



Greetings Comrades:

Living as we do in disaster prone areas on the “Pacific Ring of Fire”, I was very pleased when our Council of Administration approved a \$1000 donation to the VFW National Disaster Relief Fund. The donation was in response to an initiative by VFW National Adjutant General Brian Duffy to establish this fund, which will be immediately available to support relief efforts in any affected area.

We now have Memstat numbers that reflect our actual membership status, and our Department has moved to number three in membership percentage among the 52 Departments with 89.23% . Two Posts are already over 100%, Post 124, Baguio City with 112.41%, and Post 12146, Banchang-Utapao with 105.55%. Congratulations to both Posts.

Several structural changes have been made within the Department. Based on demographic realities, and to insure our continued presence in Taiwan to assist Veterans and families, Post 727 consolidated with Post 9957 in Taipei. Relocation of US Forces in Korea led to the consolidation of Post 10216 in Osan and Post 8180 in Seoul, The Post will be located in Osan, with Post 8180 designation and the Post 10216 name.

Viewing the recent Facebook and website entries from around the Department, I'm impressed not only by the level of activity, but by the range and value of our involvement in Veteran and Community activities. In all cases the level of professionalism in all our events is obvious, and I take pride being a part of a high performing Department. Give your activities widest possible exposure on social media and utilize hashtags [#vfwpostpride](#) and [#vfwstrong](#) on Facebook posts to increase viewers.

Increase the number or scope of your activities or projects by utilizing VFW Foundation Grants, or NMS funding where appropriate. These sources of VFW National assistance are excellent supplements to local resources, and increase funds available for your projects. The application process for the Foundation Grants is not complex. Visit the Foundation website at: <https://www.vfw.org/grants>

Look forward to seeing many of you at the C of A at the Parklane Hotel in Cebu City, Philippines. Web registration is available now.

Yours in Comradeship & Service,

John Gilbert  
Commander  
Department of Pacific Areas

***VFW – Honoring Our Past, Securing Our Future***