



31st Infantry Regiment's 99th Anniversary Celebrated in Sacramento

The 99th anniversary of the 31st Infantry Regiment's activation was celebrated in high style at the Association's annual Reunion. Sacramento provided a great setting, with museums, restaurants and shops in and around Old Sacramento. The Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza proved a great location for the welcoming buffet, the membership meeting, the annual Memorial Ceremony and the Reunion Banquet. Jim and Darlene Jagers organized a memorable Reunion.

The 4/31 commander, currently in Afghanistan, signed off on 4-day passes for the Polar Bear Color Guard, which came from the rear detachment at Fort Drum. They also brought the Shanghai Bowl, always the focal point of the annual Banquet. In what is fast becoming a tradition, the youngest and oldest Polar Bears at the banquet exchanged toasts, a ritual that links back to the Bowl's original use in hail-and-farewell ceremonies. Our guest speaker Robert Horn, a retired Air Force officer who attended Infantry Officer Basic at Fort Benning, drew many sharp parallels between the services while serving the nation in the military, especially when at war.

Bill Owen passed the commander's gavel to Mike Strand, who will take on the job this coming January for a two-year stint. Dave Wilson moves up to the position of Vice Commander, while his old job is now filled by Ron Belloli as Western Region Director. Chuck McCammon becomes the new Membership Chair. The Midwest Region Director's slot is vacant, with Jim Simms, the Mid-Atlantic Region Director, acting as interim director for the Midwest Region. The Webmaster's slot is also currently vacant, with Bill Owen interviewing to fill the position.

And plans for the observance of the 100th Anniversary of the Regiment's activation were announced. The Association's Reunion will be held at Fort Drum where the 4/31 Infantry will be back from its seventh deployment in 16 years. It should be quite a party, so mark your calendars: 11-14 August 2016 at the Best Western Watertown/Fort Drum in Watertown NY. The Guest Speaker is slated to be LTG Steven Townsend, commander of XVIII Airborne Corps. Steve was battalion commander of 4/31 Infantry for its first deployment after 9/11.

See you at Fort Drum next August!

PFC Matthew Applegate and Bataan survivor Paul Kerchum exchange toasts during the Shanghai Bowl Ceremony at the 2015 Reunion in Sacramento.



Polar Bears Were on the Runway during Cuban Missile Crisis

From 1958 to 1963, the 2d Battle Group, 31st Infantry was assigned to the Aviation School, Fort Rucker Alabama. In 1962, Polar Bear Richard Teipel was in B Company. Duties included everything from aggressing the flight students during Escape and Evasion to providing the post's Honor Guard.

Then in October 1962, President Kennedy went on national TV. He was prepared to act militarily when a U2 spy plane produced clear photographic evidence that medium range and intermediate range ballistic missile facilities from the USSR were already in Cuba. The US established a naval blockade to prevent more offensive weapons from being landed, and demanded that weapons already on the island be withdrawn. During the Cuban missile crisis, the Polar Bears displaced to a departure air field in south Florida for possible deployment into combat. This is Dick Teipel's story:

Initially we thought we were going to be part of an invasion force. The day Kennedy made his announcement on TV we were put on alert - my unit, Co B, left Cairns Army Airfield on two Saturn Airways DC-6's *that night*. Our company vehicles left in a convoy earlier in the day. Weapons and field gear were assigned to every soldier. Families were there in the company area to say goodbye to loved ones. A



lot of emotion took place since everyone thought we were headed for a boat in south Florida and destined to be part of an invasion force. Late that night we deplaned at Opa-locka Airport, where we met our vehicles and proceeded to Homestead AFB. We remained at Homestead for about three months before returning to Rucker. Intelligence was kept close, we were told little except that which pertained to our immediate mission. We were not allowed to leave Homestead for 6 or 8 weeks, and then day passes were issued to the troops.

2d Battle Group, 31st Infantry was part of massive military preparations for a mission that never took place. Instead, US-USSR negotiations restored the situation as it was before the deployment of Soviet missiles.

4/31 Infantry Deployments While Part of 10th Mountain Division

It was no surprise last month that 4/31 Infantry was in the middle of another deployment on the anniversary of 9/11, this time to Afghanistan. Several of us at the Reunion began wondering just how many deployments the Battalion has had since it joined the 10th Mountain Division in April of 1996. The fact is, it's been a very busy Battalion.

In the last sixteen years, 4/31 Infantry has deployed seven times:

1. A peace-keeping mission to Bosnia took the Polar Bears abroad in September 1999. The Battalion less B Company returned in December, with Bravo following in March 2000.

2. The 9/11 attack occurred in September 2001. Before the month was out, 4/31 (-) was on the ground in Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, with B Company operational in Qatar and Kuwait. It wasn't until April 2002 that all 4/31 elements closed back to Fort Drum.

