



North Albany Post 1610

American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, New York 12204

March 6, 2010

Dear Legion Family Member and Friends,

Well winter is here and but spring is just around the corner. Try attending some our meetings with your busy schedule. The next regular meeting will be held on **March 15th at 7:00 PM**. The April executive board meeting will be held on Monday, April 5th, at 7:00 PM and the April regular meeting will be held on April 19th, also at 7:00 PM.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM POST 1610

A special thanks to everyone who helped out on the Superbowl, for the wonderful food and the new wireless speakers (Mick, Terry, Eddie, Sally, Walt and everyone else who helped out)

MILITARY ALLOWS TWITTER, other social media

Phil Stewart WASHINGTON (Reuters) Fri Feb 26, 2010

The Pentagon announced on Friday February 26th it has authorized the use Twitter, Facebook and other so-called "Web 2.0" sites across the U.S. military, saying the benefits of social media outweighed security concerns.

TECHNOLOGY

The decision, which comes at a time of growing concern over cyber-security, applies only to the military's non-classified network.

But it could mean big changes for large portions of the armed forces, including the Marines, which had selectively banned social media on work computers.

The Department of Defense also had bans in place since 2007 on accessing certain bandwidth-gobbling Web sites like YouTube on its network.

"The purpose of the policy is to recognize that we need to take advantage of these Internet-based capabilities. These Web 2.0 tools need to be part of what we use," David Wennergren, a deputy assistant secretary of defense, told Reuters.

"And what we had were inconsistent approaches. Some websites were blocked and some commands were blocking things."

Social media are increasingly important for the U.S. military. Admiral Mike Mullen, who as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the top U.S. military officer, has a Twitter feed with more than 16,000 followers.

U.S. Southern Command offered operational updates via Twitter on relief activities in Haiti.

REACHING OUT TO YOUNG SOLDIERS

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, 66, has said that he wants to use social networking to help the Pentagon interact with U.S. military members, many of whom are in their early 20s.

But opponents have cited the risks of information leaks, of opening gateways to hackers, along with a potential overload of precious bandwidth on the Defense Department's network.

The new policy says commanders will still need to defend against cyber-attacks and block access to online pornography, gambling and sites promoting "hate-crime related activities."

It also allows commanders to temporarily limit Internet access if the bandwidth is overwhelmed, a key caveat for U.S. forces fighting the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, or stationed in remote, rugged places around the globe.

Wennergren said commanders still had authority to limit access to safeguard missions, perhaps banning use of social media ahead of a major offensive. The Defense Department will also be monitoring use of its network.

"There are two imperatives. One is the ability to share information. The other is about security -- we need to be good at both," he said.

Training people so they know what can and cannot be disclosed on the Internet is a more effective policy than simply banning use of social media on work computers, he said.

"You can't just have the policy be that you're going to block access to MySpace. Because there are 10,000 ways people could still compromise a mission -- by making a phone call, or sending an email," Wennergren said.

"So part of this is about having a trained workforce that is savvy in how you operate in the information age."

ARMY PICKS NEW CAMO for Afghanistan Units

Military.com/by Christian Lowe

Today the Army announced that this summer it will begin fielding uniforms with a new camouflage pattern to all its troops serving in Afghanistan.

According to a statement obtained by Military.com, Army Secretary John McHugh decided that the so-called "MultiCam" pattern developed by New York-based Crye Precision is the most effective camouflage in the varied terrain of Afghanistan's forests, deserts, mountains and rural villages.

"This decision ... reflects the Army's commitment to giving Soldiers in Afghanistan the most effective concealment possible," the statement said. "Camouflage alternatives represent one facet of the Army's ongoing efforts to improve the Army Combat Uniform."

The decision comes four months after the service relented to pressure from then-chairman of the House Appropriations Committee's defense panel, the late Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., who ordered the Army to study whether its current Universal Camouflage Pattern was the best scheme for Afghan operations.

At the time, Murtha recounted comments he'd received from Army noncommissioned officers complaining about the UCP's colors and their inability to meld into Afghanistan's rural backgrounds.

MultiCam had long been a favorite of Army Special Operations forces, including Rangers and Green Berets, and had also been fielded in limited numbers to Air Force special operations Airmen.

