



ADJUTANT'S  
NEWSLETTER  
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THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

**TO MY LEGION FAMILY:**

**THE 97<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

**THANKS TO ALL:**

I would like to thank all of you that attended our Department Convention this year. We tried some new things this year, especially in the area of training, and we believe we received a good response to the training we provided. Over the years it has been mentioned the convention was always the same and people were getting board with it. Certainly this has some to do with the location, but traditionally the way the convention went has not changed in over 25 years.

We are looking forward to providing more training at future conventions as well as looking at other ways to bring excitement to these gatherings.

My thanks to all the volunteers that helped us this year. A special thanks to Wayne and Dee from Post 5, who came in and worked our registration office. As many know Lisa had a recent surgery and was not able to do a lot this year. Wayne and Dee made it possible for Lisa and Ned to concentrate on other things and we appreciate your help.

Also a big thanks to Internal Affairs, our National Executive Committeemen, Earl and Bill, and I do not forget all the PDC's who stepped up and helped this office get things done in what was a very difficult time for office staff.

Lastly, I want to thank the membership of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Son's of the American Legion for your attendance and patience with some of our changes and helping us make this convention a success. We look forward to seeing you all next year for the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual department Convention in Lincoln N.H.



## NATIONAL COMMANDER AND LEAD CANDIDATE VISITS

National Commander Dale Barnett will be visiting the Department on September 10-13, 2015.

Early on Friday morning, September 11, 2015, he will be a guest of the New Hampshire Air National Guard to observe an aerial refueling mission with Department Commander John Graham. Later in the day he will be the keynote speaker at the Global War on Terrorism Memorial remembrance ceremony at Hampton, NH Post 35 at 6:00 PM

On Saturday, September 12, 2015, 10:00 AM, he and Department Commander John Graham will be leading a 2.1-mile walk to raise awareness of the American Legion and also fundraiser for the National Emergency Fund. The walk will commence and terminate at Sweeney Post 2 with a barbeque to follow at the Post. Sponsorship will be \$20.00 per person and will include a T Shirt and the barbeque.

We encourage all Legion Family and guests to support this event as well as to give our National Commander a big New Hampshire welcome. We will also be having a Legion Family booth at Veterans' Park at this event. We will need volunteers from all of the Legion Family.

The Lead Candidate for 2016 National Commander, Charlie Schmidt from the Department of Oregon, will be visiting our state from Thursday November 19 thru Monday November 23, 2015.

Comrade Schmidt will be attending the Post 79 Thanksgiving Day for veterans at the Tilton Veterans' Home and the VA Medical Center on Sunday, November 22, 2015 at 11:00. AM. All Legion family is welcomed to attend this event to honor our veterans domiciled at these facilities. Not only will there be great food, there will also be entertainment to follow with the AOH Pipe Band and the Amoskeag Strummers!

Any Post who would like the above dignitaries to attend their Posts please contact:

Bill Roy  
23 Cambridge Court  
Manchester NH 03103  
603-315-5829  
[wmroy@comcast.net](mailto:wmroy@comcast.net)

For the National Commander's Walk:

Ken Maynard ANEC  
6 Epping Woods Rd  
Epping, NH 03042  
603-817-0515  
[kenmay1@comcast.net](mailto:kenmay1@comcast.net)

Walk participant, barbeque and T Shirt \$20.00\_\_\_\_\_

T Shirt only \$10.00\_\_\_\_\_

Name, Title and Post Number\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

## Veterans Affairs publishes new Agent Orange regulation

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently published a new regulation that expands benefits eligibility for a select group of Air Force veterans and Air Force reserve personnel who were exposed to the herbicide Agent Orange through regular and repeated contact with contaminated C-123 aircraft used in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand (ORH).

Veterans Affairs published the regulation as an interim final rule to immediately begin providing benefits to eligible Air Force veterans and Air Force reserve personnel who submit a disability compensation claim for any of the 14 medical conditions determined to be related to exposure to Agent Orange.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald made the decision to expand benefits following receipt of a 2015 report by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine on Post-Vietnam dioxin exposure in contaminated C-123 Aircraft. The report found evidence as many as 1,500 to 2,100 Air Force and Air Force reserve personnel who served as flight, medical and ground maintenance crew members on ORH C-123 aircraft previously used to spray Agent Orange in Vietnam were exposed to the herbicide.

“Opening up eligibility for this deserving group of Air Force veterans and reservists is the right thing to do,” McDonald said. “We thank the (Institute of Medicine) for its thorough review that provided the supporting evidence needed to ensure we can now fully compensate any former crew member who develops an Agent Orange related disability.”