3. In March 2003, two months before the Battalion's next deployment, a Blackhawk crashed at Fort Drum while on a training mission. Eleven soldiers were killed, including seven Polar Bears from C Company. Just a few weeks later in May the Battalion deployed again with A Company going to Afghanistan and C Company and the Mortar Platoon to Djibouti. These elements returned to Fort Drum in December 2003. Also in May, B Company went operational to Iraq and remained until April 2004.

4. The next deployment to Iraq ran from June 2004 to July 2005. During this deployment 4/31 had its first casualty. When an IED went off, a Polar Bear rushed in to help the wounded and a second explosion took his life.

5. Just thirteen months later in August 2006, the Battalion deployed again, and didn't return to Fort Drum until November 2007. During this 15-month tour, the Battalion lost 16 men killed.

6. The Battalion's next deployment, again to Iraq, ran from August 2010 to August 2011.

7. Currently the 4/31 Infantry is in Afghanistan, operational in nine different locations. And yes, the Polar Bears are expected back at Fort Drum by next August, in time to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Regiment's activation in the Philippines.

Will this be the last deployment of the current crisis? Almost certainly not. It's a pretty safe bet that the 4/31 Infantry will be heading out again in the not too distant future. But that's what Polar Bears are for. That's what they do best.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Have you served as a Polar Bear since the 4/31 Infantry became part of the 10th Mountain Division? Do you have an interesting story about your training, deployment, the missions, or the Polar Bears you served with? Can you share your story and pictures? Drop a line to the Historian Grady Smith at <smithga@verizon.net> .



PHILLY HOSPITAL RENAMED

LTG Sam Wetzel, the Colonel of the 31st Infantry Regiment, was a guest speaker on May 2 when the Philadelphia VA Hospital was renamed the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Crescenz was the only Philadelphia Nam vet to win the Medal of Honor. Wetzel was battalion commander of 4/31 Infantry when Crescenz won his posthumous MOH.

Photo by Brad Larrison for NewsWorks.

Polar Bear MIA Since December 1950 Identified



Another Korean War Polar Bear, MIA in the aftermath of the Chosin Reservoir battle, has been identified. SGT Joseph M. Snock, Jr. was assigned to the Heavy Mortar Company of the 31st RCT. He and his twin brother John found themselves together at the base of a snowy hill when the order to attack the Chinese came. Both brothers, 21, were wounded. Joe's wounds were much more serious, and John went to get a first aid pack. When he got back, Joe was gone, taken by the Chinese.

"He was the last person to see him. It haunted him," Linda Finlay, the Snock brothers' niece, told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Referring to her uncle John, she said, "I think it would have been easier for him to know just where it ended for his brother.

It affected him his whole life."

In 1953, returning POWs reported that Joe had died of extreme malnutrition and lack of medical care about a month after his capture. His brother John died in 2007, but not before he had provided DNA samples against the possibility that they might someday be used to help identify Joe. And so it happened. His remains were among the more than 400 turned over to the US in 208 boxes by North Korea between 1990 and 1994. Dental records and two forms of DNA analysis were used to positively confirm Joseph Snock's identity. He was laid to rest July 6 in Arlington National Cemetery.

Today 7,846 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. The work goes on.

TAPS

Regional directors have been making a concerted effort to update membership rosters. During this process, they have found that some members have been deceased for substantial periods of time. When confirmed, they are included in the regular TAPS columns to keep the record of our departed members complete.

Batesole, Jack	Korea 1952-53
William G. Chisolm	Korea 1950 SSG Vancouver WA
Crum, Bill R	Korea 53
Cuelzow, Clinton L	
DiSanto, Ralph,	Largo, FL 1/12/2009
Willard P. Donovan	Japan, Korea 1948 MSG Arizona City AZ
Duvall, Donald,	Williford, AR 3/15/2008
Ellis, David, S.,	Braintree, MA 8/6/2014
Russell J. Folsom	Korea 1954 CPL
Glidden, John W.,	Quincy, MA 3/4/2010
Hauck, William J.,	Rockland, ME 4/3/2008
Herber, Joseph W	
Johnson, Harold	Korea 1952
Johnson, Virgil H	Korea
Krul, Kenneth E	Korea 1951-52
Edward L. Lindsey	Korea 1953 LTC Tucson AZ
Rodger L. Mowery	Vietnam 1967-68 Grenadier SP4 Phoenix AZ
Richard W. Robb	Korea 1956-57 SP4 Milwaukie OR 2013
Sidney Rubenstein	Korea 1951 CPL Henderson NV
Spencer, James M	Korea 1948-49 and 1950-51
Schuyler J. Stevens	Korea 1950 Arizona City AZ 2008
Jose Veliz Jr.	Korea, 1947; Vietnam, 1968. Dupont WN 2013