Army officials launched a program in September to determine whether the UCP was adequate for Afghanistan and fielded a limited number of uniforms patterned in MultiCam and so-called "UCP-Delta," which was developed by the Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Mass. The 2nd Battalion of the 12th Infantry Regiment received an entire suite of gear in MultiCam, with the 3rd Squadron of the 61st Cavalry Regiment getting the UCP-D ensemble.

According to officials with PEO Soldier, the office responsible for purchasing Soldier equipment, the MultiCam uniforms weren't completely fielded until late December. Informed sources told Military.com that PEO Soldier commander Brig. Gen. Peter Fuller recommended to Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Casey that MultiCam was the best choice and Casey forwarded his approval to McHugh in the second week of February -- coming to the decision after little more than a month of troop evaluations with the pattern in operation.

The Army will begin issuing the MultiCam "fire-resistant Army Combat Uniform" to troops deploying to Afghanistan this summer before shipping them to troops already there who are still wearing UCP, said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Jimmie Cummings. The Army has nearly 48,000 troops deployed to Afghanistan.

Jobs will receive a full set of combat uniforms, including combat shirt, plate carriers, packs, pouches and helmet covers in MultiCam.

In November, officials from PEO Soldier, the Army's Asymmetric Warfare Group, and Special Operations Command tested a variety of patterns against a number of backgrounds in Afghanistan. The patterns included AOR-II, a SEAL-developed pattern similar to the Marine Corps' woodland digital; UCP-D; MultiCam; UCP; the Natick-designed Desert Brush camo and Mirage, which was developed by Bulldog Tactical, a civilian company.

"The results, along with surveys of Soldiers in the two battalions who received alternate camouflage, formed the basis for the Army's decision on MultiCam," the Army said.

The Army's MultiCam pick is part of a recent string of victories for the specialty design company which recently won a competition to revamp the British military's 40 year-old woodland Disruptive Pattern Material camo scheme.

The study on Afghan camo patterns will feed into an overall re-look at the Army's UCP choice and help determine whether the service should jettison the unpopular camo after less than five years in service.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The North Albany parade is stepping off on Saturday, March 13th at 12:00 noon from the North Albany Post, then with the general parade at 2:00pm on Central Avenue. Please come back to the North Albany Post for entertainment and food (for a nominal fee) provided by the North Albany Post – Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner or sandwich, truly delicious! It is a fun time for all – musical entertainment to be provided.

North Albany Reunion – Saturday, August 14th, contact Tim Ryan (461-3411) or Dick Sherry (785-9243) for tickets and information

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

HONOR-A-VET

April's Honor-A-Vet ceremony will be held Monday, April 5th at 8:30am in the Cahill room, 1st floor of 112 State Street.

POST INFORMATION

25 WEEK CLUB

Emma Wilson and Bev Pach are going to re-organize and give the 25 Week Club a jump start for the New Year! If you have any questions or are interested in joining the new club, please call 465-4800 (Post #1610 office phone number) and leave a message for the ladies.

POST CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message. We will call you back and let you know the details of the position.

MEMBERSHIP

Please keep your mailing address up to date! I have been getting a lot of Return to Sender letters and postcards back at the post. Ways to keep it up to date, US Postal Service, email (nap1610@yahoo.com), or phone (465-4800). We try to make it easy for everyone.

We are in need of **NEW MEMBERS**, please send us anybody that you know that may be interested and qualified. We have 265 paid members to date, our goal is 319. We are trying to get 100% this year. All members should remember that 2010 dues are now \$30.00 for a regular membership or \$27.00 if you are age 62 and retired. Retirees should disregard the national dues notice indicating \$30.00 and pay only the \$27.00 rate. Those notices for 2010 dues were in the mail. We do appreciate those that send their dues in promptly. **Active duty personnel** should email nap1610@yahoo.com so we can now that if you are active or not, when verified your card will be sent out within a couple of weeks.

Members confined to home due to a long-term illness or nursing, assisted living residences should contact the Post at 465-4800 or email nap1610@yahoo.com to indicate their present status.

**POST EVERLASTING
ROBERT REYNOLDS**

For God and Country,

Mike Swezey, Commander

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