Under the new rule, Air Force and Air Force reserve flight, medical and ground maintenance crewmembers who served on the contaminated ORH C-123s are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides during their service. That makes it easier for the service members to establish entitlement for some benefits if they develop an Agent Orange-related presumptive condition.

For affected Air Force Reserve crew members, Veterans Affairs will presume the Agent Orange related condition had its onset during their Reserve training. The change ensures reservists are eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any Agent Orange related condition, and that their surviving dependents are eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

The interim final rule can be found on the Federal Register: [www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection](http://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection). Veterans Affairs will immediately begin processing claims and issuing benefits to eligible Air Force crew members.

Veterans Affairs encourages reservists who were assigned to flight, ground, or medical crew duties at Lockbourne/Rickenbacker Air Force Base in Ohio, which includes the 906th and 907th Tactical Air Groups or 355th and 356th Tactical Airlift squadrons; Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts, which includes the 731st Tactical Air Squadron and 74th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron; or Pittsburgh, Penn., International Airport, which includes the 758th Airlift Squadron, during the period 1969 to 1986, and developed an Agent Orange-related disability to file a disability compensation claim online through the joint VA-Department of Defense web portal, eBenefits (<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/>) or your local Veteran Service Officer. VA also has identified several active duty locations where ORH C-123 aircraft may have been used following their service in Vietnam. Active duty personnel who served in a regular USAF unit location where a contaminated C-123 was assigned and who had regular and repeated contact with the aircraft through flight, ground or medical duties during the period 1969 to 1986, and who develop an Agent Orange-related disability, also are encouraged to apply for benefits.

For more information on applying for these benefits, including the affected units, Air Force Specialty Codes and dates of service for affected crew members, and a listing of Agent Orange-related conditions, visit [www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/agentorange-c123.asp).



In order to avoid unnecessary delay of benefits, claimants should annotate “C-123” after each Agent Orange related disability in Part II, Block 14 of VA Form 21-526 or Section I, Block 11 of VA Form VA Form 21-526EZ when filing on eBenefits. An example is: Diabetes (C-123). If claimants have any of the following documents, they should be attached to their application:

- Discharge, separation papers, (DD214 or equivalent)
- USAF Form 2096 (unit where assigned at the time of the training action)
- USAF Form 5 (aircraft flight duties)
- USAF Form 781 (aircraft maintenance duties)
- Dependency records (marriage & children’s birth certificates)
- Medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports)

VA will process all claims related to C-123 exposure at the St. Paul, Minnesota, VA Regional Office. Claims not filed through eBenefits should be mailed to the following address or faxed to 608-373-6694:

Department of Veterans Affairs  
Claims Intake Center  
Attention: C123 Claims  
PO Box 5088  
Janesville, WI 53547-5088

*(Johnson, Rick, 2015, Salisbury Post)*

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE:**

To date I have had no interest in anyone wishing to go to the Legion College this year. The college is scheduled October 25<sup>th</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, in Indianapolis IN. Last year this department did send to individuals to the college representing the Department of New Hampshire. I have mentioned it in several meetings, and convention this year. The recommendation is for students to be from the Lebanon/Grenada Era on up to present times in order to be highly considered for participation in this college. However exceptions have been made before.

I encourage anyone that may be seeking a future leadership role within the American legion to think about attending this college. The cost of which is paid for by the American legion. If you think this may be something you wish to do, I need a application back in my office by July 20<sup>th</sup>. Applications can be found on the legion website at [www.legion.org/college/application](http://www.legion.org/college/application).

If you have any questions feel free to call my office.

**Are you a Veteran looking for a part time job?**

Want be part of a team??

The main duty of this position is administrative support the Department Adjutant and Executive Assistant.

Qualifications: Applicant should know the programs of The American Legion, and have the ability to answer basic questions about the organization.

**Must be proficient in MICROSOFT OFFICE PRODUCTS**

(Work, Excel, Outlook etc)

Duties would include, bulk mailing, stuffing envelopes, answering phone calls from members and vendors, some heavy lifting, filing, and sorting mail. Organization and time management skills are very helpful.

There will be times when extra office coverage is needed, so a flexible schedule is a plus.

**\*\*\*\*Attendance at Mid-Winter Conference and Department convention (possibly other conferences) are a must\*\*\*\***

Please contact Lisa Beale for an application 603-856-8951 or <mailto:nhsect@legionnh.org>

**PLEASE POST ON YOUR POSTS BULLETIN BOARD**