

**Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee
Public Meeting
Pentagon Library and Conference Center, Room B4
1155 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301
September 28, 2017**

MEETING MINUTES

The Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee, hereafter known as the “Committee,” is a Federal advisory committee within the Department of Defense. The Committee operates pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the Government in the Sunshine Act of 1976, and other relevant Federal regulations. The Committee meets at least twice a year. This is the eighth public session for the Committee.

AGENDA

10:00 a.m.

- Opening Statement: Marcia Moore, Designated Federal Officer
- Welcome Comments: Mr. Paul W. Bucha, Vice Chair and acting Chair
- Committee deliberation & recommendations: The Committee formed recommendations on the Vietnam War Commemoration Office’s Conceptual Plan.
- Adjourn

ATTENDANCE

Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee Members

1. Mr. Paul W. Bucha, Vice Chairman
2. Commander Everett Alvarez U.S. Navy (Ret)
3. Colonel Clarence R. Anderegg, U.S. Air Force (Ret.)
4. Lieutenant General George R. Christmas, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret)
5. Chief Warrant Officer Three Donald M. Clarke, Army National Guard (Ret.)
6. Mr. Morton Dean
7. Ms. Jeanette B. Early
8. General Larry Ellis, U.S. Army (Ret.)
9. Ms. Ann Mills-Griffiths
10. Vice Admiral James Hull, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret)
11. Lieutenant General Roger Schultz, U.S. Army National Guard (Ret)

Vietnam War Commemoration (VWC) Office Staff

General James T. Jackson, Director

Larry Brom, Assistant Director, Plans and Operations

General Peter Aylward

Ted Butts

Sharon Deane

Jawara Ephraim

General Arnold Fields

Mark Franklin

Deborah Grays

Lieutenant Colonel Nicole Hayes

Marcia Moore, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

John Radke

Jose Ramos

12. Mr. Jan Scruggs

Public

Terry Provance, Vietnam Peace Commemoration Committee

No public comments were received for this meeting.

SUMMARY

Opening Discussion

Vice-Chair Paul Bucha called the public meeting to order at 10:05 am.

Mrs. Marcia Moore, DFO, provided a formal statement on the proceedings, including a summary of the criteria given to the Committee to evaluate the VWC's Conceptual Plan. A summary of recommendations was compiled based on the members' individual recommendations. She also reminded the Committee that all questions would be directed to Larry Brom after the approved recommendations were signed off by the Vice Chairman on behalf of the Committee. The Committee had no questions or request for additional information about the Conceptual Plan itself.

Mr. Bucha clarified the process for General Ellis and the other members. He stressed that the Committee's recommendations would be provided to the Secretary of Defense and would be included in the final report and then shared with the President of the United States. He proposed that the members go through every page, line by line, leaving the negative ones behind and focusing on the positive recommendations.

Recommendations

Prior to the meeting, each Committee member provided their individual recommendations as they pertain to each of the Commemoration's five objectives. Two files were created as a result of that exercise: 1) a compilation of all recommendations, and 2) a summary of those recommendations. Both files are attached to these minutes in addition to the VWC's Conceptual Plan, originally noted as a strategic plan. What follows are the final recommendations as they pertain to those objectives.

Recommendations pertaining to Objective 1: To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans:

1. Place more emphasis on these populations in the VWC's messaging and events:
 - a. Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Families
 - b. Blue Star Families
 - c. Gold Star Families
2. After a review of current partnerships, make a greater effort to form new commemorative partners.
 - a. Avoid burdensome requirements to become a partner.
 - b. Develop messaging specifically for potential partners.
 - c. Involve individual Committee members in soliciting partnerships.
 - d. Identify partners that can maintain a significant and public presence through 2020.
3. Take advantage of this period where numerous books and documentaries are widely available to increase outreach efforts. We should be able to arrange a public service announcement on the VWC's mission with major media companies like CBS or CNN. Examples:
 - a. *The Vietnam War*, 2017 documentary directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.
 - b. Discussions/anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive.
 - c. Discussions/anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords.
 - d. *Phantom Force Revisited*; 2017 documentary by David Shoup.
 - e. *American Medevac*; 2017 documentary by Morton Dean.
4. Strategize for repetitive VWC messaging and ceremonies to continue recognizing Vietnam War veterans.
 - a. Invest more efforts with the top 10% of partners that are clearly reaching our target objectives.
 - b. Encourage collaboration among partners, specifically smaller entities, to plan and host commemorative ceremonies.