Association Officers

<p>Commander: 5225 Pooks Hill Rd., #1412N Bethesda, MD 20814</p> <p>Vice Commander: 18005 87th Ave E, Puyallup WN 98357</p> <p>Adjutant: 1099 Coral Way, Singer Island, FL 33404</p> <p>Treasurer: El Rio Dr, Meridian, ID 83642</p> <p>Membership: 307 S. 90th St., Mesa AZ 85208</p> <p>Quartermaster: 6331 Dobson Rd, Macon, GA 31220</p> <p>Sergeant at Arms: 5638 Camellia Ave, Sacramento, CA 95819</p> <p>Historian: 2321 S. Queen St, Arlington, VA 22202</p> <p>Senior Director: 3620 Bridgewater Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23188</p> <p>Northeast Region (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT, NY) 3728 Highland Ave, Skaneateles, NY 13152</p> <p>Mid-Atlantic Region (NJ, PA, DE, MD, DC, VA, WV) 104 Cumberland Dr, Carlisle, PA 17013</p> <p>Southeast Region (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, MS, TN, AR, LA, PR, VI) 2740 Oxford Hall Ave, Murfreesboro TN 37128</p> <p>Great Lakes Region (KY, OH, MI, IN, IL, WI) 788 Eagledale Dr, Kettering, OH 45429</p> <p>Midwest Region (MN, ND, SD, NE, IA, MO, KS, OK, TX, NM, CO) Mid-Atlantic Region</p> <p>Western Region (HI, AK, WA, OR, CA, NV, AZ, UT, ID, MT, WY) 460 Pacheco, San Francisco CA94116</p>	<p>Mike Strand (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 240-800-4194 hrdyna@aol.com</p> <p>Dave Wilson (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 253-875-1901 hrdyna@aol.com</p> <p>Vin Zike (SGT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 914-851-0095 vinzike@gmail.com</p> <p>Joe DeAngelis (SGT, C/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-69) 3035 208-362-9468 jangels10@gmail.com</p> <p>Chuck McCammon (SP4, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 480-586-1343 c-mccammon@cox.net</p> <p>Dale Mills (SGT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1968-69) 478-787-2679 sdalem@bellsouth.net</p> <p>Jim Jagers (SGT, D/6th Bn, VN 1969) 916-455-7879 jagers.j@att.net</p> <p>Grady Smith (CPT, D/6th Bn, Ft Lewis & VN, 1967-68) 703-769-2778 smithga@verizon.net</p> <p>Ron Corson (CPT, A/6th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 757-253-1311 jrcorson@aol.com</p> <p>Ed Bettis (CPL, G Co, Korea, 1950-51) 315-685-3944 edbettis@netzero.net</p> <p>Jim Simms (LT, HHC & C/4th Bn, VN, 1969-70) 717-243-5570 jnpsim@comcast.net</p> <p>Noah Halfacre (LT, E/6th Bn, VN, 1968) 615-893-9715 echo66@comcast.net</p> <p>John Howdeshelt (SGT, D/6th Bn, VN, 1969) 937-435-0669 mamahowdy@yahoo.com</p> <p>Vacant. Interim: Jim Simms. Contact information under Mid-Atlantic Region</p> <p>Ron Belloli (LT, C/6th Bn, VN, 1967-68) 928-380-9577 ronbab22631@gmail.com</p>
---	---

NEWSLETTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Cut along dotted line. Fill in requested information & mail to Ron Corson, Membership Chair, address below.
OR EMAIL Ron Corson with this information at jrcorson@aol.com, subject: Change of Address.

Name: _____ Phone number if new: _____

Old Address

New Address

Mail To:

Street or P.O. Box

Street or P.O. Box

Ron Corson, Membership Chair
3620 Bridgewater Dr.
Williamsburg VA 23188

City/State/Zip

City/State/Zip

Membership Application – 31st Infantry Regiment Association



First name	nickname	middle initial	last name
------------	----------	----------------	-----------

Street address	city	state	zip code	phone number
----------------	------	-------	----------	--------------

Email address	alternate email address
---------------	-------------------------

Please fill out as much information about your connection with the 31st Infantry as possible:

Platoon _____ Company _____ Battalion _____

Highest Award earned _____

Rank and Duty Position when serving with the 31st _____

Rank when retired _____

Where did you serve with the 31st?

When?

