by 5 staff members on full time basis by the end of October 2013. These new bodies in SVF organizational structure became a significant change in working capability and enhanced further development of SVF and the efforts to support the Swedish veterans.

In February 2013 the Governments special investigator, MP Allan Widman (liberal) presented an interim report on the public inquiry: “Swedish veteran policy – Governmental Financial Support to Voluntary Organizations in Support of Veteran Soldiers and their Dependants”. The proposal from the public inquiry was in brief:

The cooperation between the governmental organizations and the nonprofit organizations should be formalized by including the nonprofit organizations in the decree for voluntary Defense organizations, and according to the law for the Armed Forces personnel in international military operations. The nonprofit organizations concerned are named “Veterans and dependants’ organizations”.

In practical terms it means that the governmental agencies have now the legal framework to provide financial support to Swedish Veterans Federations etc. For the fiscal year 2014 there is an agreement signed by the Swedish Armed Forces and SVF, which means that SVF has undertaken certain tasks in support to the veterans’ community and accordingly receive a financial support of 5,5 milj. SEK. This financial support is crucial for the funding of SVF activities. A final report will be presented by the beginning of May 2014, and is likely to give proposals on whether the veteran concept will cover other categories of personnel, in addition to the military personnel, involved in international peace support and humanitarian operations. The Swedish Veterans Federation is slowly growing. We are now some 5 800 members. The number is including two veteran communities where special agreements on cooperation are signed. Some 500 new members have joined SVF during 2013. The number of local member organizations is also slowly growing and has now reached the number of 19.

SVF has 23 meeting sights for veterans all over Sweden where veterans gather, normally once a month, for mutual exchange of experiences from their international operations and to maintain the fellowship. With the new organizational structure in SVF we have created very good opportunities for the future – it is now up to ourselves to do workshop.
Stockholm 27 April 2014.

Bengt Wiktorsson
President Swedish Veterans Federation

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014

TURKEY

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE TURKISH WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION

TURQUIE

RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'ASSOCIATION DES ANCIENS COMBATTANTS TURCS

BRIEF REPORT ON THE MAIN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF TURKISH WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 2011 – DECEMBER 2013.

1. INTRODUCTION

Turkish War Veterans Association (TWVA) has 25,330 members, 66 branch offices and 43 representative offices all over turkey as of 31 December 2013. The members of our association are the spouses of Independence War, Korean War Veterans and the Veterans of Cyprus Peace Operations. The head office of our association is located in Ankara. We carry out our activities by coordinating with our branch and representative offices. We always take into consideration the principles and strategy of the WVF, resolutions and recommendations adopted by the meeting of the Standing Committee of European Affairs (SCEA), the Standing Committee on Women (SCOW) and the World Veterans Federation (WVF)

2. ACTIVITIES

a. Ceremonies

- (1) Veterans day: The 19th of September is the Veterans Day in Turkey. On the 19th of September, the state ceremonies are held in different cities and towns with the participation of military units, association of military origin, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and citizens. On that day, the high level government officials, media organs, military and civilian schools were visited by the groups of our veterans from each branch offices in their cities or towns. They give information about their association, their activities and emphasize the historical sense and importance of the Veterans Day. The government and military officers were briefed about the problems and needs of our veterans.
- (2) Martyrs Day: The 18th of March is the Martyrs Day in Turkey. Official ceremonies were held on that day so our association participated in the ceremonies and visited the Memorials, cemeteries and the graves of martyrs.
- (3) National Days: On the Republic and Victory Days? State ceremonies were held so our association participated in those ceremonies as the member of protocol. Furthermore the Salvation Days of cities were celebrated by our branch office in their cities or towns.

