

SOUTHWEST DISTRICT VICE COMMANDANT
JIM WALTERS - AUGUST 2009 REPORT

1. AUGUST 5TH - I ATTENDED THE SOUTH HILLS DETACHMENT #726 MONTHLY MEETING HELD AT THE BETHEL PARK AMERICAN LEGION POST #760. SR. VICE COMMANDANT GEORGE TRACEY CONDUCTED THE MEETING IN PLACE OF COMMANDANT TOM GELLES. THE MEETING WAS HELD ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE. THE DETACHMENT SWORE IN ONE NEW MEMBER. DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON MEMBERSHIP AND HOW TO GET NEW MEMBERS TO BECOME ACTIVE. SEVERAL IDEAS WERE DISCUSSED. THE DETACHMENT WILL HAVE A NEW ADJUTANT/PAYMASTER SWORN IN AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING.

2. AUGUST 8TH - I ATTENDED THE ALLEGHENY-KISKI VALLEY RELAY FOR LIFE FUND RAISER. THE ALLEGHENY VALLEY DETACHMENT #827 "COLOR GUARD" PRESENTED THE COLORS FOR THIS EVENT.

3. AUGUST 13TH - I ATTENDED THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DETACHMENT #1138 MONTHLY MEETING. THE MEETING WAS HELD ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE. A GUEST SPEAKER SPOKE ABOUT TEENAGERS AND THE PROBLEMS THEY FACE IN TODAY'S WORLD. REPORT MADE ON THE DETACHMENT TAKING PART IN A "MEDAL OF HONOR" FLAG PRESENTATION CEREMONY TAKING PLACE IN THEIR AREA. THE DETACHMENT WILL FURNISH A "COLOR GUARD" AND A "RIFLE SQUAD" FOR THE CEREMONY. A GREAT MEETING AND A FANTASTIC DETACHMENT.

4. AUGUST 15TH - I ATTENDED A WORKSHOP ON FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS SPONSORED BY CONGRESSMAN JASON ALTMIRE. THE WORKSHOP WAS VERY WELL ORGANIZED AND VERY INFORMATIVE.

5. AUGUST 17TH - I ATTENDED THE ALLEGHENY VALLEY DETACHMENT #827 MONTHLY MEETING. THE MEETING WAS HELD ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE. I SPOKE ABOUT THE ELIMINATION OF THE "KHAKI" SHIRT. TWO NEW MEMBERS WERE SWORN IN AND TWO OTHERS MEMBERS TOOK THE OATH OF MEMBERSHIP. OF COURSE ALLEGHENY VALLEY IS MY HOME DETACHMENT.

6. AUGUST 25TH - I ATTENDED THE BANTAM MARINE DETACHMENT #743 MONTHLY MEETING. THE MEETING WAS HELD ACCORDING TO PROCEDURE. BRIAN NATALI, SR. VICE COMMANDANT WAS PRESENTED

THE "CHAPEL OF THE 4 CHAPLAINS" AWARD. THE DETACHMENT RECEIVED "HONORABLE MENTION" FOR THE "NATIONAL AMERICANISM BOOK" AND WAS AWARDED 1ST PLACE FOR "NATIONAL VAVS" (platoon size) CATAGORY. DISCUSSION WAS HELD CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF THE "KHAKI" SHIRT. MOST OF THE DETACHMENT WAS VERY UPSET WITH THIS DECISION, BUT WILL ABIDE BY THE BY-LAWS. A GOOD MEETING AND A GREAT DETACHMENT.

AS A SIDEBAR: THE MAJORITY OF THE MARINES WHO ATTENDED THE MEETINGS WERE VERY UPSET WITH THE BY-LAW CHANGE CONCERNING THE "KHAKI" SHIRTS AND ARE GOING TO WORK VERY HARD TO HAVE IT REVERSED AT THE NEXT NATIONAL CONVENTION. THEY ARE ALSO VERY UPSET THAT OUR DEPARTMENT AND DIVISION OFFICERS SUPPORTED THIS CHANGE. BY THE TIME I VISIT ALL OF MY DETACHMENTS, I IMAGINE MY BUTT WILL BE VERY SORE.