Philippines	_____	_____
Korea	_____	_____
Japan	_____	_____
Vietnam	_____	_____
Iraq	_____	_____
Afghanistan	_____	_____
Other Overseas	_____	_____
USA	_____	_____

Membership Desired

Life Membership

Active Duty	___\$25
Age 49 & under	___\$60
Age 50 – 59	___\$45
Age 60 & over	___\$35
Associate Life Member (family)	___\$25

Annual Membership per Year

Current Active Duty Member	___\$5
Prior Member of 31 st Unit	___\$10
Associate Member (family)	___\$5

Make your check out to **31st Inf Regt Assn** and mail it to our membership chairman: **John R. Corson, 3620 Bridgewater Drive, Williamsburg VA 23188.**

31st INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION QUARTERMASTER STORE ORDER FORM
 Visit 31stinfantry.org and click on **31st Infantry Store** to see a full color catalogue of these and many more items
 Please print clearly to avoid errors in your order



Name: _____ Telephone # _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Email: _____

Cat #	Description	Price	Qty	Total
C RB 02	Cap, Royal Blue , 31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT, POLAR BEARS, and crest embroidered directly directly on cap and US ARMY embroidered on back.	\$15.00	X _____ =	_____
C RB	Cap same as C RB 02 above with the addition of a waving U.S.flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 th Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 th Infantry Division; 10 th Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want.	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
C K	NEW CAP! same as C RB above but in Khaki with a waving U.S.flag on the left side and a combat patch (Philippines Division; 7 th Infantry Division; 196 Light Infantry Brigade; 9 th Infantry Division; 10 th Mountain Div) on the right side. Circle the patch you want). All embroidery is subdued.	\$17.00	X _____ =	_____
SP	Shirt, Polo/golf w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 2XL White, Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 28.00	X _____ =	_____
ST	Shirt, Tee, w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest, no pocket Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 2XL Light Blue, Navy Blue Size 3XL Light Blue, Navy Blue	\$ 15.00 \$ 17.00 \$ 20.00	X _____ = X _____ = X _____ =	_____
SLS D	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Denim w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. Please circle size Size S, M, L, XL Size 2XL	\$ 28.00 \$ 31.00	X _____ = X _____ =	_____
SLSVC	Shirt, Long Sleeve, Dress in various colors w/31 st INFANTRY REGIMENT and polar bear crest on left chest above pocket. Please circle color and size. Size S, M, L, XL Colors: Black, Navy Blue, Light Blue, Red, White Size 2XL Size 3XL	\$ 29.00 \$ 31.00 \$ 36.00	X _____ = X _____ = X _____ =	_____
MS 01	Shanghai Bowl Cup, silver, 2007 reproduction of original. Includes shipping	\$165.00	X _____ =	_____
DCL 01	Bumper Sticker, 31 st Infantry Crest (Polar Bear) 4-3/8" tall, 4-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 01	Pin, 31 st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear) , regulation size, facing set.	\$ 8.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 02	Pin, 31 st Infantry Regimental crest (Polar Bear) , lapel/hat pin. 7/8" tall, 3/4" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 73	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, lapel/hat pin. 3/8" tall, 1-1/4" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 74	Pin, Combat Infantry Badge, regulation size. 1-1/4" tall, 3" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 82	Pin, Purple Heart, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 85	Pin, Silver Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PN 71	Pin, Bronze Star, lapel/hat pin. 1-1/8" tall, 5/8" wide	\$ 3.00	X _____ =	_____
PTH 01	Patch, 31 st Regimental crest (Polar Bear). 3-1/4" tall, 2-1/2" wide	\$ 4.00	X _____ =	_____
DCL 08	Combat Infantry Badge sticker for inside glass. 2-1/8" tall, 4" wide.	\$ 2.50	X _____ =	_____
MS 01	Zippo Lighter, with 31 st Regimental Crest (Polar Bear) on one side	\$ 14.00	X _____ =	_____

Shipping Charges – add to your order: Orders under \$10.00 add \$2.50; For orders \$10.01 - \$25.00 add \$6.00; For orders \$25.01 - \$50.00, add \$7.00; For orders over \$50.00, add \$8.00
 MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: **31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

SUBTOTAL \$ _____
SHIPPING (prices at left) \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

For Credit Cards (American Express, Discover, Master Card, or Visa) or Debit card (with Master Card or Visa logo) please include

NAME (on card): _____ **CARD #**: _____ **EXP DATE**: ____/____/____

SECURITY CODE(on back of card): _____ **ZIP CODE** (where credit card bill is mailed to) _____
 Mail the order form and payment to: **Dale Mills 6331 Dobson Rd. Macon, GA 31220**

31st Infantry Regiment Association
COL (Ret) Vincent Zike
1099 Coral Way
Singer Island, FL 33404
Newsletter 80

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WEST PALM BEACH, FL
PERMIT NO. 1699

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED