

Fellow Flag & General Officers:

TFGON's in-basket has again begun to fill, so we're combining several topics in this message in order to keep all TFGON Members up-to-date and still limit our comms to no more than one e-mail message each day. And given that there are a number of issues and that makes this a long message, we're also including a Subject Listing below to assist you in finding those matters that impact on you personally. Details follow:

1. Your e-mail address

2. If your ancestors served in World War One, you can post their photo and details on the WW I 100th Anniversary Website

3. Wireless phone service exclusively for Military & Veterans - Message From Fellow TFGON Members Admiral [Ret.] Eric Olson & Rear Admiral [Ret.] Rob Wray:

4. General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower is TFGON's only posthumous member

5. Assn of U.S. Navy "Blue Water Navy Legislation Message"

6. VADM Green seeking USAF General Officer with OPS experience for position with IBM

7. Short update on TFGON's Partnership with DHS & TSA to manage retired Flag & General Officers' access to TSA PreCheck Security Lines at USA Airports

Miscellaneous Matters Messages Follow:

1. Your e-mail address: For those TFGON Members currently using your military e-mail address, we request you switch to your personal e-mail address. We're losing too many of you who "fall through the cracks" when you retire and your military e-mail address "goes away", as we are hearing from more and more of you asking to be "renewed" since they are no longer hearing from TFGON, and most often this is due to their military e-mail address no longer being in service. Super simple to change your e-mail address at TFGON---- just hit reply to this message, change the subject line to

TFGON e-mail address, and send us your old e-mail address, current personal e-mail address, and your name and rank. We'll do the rest.

2. If your ancestors served in World War One, you can post their photo and details on the WW I 100th Anniversary Website: For those unaware, the U.S. Congress has authorized the World War 1 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission and that body and its accompanying Foundation have now been appointed and are in place with several TFGON Members serving on either the Commission or the Foundation. A Press Release was just sent this past week announcing efforts to build a National World War One Memorial in Washington, DC, recognizing the service and blood shed and lives lost of our Fellow Americans in "The Great War". While National Memorials are in place for World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, there is not yet a National Memorial recognizing service in World War One. With World War One beginning in Europe in 1914, there are already numerous commemorations and memorial events being held there, and in the USA, given America did not enter the war until 1917, similar events and commemorations are just now in the planning and structuring stages. Although that said, there IS one event that you can participate in right now if you had ancestors who served in World War One that you would like to commemorate and memorialize on the Commission's website----- full details are on the following URL where you can post information on their service and photographs if you have them----- feel free to share this information with any friends and colleagues who also had relatives who served that they might wish to honor:

<http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/index.php/stories-of-service-submission.html>

The WW I 100th Anniversary Commemoration Commission has approached TFGON regarding more flag and general officers getting involved in their commemoration efforts and we will be sending a separate message on that topic once it is DRAFTED by the Commission.

3. Wireless phone service exclusively for Military & Veterans - Message From Fellow TFGON Members Admiral [Ret.] Eric Olson & Rear Admiral [Ret.] Rob Wray:

Fellow Flag and General Officers:

This note brought to us courtesy of **Admiral Eric Olson**, Navy SEAL and former Commander, Special Operations Command. ADM Olson, along with **RADM Rob Wray** (Navy Vice Chair

for TFGON) are members of the Military Advisory Board for the new wireless phone company **DEFENSE MOBILE**. (www.defensemobile.com)

DEFENSE MOBILE is a 4G wireless phone company exclusively for military, Veterans and their families. *Their mission is to use the wireless phone as a means to connect and improve the lives of military, Veterans and their families.*

ADM Olson wanted to pass along the following bullets to all TFGON members, so as you travel and speak across the country, you'll be up to speed on how Defense Mobile is serving the military community:

- Highly competitive pricing and NO CONTRACT plans
- Defense Mobile runs on the nation's largest and most trusted networks
- 100% Veteran Staffed, U.S. based Member Care
- Commitment to give back 10% of net profits to Veteran causes
- A FREE Custom App called **MILISOURCE** to help Veterans access their VA, state and local benefits from the mobile device

The attached flyer provides more information on plans and pricing and how to download **MILISOURCE**. If you want more detail, feel free to contact RADM Rob Wray at robert.wray@bluestarvets.us, or at [301-222-0686](tel:301-222-0686).

I've reviewed it, and it sounds like a great opportunity for our Veterans and their families. I hope you'll help pass the word. When registering as a customer, use the promo code **TFGON** so that Defense Mobile knows you are a TFGON member. /S/ Rob Wray

4. General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower is TFGON's only posthumous member: At TFGON's 24 July Quarterly networking reception, we posed the question as to how many of our members present were aware that General Eisenhower is a member of TFGON. Almost no one was aware of this, so we are sending you the details now. As is obvious, "Ike" was unable to join because TFGON was founded after his passing, but Ike's son Brigadier General John Eisenhower, U.S. Army [Ret.] WAS a TFGON Member and as the Trustee of General Eisenhower's estate, when we asked him if he would be interested in sponsoring his Father for TFGON Membership, his response was "absolutely". And thus it was with Brigadier General John Eisenhower's authorization and sponsorship that General of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower became TFGON's only 5 Star Member and

only posthumous member and only member who is a former President of the United States. Just thought you'd like to know!!

