



From the Commander

No. 1, 2021-2022

Greetings Comrades,

CDR's Comments: As the District Five moves into another term and we still have the burden of the Pandemic; I think that we can once again prevail and continue working on items brought forward from the previous years. We still need to improve the overall administration and business structure to align ourselves with the Dept. Our new Commander, Dept of Pacific Areas (Kevin Mitchell) and his staff have some guidelines for the next term through the various DPA programs and other items of interest, that were discussed at the Incoming Council Meeting. As more information becomes readily available; it will be pushed out to the Post Commanders.

As the restrictions and requirements of the Pandemic continues; I would like to remind everyone to complete the registration process and requirements imposed by the Thai Government, with regards to inoculations. The registration process has been set up at local hospitals. As a Post Commander; please help verify the places in your local area for our veterans to make it easier for the process. I did hear that some of our veterans have received the inoculations and look forward to hearing that more are participating. I have also seen some posts sending out daily inspiration messages – these types of actions will help our comrades in more ways than we know. Whether you adopt the idea or not we need to continue looking out for our fellow comrades and veterans. This goes with the theme of “Taking Responsibility”. So, continue conducting Buddy Checks with periodic follow-ups; we don't want to be caught assuming everything is normal.

This next term is a time that we can improve our relationships with each other and within posts. Too much energy was placed or imposed on competing with other posts, groups, and/or organizations. As we move forward; as Commanders and Comrades, we need to take our lessons from our District's history; repeating the positive and learn from the negative. We are one of seven districts that report to the DPA. However, if there is a situation of a negative nature, I would prefer a phone call or even an email with details but please be ready for a return phone call to discuss the situation, if necessary.

Let's keep our membership flowing, community involvement prospering, and our reports on the positive side. As the new term begins; let's move forward with reporting only significant post events and information to the Quarterly Report template.

- CDR's Report should discuss last Qtr. Post Developments, Anticipated Post Developments, Significant Participation Items (Post or Individuals), Comrades in Distress, and Community Service Projects (your CSR numbers will be reported via the CSR Report).
- CSR's Report should discuss your normal CSR reporting info; along with community service activities and community anticipated activities.
- Service Officer Report should standard activities and developments of the Post Service Officer. This information will help keep the ADSO (Al Fitchett) updated with situations around the district.

CDR's Future Business I know there is some anticipation on the schedule for the next term; I have not determined the complete schedule based on the current situation. I hope the schedule will become less fluid in the near future. However, I am working with the U.S. Embassy in support of the Cobra Gold Exercise; where we as an organization can show our support to those potential members



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on Active Duty. This support would be showing our gratitude for their service, as Veterans helping Veterans, and encouraging them to join the VFW. The Cobra Gold Exercise and participants will arrive in August, thus I am attempting to schedule the District Meeting in August. I understand that is not the normal procedure but I believe showing our support for these future veterans would go a long way. As we are hoping for the restrictions to be lifted several restaurants in Pattaya are ready to participate in a "Meals for the Troops" program.

However, if the restrictions for travel or gathering are not lifted; I anticipate another Zoom Meeting. We need to make every attempt to bringing back the in-person meetings and social events. I sincerely believe this is the only way we can bring back that comradeship which we once had. I am looking forward to suggestions and support with our upcoming events and as we progress through the next term.

Membership: I would like to congratulate those posts that benefitted from the Dept of Pacific Areas Membership Program and completed the requirements for All-State / All-American. I believe the District's Post have achieved a successful recruiting year thus ensuring we they have met the "Early Bird" Status. I would like to encourage every post member to assist with those annual members by asking them to re-visit their ability to pay a one-time Life Member's payment or look into the installment plan. Please don't forget the previous DPA incentive program for five (5) new/upgrades to Life will receive a stipend. Like I mentioned earlier, I hope to see as all the posts in the early bird category come this December and those with annual members are able to reduce.

Post Obligation: There are several other requirements that are associated with VFW Dept. and National, which I refer to as "House Keeping Requirements". I would like to encourage all posts to submit those House Keeping items as early as possible. The biggest item most of the posts forget is the Legislative Chairman requirement, VFW Action Corps; Deployment / Welcome Home, or Adopt a Unit. One of the easiest requirements is the registration drive. Upon completion of any one of these items – please send an email to Jon Brazee (corter79@hotmail.com) and copy the district at vfwdistrict5deptpac@gmail.com, so we can track the notification process. We don't want any post left behind.

Yours in Comradeship and Service

Randy Riggs
Commander