

WORLD VETERANS FEDERATION
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Standing Committee on European Affairs
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REPORT OF SCEA WORKING GROUP ON THE INTERNATIONAL VETERAN RALLY

The March cars at Poklonnaya Gora

Several cars of the International Round-the-World March of Veterans *Battle Brotherhood* took part in the festivities in the Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora, dedicated to the Day of Victory in World War II.

Every guest of this grand memorial in the west of Moscow had a chance to obtain first-hand information about the project, and to make a photo to remember this day.

These cars have a long way to go -- more than 100,000 km of journey around the globe: Russia, the CIS countries, a number of Asian states, North America, Western and Eastern Europe.

May 8, 2013

Veterans' Summit on Peace and Security Held in Sweden

On **May 28-31**, Stockholm, under the auspices of the World Veterans Federation, hosted the Summit on peace and security. The aim of the Summit was to discuss the problems of Veterans of wars and military conflicts, as well as their participation in activities that promote international peace and security.

The Summit was attended by representatives from more than 50 countries of the World Federation of veterans. The Russian party was represented by the members of the all-Russian organization *Battle Brotherhood*, organizers of the International Round-The-World Veterans' March *Battle Brotherhood*, Gennady Shorokhov and Iskander Galiev.

The Russians have prepared an extensive report with proposals on the participation of veterans in matters of peace and security, using experiences and consolidating the efforts of veterans' organizations in different states.

'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.

June 17, 2013

Vnukovo host International Motor Rally of Veterans and War Disabled

On **June 27-28**, Vnukovo hosted the International Autocross for Veterans and the War Disabled that brought together veterans of three countries: Russia, Great Britain and the United States.

As envisioned by the promoters, this is a kind of a prologue to the International Round-the-World Veterans' March *Battle Brotherhood* that starts in May 2014. This motor rally was held on specially equipped sites near the International *Vnukovo* Airport. It brought together disabled war veterans from Britain, the United States and Russia – participants of the various wars and military conflicts, including World War II.

114th National Congress of the VFW Held in Louisville

More than 10,000 veterans – members of the country’s oldest and largest organizations gathered to elect a new leadership and adopt the programs of support to veterans across the country. The Congress was held on **July 20-24**.

Representatives of the International Round-the-World Veterans’ March “Battle Brotherhood” were invited to attend the event as guests of honor.

“Our Organization is governed by its members; delegates were elected at our annual convention,” said John E. Hamilton, head of the National organization US foreign wars veterans.

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

American and Russian Veterans Lay Flowers

at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier 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 Soldiers’ 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.

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 Soldier 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.

19 November – Remembrance Day Reception

in Honor of Veterans of All Wars

Michael McFaul, United States Ambassador, and Peter Zwaak, military attaché, Brigadier General, held a reception at Spaso House, the United States Ambassador's residence in Moscow, to honor the memory of the veterans of all wars, in which the United States participated.

Spaso House, residence of the Ambassador of the United States of America in Moscow, brought together veterans of wars and military conflicts and to pay tribute to the memory of the dead.

Leaders of the Headquarters of the international March of Veterans Iskander Galiev, Gennadiy Shorokhov, along with major Robert Patterson, head of the Moscow office of the U.S. Commission on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, discussed the issues of coordination of actions in preparation for the Round-The-World Race.

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 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

February 27, 2013

Veterans in the Museum of Russian Army

On **February 14-15**, Moscow hosted the celebrations dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan: the laying of wreaths and flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the monument to Georgy Zhukov.

On February 15, at the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, a solemn meeting was held devoted to the 25th anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

From March to April 2014, preparation was held associated with the start of the International Round the World March of Veterans Battle Brotherhood, which took place on May 6, 2014.

March of Veterans: Battle Brotherhood, Fare Thee Well!

On May 6, on the day of St. George the Trophy Bearer, a festive event dedicated to the finish of the motor rally of the International Project *Our Great Victory* and the start of the first-ever International Round-the-World March of Veterans *Battle Brotherhood* took place in the Victory Park at Poklonnaya Gora.

The event brought together veterans of World War II, representatives of veteran and youth organizations, pupils and students, cadets and students of Suvorov Military School, representatives of the Russian public authorities, and the Moscow local government.

"It is no mere coincidence that the motto of the March of Veterans is comprised of the words of the writer Antoine de Saint-Exupéry that the supreme luxury in this world is the luxury of human communication." Only in communication with each other can the veterans from different countries in a cohesive way advocate for dialog among countries and promote peacekeeping efforts," said Iskander Galiyev, the author of the idea of the March of Veterans, a veteran of the Soviet-Afghan War.

The start from Poklonnaya Gora of the convoy of automobiles with emblems of Battle Brotherhood on their sides and a map of the route running through the whole planet symbolizes the beginning of the whole range of events, which will be implemented within several years. The motor rally is one of the most important stages of the social movement.

The International Round-the-World March of Veterans is a non-governmental project which has no parallels in modern history and which features an extensive program: War Song Festivals, Exhibitions of War Artists and War Photography, Battle Brotherhood International MMA Tournament, and the Heroes Among Us initiative.

The March of Veterans **will be held in 4 stages**.

The first stage will feature a motor rally in the territory of the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The March of Veterans will follow the route: Moscow, Kazan, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, and Kazakhstan. Then the March of Veterans will proceed through the territory of the Russian Federation to Vladivostok.

In the second stage, the March of Veterans will follow the route: Mongolia, China, Vietnam and then Vancouver (Canada).

In the third stage the March of Veterans will go through the territory of the US and Canada. Crews will be formed from the abled and disabled participants of different wars and military conflicts, as well as from military medics and military-technical specialists.

In the fourth stage, the March of Veterans will go through the territory of European countries: Portugal, Spain, France, Great Britain, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic, Austria, Germany, Denmark, and Poland. The March of Veterans will then proceed through Kaliningrad, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Sweden, Norway, Finland, St. Petersburg, and Moscow.

The March of Veterans will finish in Moscow at Poklonnaya Gora.