- (4) Important days of Korean War: Turkish Armed Forces fought in the Korean Peninsula for the World peace and freedom of South Korea in 1950-1953 under the flag of United Nations. Although 21.212 Turkish military personnel participated in the Korean War, nowadays only 4200 Korean War veterans are alive. We commemorated the start of Korean War and significant battles of the Turkish Armed Forces in the Korean War like battle of Kunu-ri and Kumyangjiang-ni with participations of the embassy staffs from the UN allied countries in the Korean War, Turkish military officials, local administrators and military units.
- (5) Anniversary of the Gallipoli War: The ceremonies were held in the peninsula of Gallipoli with the participation of our veterans, Australian and New Zealanders whose relatives fought against Turkey as being the ANZAC soldiers and fallen in this peninsula.
- (6) Anniversary of Cyprus Operation: Turkish Armed Forces conducted a Peace Operation on July 1974 in Cyprus by using its rights comes from 1960 London Agreement to protect the lives of Turkish Cypriots. So on 20th of July, the state ceremonies were held on that day with the participations of our veterans.
- (7) General Assembly: On 10 June 2012 Turkish War Veterans Association held its 14th General Assembly Meeting and new members of Administration Board, Board of Auditors and Disciplinary Boards were elected.
- (8) Semiannual Assembly Meeting: We held our semiannual Meeting in different cities with the participation of the Chairmen of Branch Offices and representation Offices to discuss and/or exchange ideas on the problems of veterans, their family members and new strategies how to get more benefits to them from the government, local authorities.
- (9) Audits: Auditing Board of the Defense Ministry and Provincial Department of Associations audited our associations.
- (10) Visits of Korean Officials: Whenever the Korean High Level officials visited Ankara-Turkey, they also visited the Korean Memorial holding a ceremony with participation of our Korean War Veterans.

b. Activities Regarding to improve the veterans' social and economic standard of living:

- (1) We made an agreement with an intercity bus company in order that our veterans and their spouses can travel by buses at a reduced price up to 50 percent. Also we make an

(Turkey)

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- (2) agreement with the Turkish Airlines (THY) so that our veterans can fly at a reduced price up to 40 percent during the international flights and for the domestic flights 20 percent discount.
- (3) A group of doctors visited our association and treated our Korean War Veterans by using the acupuncture methods.
- (4) The Defense Ministers, the Ministers of Family and Social Political, Turkish Land Forces Commander, General Commander of Gendarmerie, Members of Parliament and the officials of the Military and private hospitals were visited on different dates and their supports were sought and requested for our veterans.
- (5) Most of the private hospital accepted our request so they accepted not to change any payments from our veterans and their families for the medical examinations and treatments.
- (6) The Ministry of Veterans and Patriots of Korea and Samsung Company made financial aid to the grandchildren of Korean Veterans studying at the universities.
- (7) We got a minibus from the Turkish-Korean joint company, POSCO-ASSAN to carry our veterans to the ceremonies or social activities.

c. Bilateral Relations:

- (1) We are also the member of the International Federation of Korean War Veterans Association (IFKWVA). So President and a Korean War Veteran, IRKWVA representative of our association, attended the 9th General Assembly Meeting, IFKWVA, on 22-27 June 2013, Seoul, Korea.
- (2) President and chief of Foreign Relations attended the WVF General Assembly Meeting, n 17-22 November 2012, Amman/Jordan.
- (3) President and chief of Foreign Relations attended the Peace and Security Summit (PSS13 on 28-30 May 2013, Stockholm, Sweden.
- (4) 10 veterans visited Baku/Azerbaijan in 2012 as the invitees of the Azerbaijan Veterans Association.
- (5) President and Chief of Foreign Relations attended the Advisory Meeting of the Balkans Countries' Veterans in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 28 February – 2 march 2014.
- (6) 83 Korean War Veterans, their family members and 7 relatives of Korean War Martyrs fallen during the Korean War, visited Korea as the invitees of Ministry of

.../...

(Turkey)

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(7) Veterans and Patriots, Republic of Korea, in the framework of Revisit Korea Program or visit the martyrs' graves in Korea in June 2011-31 December 2013. So our association prepared their all kinds of paperwork and made all kinds of coordination with Korean and Turkish officials in Korea so that they can safely travel Korea and return top Turkey.

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014

UNITED KINGDOM
REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE BRITISH MEMBERS COUNCIL (BMC)

ROYAUME-UNI
RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR LE CONSEIL DES MEMBRES BRITANNIQUES

BRITISH MEMBERS COUNCIL
THE WORLD VETERANS' FEDERATION

Honorary President:	Brigadier Ian Townsend CBE CCM
Chairman:	
Secretary/Treasurer:	Lieutenant Colonel Joe F. Falzon OSJ
BEM	

---Member Organisations

The Royal British Legion
The War Widows Association of Great Britain
The British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association
Blind Veterans UK
The Royal British Legion Scotland
The Royal Air Forces Association

Affiliated Organisations

Women's Section The Royal British Legion (*from March 2012 to December 2013*)
Combat Stress (*from May 2013*)

Committees

The Medical Advisory Committee

23rd MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

REPORT BY THE BRITISH MEMBERS COUNCIL

The British Members Council (BMC) values its membership of the World Veterans Federation (WVF) and we remain a strong supporter of its aims and ideals. This was reiterated by Mr Robert Leader DL, Chairman of the BMC, when he attended the 27th World Veterans Federation General Assembly in Jordan in November 2012.

Since the 22nd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs (SCEA) in Kiev in May 2011, the BMC instigated a review of the future wider membership, funding and composition of the Council and its sub-Committee – the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) – to better position the international dimension of the BMC and the MAC within the mix of the United Kingdom veteran organisations, charities and support groups.

A revised Constitution of the BMC was developed and subsequently adopted by the BMC Member Organisations in November 2013.

(United Kingdom)

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The Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), as a Sub Committee of the BMC, has continued to provide policy recommendations and guidance on existing and emerging physical and mental health issues affecting the Armed Forces community. The MAC has been a key consultative body and has helped to Identify and make recommendations for new research on health issues effecting Service personnel or veterans

Meetings/Seminars attended Overseas

The following meetings/seminars were attended overseas by BMC representatives since the 22nd Meeting of SCEA in Kiev in May 2011:

- The 31st Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League General Assembly – (Malta) – May 2012
- The Meeting of the WVF Finance Committee – (Paris) – June 2012.
- The 27th WVF General Assembly – (Jordan) – November 2012.
- The WVF Peace and International Security Summit – (Stockholm) – May 2013
- The Meeting of the SCEA Working Group of West Europe Countries – (Stockholm) – May 2013
- The Meeting of the SCEA Working Group of West Europe Countries – (Doorn) – November 2013

Visits by Members of the WVF Executive Board

The WVF President, Mr Hamid Ibrahim, briefed the BMC on a number of WVF financial and strategic issues in March 2012.

Mr Hamid Ibrahim and Mr Dan-Viggo Bergtun, Chairman of SCEA, attended the funeral of Mr David Knowles in October 2012, and then held informal meetings with the Chairman of the BMC.

[Mr Dan-Viggo Bergtun had an informal meeting with the Chairman of the BMC in February 2013.](#)

Personalities

The following appointments were announced since the last Meeting of SCEA in 2011:

Mr Terry Whittles was elected as National Vice Chairman of The Royal British Legion (TRBL).

Brigadier Barry Le Grys took over as Chief Executive of BLESMA (The Limbless Veterans).

(United Kingdom)

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Mr Kevin Gray MM MCGI took over as Chief Executive Officer The Royal British Legion Scotland.

Mr Nick Bunting took over as Secretary General of the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA).

Mrs Irene Wills took over as Chairman of the War Widows Association of Great Britain (WWA of GB

Last Post

The BMC would like to remember with profound sadness the deaths in 2013 of Mr David Knowles CBE and Mr Jimmy Hughes CBE, both former stalwarts of the WVF and the BMC. Our Chairman, Mr Robert Leader DL passed away on 17th April 2014 after a short but aggressive illness. Robert was an inspirational leader who will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

Summary of Current Initiatives

The Resolutions adopted by the 28th WVF General Assembly held in Jordan in November 2012, as well as those adopted by the 22nd Meeting of SCEA held in Kiev in 2011, were submitted to Mr Andrew Robathan, the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans. A very polite note of acknowledgement was received in both cases.

The BMC, through its member organisations and sub-committee, has contributed and collaborated purposefully in pursuit of a number of initiatives and programmes advanced by the United Kingdom Government for the good and benefit of the ex-service community. A summary of these initiatives is attached.

The BMC wishes the 23rd Meeting of SCEA much success and takes this opportunity to thank the WVF President, the Executive Director and Secretariat staff in Head Office for all the assistance they have given to the BMC over these past two years.

SUMMARY OF RECENT INITIATIVES

Major New Research Project into Military Charities

The Forces in Mind Trust (FiMT) is funding the Directory of Social Change (DSC) to conduct an independent and comprehensive review of the military charity sector, and to produce an authoritative on-line **Guide to the Military Charity Sector**.

There is currently no single independent source of information on charities in the UK that cater for serving and ex-serving personnel and their families – known as the Armed Forces Community. The recently published Transition Mapping Study, and other studies, have highlighted a number of areas where this lack of understanding causes confusion, affecting policy makers, funders and the charities themselves, as well as those individual members of the Armed Forces Community who are seeking help.

The DSC/FiMT Guide will include: a breakdown and analysis of money raised; good practice; distribution of funding for grant-making versus service delivery; types of organisations within the sector; an analysis of geographical distribution of support versus need; performance comparisons with other sectors; contact information. The Guide will be publically accessible via DSC's sophisticated on-line searchable website.

This unique project is fundamental to the continued health and development of the military charity sector as the UK approaches drawdown from Afghanistan and a lower profile for our Armed Forces Community. The project will be able to map an incredibly important and valuable part of the charity sector in a way that potentially exposes good practice, demonstrates reach and effectiveness and opens access to services to vulnerable servicemen and women and their families.

Bereavement Support for The Military Family

Cruse Bereavement Care, a registered charity offering free bereavement support, advice and information, has been granted funding of over half a million pounds by the Ministry of Defence to further develop and raise awareness of bereavement services available for the Armed Forces Community.

Over a two year period the project, 'Bereavement in the Military Family', will support over 30,000 bereaved serving personnel, their families and the ex-services community.

Through the project Cruse will:

- Train more Cruse volunteers to support bereaved Military family members
- Develop and distribute self-help bereavement resources across the Military family
- Pilot a peer support module training Military family members to support to each other.

The death of a loved one is devastating, no matter the circumstances, and a military bereavement brings with it many additional factors that can complicate the bereavement process. Cruse will now be able to build on their existing Military work and develop new training and resources to support all areas of the Military family.

The Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion is carrying out a second survey of the ex-Service community, to update their 2005 research, provide comparisons with this data and produce fresh evidence on the differences and similarities between the welfare needs of the Legion's beneficiaries and the UK population as a whole. Data collection has now been completed. It is being analysed by the Legion's contractors and the write-up of the results will soon be underway, with an aim to produce final copy by early August. Publication will depend on design and printing timelines, and may be tied in with a key event in the Armed Forces calendar (to be decided).

The Royal British Legion has also carried out an online survey on Service-induced hearing problems, and the findings will be incorporated into a report, which will also include contributions from the University College London Ear Institute and the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the British Members' Council; Action on Hearing Loss (to be confirmed); and the British Tinnitus Association. This is planned for publication later in 2014.

The Royal Air Forces Association

The Royal Air Forces Association continues to provide friendship, help and support to current and former serving Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel and their families. We do this primarily through our 63,500 members in a worldwide network of branches.

The welfare delivered by the Association can range from a regular visit to a WWII veteran, to help with war pensions and compensation. It's not just older members of the RAF family we support: through our Storybook Wings initiative we have helped over 2,200 children feel closer to a deployed parent, by providing the facility to record a bedtime story which is delivered on a CD. We also help people realise their sporting potential by sponsoring a number of sports people and teams, including the medal winning paralympic champion Jon-Allan Butterworth and the RAF Volleyball Team.

The Association is finding that the needs of veterans of all ages are changing. We are starting to see more complex welfare cases, which can include confusion about which benefits someone might be entitled to and mental health issues, such as depression. To ensure we continue to meet the welfare needs of the RAF family, we have commissioned a research project to identify the future welfare needs of those leaving the RAF.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association (BLESMA The Limbless Veterans)

BLESMA's Mission is to assist its people to lead independent and fulfilling lives. The Association has recently commissioned the Veterans and Families Institute at Anglia Ruskin University to carry out a thematic literature review on the impact of amputation on families with particular emphasis on Service families. This review will in turn lead to a research project which will have relevance across the whole of the BLESMA membership - those who suffer traumatic amputation whilst serving in HM Forces and those who suffer amputation later in life; the impact on their families may be different, leading to different needs. The result of this project will inform BLESMA's strategy in the short term and have implications for the delivery of BLESMA's services and the ways in which the charity may need to tailor and deliver its support.

Combat Stress Research

Clinical research into the mental health and mental welfare needs of Scottish Veterans has been highlighted in a comprehensive scoping study produced by the Robert Gordon University instigated by the Director of Medical Services at national mental health charity for veterans Combat Stress, and funded through the Scottish Government¹. This report can be downloaded from the Scottish Government website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0041/00417172.pdf Much of this study is applicable to the rest of the United Kingdom and has implications for veterans from other countries.

A separate research study² into the speed of clinical presentation and help seeking behaviour of combat veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns demonstrated that these veterans are presenting for treatment by the charity Combat Stress much earlier than expected and sooner than veterans for other wars and conflicts had presented for treatment for mental health disorders. The reasons for this are unclear however it is thought that better education and knowledge of veterans and their family members about the effects of combat on mental health including education delivered by the Ministry of Defence during military service played a major role in this.

(United Kingdom)

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1. Klein, S., Alexander, D., & Busuttil, W. (2013) Scoping review: A Needs-Based Assessment and Epidemiological Community-Based Survey of Ex-Service Personnel and their Families in Scotland Robert Gordon University. Aberdeen December 2012
2. van Hoorn, LA., Jones, N., Busuttil, W., Fear, NT., Wessely, S., Jones, E. Hunt, E., Greenberg, N. (2013). Iraq and Afghanistan veteran presentations to Combat Stress, since 2003. Occupational Psychiatry. doi: 10.1093/occmed/kqt017

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
23rd Meeting of the Standing Committee on European Affairs
Cetinje (Montenegro), 16-19 June 2014

UKRAINE

REPORT SUBMITTED BY THE ALL UKRAINIAN UNION OF WAR VETERANS

UKRAINE

RAPPORT SOUMIS PAR L'UNION UKRAINIENNE DES PARTICIPANTS A LA GUERRE

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№ 22

19 March, 2014

To: Mr. Mohammed Benjelloun
WVF Secretary General

Brief Report

Activities of the All-Ukrainian Union of War Veterans (VSUV) during 2011-2013

2011

1. A number of meetings of the Great Patriotic War veterans with school children and military academy cadets dedicated to the Fatherland Defender Day were conducted.
2. Meeting of war veterans connected with the beginning of the Great Patriotic War and trip to places of guerrilla glory in Chernigov Region were conducted.

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(Ukraine)

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3. Meeting of the Great Patriotic War veterans with military attaches from foreign embassies in Ukraine dedicated to the Victory Day in the Great Patriotic War was conducted.
4. Round table meeting and trip of the Great Patriotic War veterans to Kiev fortified areas Lyutizh and Bukrin bridgeheads (Dnieper river) named 'Roads of War' were conducted.
5. Meeting of youth with veterans from cities Odessa, Kharkov, Uzhhorod and Sevastopol connected with the beginning of the Great Patriotic War and defeat of fascist troops near Moscow was conducted.
6. Meeting with military attaches from foreign embassies in Ukraine dedicated to the twentieth anniversary of the Independence Day of Ukraine was held.
7. Conference of local wars veterans (Korea, Vietnam, Angola, etc.) and of other international conflicts was held.
8. A 10-day trip to Vietnam of 18 war veterans in Vietnam was carried out on the invitation of the government of Vietnam.
9. On the invitation of veterans' organizations from Russia veterans of VSUV visited Moscow, St. Petersburg, Volgograd and Brest where they took part in the event connected with 70 years of the beginning of the Great Patriotic War and defeat of fascist troops near Moscow.

2012

1. Meeting with veterans from Sevastopol and visit to places of combat glory were conducted on the occasion of 70 years of the end of Sevastopol defense.
2. Conference of veterans in local wars and military conflicts on the territories of other countries (Korea, Vietnam, Angola, Mozambique, Egypt) was held.
3. 2 trips to Vietnam consisting of 9 war veterans in Vietnam in each delegation were carried out on the invitation of the government of Vietnam.
4. Meetings of veterans with youth were conducted on the occasion of:
 - ninety years of the creation of 128 separate Guards mechanized brigade in the city of Mukachevo;
 - seventy years of the creation of 41 Guards tank army in the city of Cherkassy;
 - sixty years of the creation of 809 aviation training regiment in the city of Akhtyrka;
 - 68 years of the liberation of Ukraine on the subject of 'The war does not have female face' in the cities of Pereyaslav-Khelnytsky and Dikanka.

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5. On the invitation of Russian veterans' organizations the veterans of the Great Patriotic War from Ukraine visited Moscow and St. Petersburg where they took part in the event connected with 200 years of the Patriotic War of 1812.
6. The Ukrainian delegation of the Great Patriotic War veterans visited Volgograd and participated in the event connected with the beginning of Soviet troops counter-offensive near Stalingrad.
7. Meeting of VSUV veterans with military attaches from some foreign embassies in Ukraine was carried out on the occasion of 70 years of liberation of Kiev from fascist invaders.

2013

1. Seminar 'Ukraine in local wars' with the participation of veterans in combat actions was conducted.
2. VSUV delegation visited St. Petersburg and took part in the event dedicated to 69 years of liberation of Leningrad.
3. Participation of VSUV delegation together with veterans of combat actions in Korea (1950-1953) in the event connected with 60 years of completion of war in Korea.
4. On the invitation of veterans' organizations the VSUV delegation visited cities Orel and Belgorod (Russian Federation) and took part in the event connected with 70 years of their liberation from fascist invaders in Kursk battle.
5. Scientific and historical conference of veterans' organizations dedicated to the liberation of Kharkov and Left Bank Ukraine was held in Kharkov.
6. Seminar of VSUV front-line women with representatives of government services was conducted concerning preparation for celebration of seventy years of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.
7. Meeting of veterans' organizations from Sevastopol and VSUV delegation was conducted concerning preparation for celebration of seventy years of Victory.
8. International youth festival of patriotic song 'Kiev Rus - memory without borders' was conducted in the city of Bila Tserkva with participation of VSUV veterans and youth of the city.
9. On the invitation of the Moscow City Duma VSUV delegation together with Moscow youth took part in the event concerning preparation for celebration of seventy years of Victory and 69 years of liberation of Ukraine.

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10. On the invitation of the Volgograd veteran organization VSUV delegation took part in the event concerning 70 years of the beginning of counter-offensive of Soviet troops near Stalingrad in 1943.
11. In connection with preparatory measures concerning 70 years of liberation of Ukraine the following meetings were done:
 - meetings with military attaches from foreign embassies in Ukraine;
 - conference of war veterans in Angola;
 - chess tournament 'match of generations' with school-children and cadets of military academies.

Vladimir Vorontsov
Gen.-Col.
Chairman of VSUV