5. Assn of U.S. Navy "Blue Water Navy Legislation Message": This matter has impact on a number of TFGON's Navy members who served in the "blue water" area in Vietnam known as Yankee Station and other Vietnam ocean waters. It's a complicated issue so we are leaving the details to the AUSN Legislative Action report printed in full below, should you wish to take action or become involved:



[Take Action](#)

Legislative Alert #2015-01: Support H.R. 969 and S. 681, The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015

Issue Background: During the Vietnam War, the U.S. military sprayed 19 million gallons of herbicides to destroy plant life that the enemy used to conceal military personnel transportation, communication, and supply routes. The most prevalent herbicide used was called "Agent Orange" due to the orange identifying strip on its 55-gallon chemical storage drums. The herbicide contained a chemical ingredient called Tetrachlorodibenzo-p-Dioxin (TCDD), attributed as the major cause of numerous adverse health effects. Once classified in the early 1980s as a "minor acne condition," Agent Orange has been proven to be the main chemical exposed to service members, causing severe illnesses, such as Parkinson's, Ischemic Heart Disease, and a multitude of respiratory, intestinal, and cardiac cancers. Past U.S. Navy and Coast Guard vessels were often unprotected from the outflow of Agent Orange in rivers and streams, exposing Sailors to its ill effects.

In 1991 the Agent Orange Act was passed to provide scientific review of the association of the diseases and exposure to Agent Orange. However, in 2002 the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) limited the scope of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to only those Veterans who could provide orders for "boots on the ground," meaning infantry and riverine Navy in Vietnam. This caused Veterans serving in the waters off the coast of Vietnam, commonly called "Blue Water Navy Veterans," to file individual claims with the VA to restore their benefits. The VA has denied 32,880 of such claims through 2009
alone.

Action Required: Contact your members of Congress and urge them to support and cosponsor S. 681 or H.R. 969, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015, introduced by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and Congressman Christopher Gibson (R-NY). The bill would extend presumptive coverage for exposure to Agent Orange for Sailors who served in the territorial waters of Vietnam.

Details (To Be Put Into Letter): A number of our nation's Veterans are at risk or have been diagnosed with cancer, non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and other related diseases due to exposure to various herbicide agents, namely Agent Orange, and are unable to receive benefits because they are classified as "Blue Water Navy Veterans." Recent studies have shown that shipboard Veterans are at a much higher risk of developing cancer and non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma than those who fought in-country. Further scientific support behind such theories includes a study by the Blue Water Navy Committee of the Institute of Medicine that has replicated the results made by the University of Queensland. These results found "plausible pathways" for Agent Orange to have entered the South China Sea via rivers and streams. In addition, other studies have even proved that the distillation process that converted salt water to drinking water enriched the dioxin and contaminated the shipboard potable water system. Currently Veterans have to prove, in their own research, their ships proximity to exposure in order to file a claim, which is oftentimes nearly impossible due to a lack of record keeping and the inability to know the precise location of dioxins in the air and groundwater. Presumptive coverage lifts the burden from the individual Veteran and also alleviates the massive amount of backlogged individual claims.

It is crucial to ensure the protection of health benefits that all of our Veterans deserve and not disenfranchise them based on the physical location of their service, so it is important that the House and Senate immediately consider and/or support consideration of H.R. 969 and S.681 to include the territorial seas as a part of the Republic of Vietnam to provide coverage to Blue Water Veterans for diseases related to exposure to various herbicide agents while in Vietnam, which a growing scientific body of evidence supports.

Take Action: Click the "Take Action" link at the top of the Alert to immediately email and/or write to your Members in Congress. This is the quickest and most effective method of expressing your views to Congress. You can also write and/or e-mail the 'Details' section or edit as you desire for a more personalized communication. Also, contact friends and family and urge them to use the Contact Congress feature on AUSN's website as well. Please direct any questions concerning this issue to our Director of Legislative Affairs Michael Little, at Michael.Little@ausn.org.

[Take Action](#)

6. VADM Green seeking USAF General Officer with OPS experience for position with IBM: Following received from Fellow TFGON Member VADM [Ret.] Kevin Green and forwarded for your consideration:

" I'm interested in finding a retired USAF GO with operational experience to take on a near term leadership position in IBM's analytics business. Applicants should contact me directly.

Thanks, Kevin

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Special thanks to Admiral Green for including his fellow TFGON Members in this near term USAF General Officer Level Job Opportunity.

7. Short update on TFGON's Partnership with DHS & TSA to manage retired Flag & General Officers' access to TSA PreCheck Security Lines at USA Airports: We are now "good to go" on this program and will be sending all TFGON members a message next week outlining the details and "how to apply" instructions to be placed on this TSA PreCheck list. It will be easy to apply via e-mail to TFGON and the information needed is readily available to all on your retired DOD ID Card. This program only pertains to retired flag/general officers as active duty and reserve/guard flag/G.O.'s still serving are already covered by DOD. More later next week.

This now clears our TFGON HQ desk for another week or so. Hope you find this information of value, since that is our intent. With all good wishes,

Jim Carey

Rear Admiral [Ret.] James J. Carey, National Chairman
THE FLAG & GENERAL OFFICERS' NETWORK
www.FlagAndGeneralOfficersNetwork.org

An Official 501.c.19 War Veterans Organization!!!
Over 3700 U.S. Armed Forces Flag & General Officers
In Continued Service To America!!!