5. Provide information articles in popular veteran publications, such as Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, Wild Weasels, Air Force Association, and Air Force Sergeants Association. All service organizations should be included along with key organizations that have magazines such as the Disabled American Veterans and Paralyzed American Veterans.
6. The VWC should significantly expand the use of social media to reach target audiences.
7. The VWC is encouraged to post a list of what veteran interviews are available from various organizations.
8. Continue to encourage services to exhibit art at commemorative ceremonies. Select work from the Vietnam War era by the Army's Combat Artist Teams.
9. Increase outreach through private family reunions to allow family members to honor Vietnam War veterans in their families.
 - a. Encourage bases to do community outreach.
 - b. VWC can give instructions to partners to encourage partners could say to reach families through reunions.
10. Continued emphasis and outreach efforts through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Association of State Veterans Directors.
 - a. Collaborate on the VA's annual ceremonies honoring veterans.
 - b. The VA, working with local Veteran Service Organizations, has the ability to reach down to the local level in identifying and contacting these veterans, and their families. Focus on the Vietnam veteran. The families are going to help reach the reluctant veterans. With the decreasing population of Vietnam veterans, it's going to be harder and harder to find them. Five million veterans can't be the sole responsibility of the VA. Also, the VA doesn't know how many vets are in each state.
 - c. National Association of State Veterans Directors
11. Continue supporting traditional veteran organizations (e.g., Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Veterans, and the Disabled American Veterans organizations.) and with an emphasis of including families. The VWC should identify which organizations to support.
12. Identify key dates annually and increase significant events around dates.
 - a. Join with VA to ensure that March 29 anniversary of the last United States troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War. Focus on the Vietnam veteran. The VWC could do much to cement March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day.

- b. Memorial Day
- c. November 11-19 highlighting Veterans Day and the Anniversary of the Wall
- d. POW/MIA Day

All members unanimously approved the recommendations under Objective #1.

NOTE: The following recommendations under Objective #1 were tabled for discussion at a later date:

- Don't use a holiday to recognize Vietnam War veterans. Culminate the Commemoration with a weeklong event at the Vietnam Memorial.
- The Committee should provide advice on the design of one major, time specific event (day or week) to conclude the commemoration in 2025.
 - Seek an amendment to the Commemoration's statute, if necessary, to conclude this effort by 2020. A closing event in 2025 is appropriate
- The Conceptual Plan should have a minimum of three phases. Recommend each year's activities be spelled-out by phase.

Recommendations pertaining to Objective 2: To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces:

1. The VWC Conceptual Plan should identify Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental that served with or in support of Armed Forces. Continue efforts to recognize and acknowledge other agencies on the website. Focus on the Vietnam veteran, but through Federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations.
2. Other strategic partners may be necessary to meet the requirements of Objective #2.

All members unanimously approved the recommendations under Objective #2.

Recommendations pertaining to Objective 3: To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

1. The VWC Conceptual Plan should specifically continue to increase the recognition of the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War. Provide a study to inform the Committee. VWC should provide recommendations on how to identify and address meet this objective.

2. Place more emphasis on these populations in the VWC's messaging and pinning events: See #1 also. Veterans who served between 1955 thru 1965 and were not actually in Vietnam: VWC could provide more information on this population.

All members unanimously approved the recommendations under Objective #3.

Recommendations pertaining to Objective 4: To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War:

1. The VWC Conceptual Plan should identify and provide more detail on the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

All members unanimously approved the recommendation under Objective #4.

NOTE: The Committee requested further analysis from the VWC for the Committee to consider as how to best address Objectives #2-4 going forward.

Recommendations pertaining to Objective 5: To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War:

1. Continue to work with veteran service organizations and the U.S. allies to reach out to recognize their Vietnam War veterans, including those who served for the Republic of Vietnam.
2. Increase outreach in the Vietnamese community in the U.S.

All members unanimously approved the recommendations under Objective #5.

Way Ahead

The Committee proposed that the next meeting cover a full day, with an option to gather the evening before. The next agenda will be directed by the Committee's DoD sponsor, pending a response on the recommendations shown above and an update to the VWC Conceptual Plan. The following recommendations are slated to be revisited at the next meeting for deliberation and advice:

- Don't use a holiday to recognize Vietnam War veterans. Culminate the Commemoration with a weeklong event at the Vietnam Memorial.
- Design one major, time specific event (day or week) to conclude the commemoration in 2025.
 - Seek an amendment to the Commemoration's statute, if necessary, to conclude this effort by 2020. A closing event in 2025 is appropriate.
- The Conceptual Plan should have a minimum of three phases. Recommend each year's activities be spelled-out by phase.

The Vice Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

Chairman's Certification

Acting as Chairman of this meeting held on September 28, 2017, I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, that the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Paul W. Bucha
Vice Chairman
Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee

HANDOUTS:

1. Vietnam War Commemoration Office Conceptual Plan
2. Summary of recommendations from individual members.
3. Compilation of actual recommendations from individual members.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Concept Plan

Strategic Plan for 2019-2025

- 5 Congressional Objectives
- Primary Mission
- Define Success Criteria

- 10,917 Commemorative Partners
- 10,661 Events 2011 – 2017
- 414 Oral History Interviews

As of September 8, 2017

Paradigm
Shift

Concept for Closeout Events in 2023 – 2025

- 2023 – 2025 Events throughout the Nation
- 2023 – National Event, Vietnam Memorial
- 2025 – National Event, U.S. Capitol ICW Memorial Day Concert



Continue to Support Events, Commemorative Partners, Certificates of Honor, History and Legacy, Oral Histories, National Voice, Administrative Support

Strategic Plan 2019 – 2025

- Focused Outreach and Reachback efforts
- Continue the National Voice effort
 - Communications Plan
- Support Events
 - Shape events with active local CPs
 - State Initiative
- Sustain History and Legacy initiatives
- Federal and State Elections
- Shape and support related events

2021

- Finalize Concept Plans for National Events
- Publish Operational Plans
- Notify States/Cities /CPs IRT final events
- Begin development of final report

2023 – 2025

- Nationwide State and Commemorative Partner Events

2023 – Vietnam Memorial

- Sr. U.S. Civ, Mil Officials
- Civ, Mil Officials, 5 Allied Countries
- CPs
- Wreath Laying

2025 – U.S. Capitol

- Sr. U.S. Civ, Mil Officials
- Civ, Mil Officials, 5 Allied Countries
- CPs
- Wreath Laying

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The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2018-2025 Strategic Plan Preliminary Recommendations

for Deliberation on September 28, 2017

Objective 1: To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans:

1. Place more emphasis on these populations in the VWC's messaging and events:
 - a. Families of Vietnam War veterans
 - b. Individuals who served in the Reserves
 - c. Gold Star mothers
 - d. POW's: It will be challenging to identify POW's and decide how to honor them. Work actively with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and the Armed Forces to promote an effort to honor POW's.
2. After a review of current partnerships, make a greater effort to form new commemorative partners.
 - a. Avoid burdensome requirements to become a partner.
 - b. Develop messaging specifically for potential partners.
 - c. Involve individual Advisory Committee members in soliciting partnerships.
 - d. Create a "canned piece" that stimulates activity in veteran's groups.
 - e. Members should offer ten potential partnerships each.
 - f. Identify partners that can maintain a significant and public presence through 2020.
3. Set a specific goal for the number of new partnerships we would like to establish.
4. Take advantage of this period where numerous books and documentaries are widely available to increase outreach efforts. We should be able to arrange a public service announcement on the VWC's mission with major media companies like CBS or CNN. Examples:
 - a. *THE VIETNAM WAR*; 2017 documentary directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.
 - b. Discussions/anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive.
 - c. Discussions/anniversary of the Paris Peace Accords.

- d. *Phantom Force Revisited*; 2017 documentary by David Shoup.
 - e. *Vietnam Medevac*; 2014 documentary by Morton Dean.
5. Strategize for repetitive VWC messaging and ceremonies to continue recognizing Vietnam War veterans.
 - a. Invest more efforts with the top 10% of partners that are clearly reaching our target objectives.
 - b. Encourage collaboration among partners, specifically smaller entities, to plan and host commemorative ceremonies.
 6. Write articles in popular veteran publications, such as Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association, Wild Weasels, Air Force Association, and Air Force Sergeants Association.
 7. The VWC should significantly expand the use of social media to reach target audiences.
 8. List potential Vietnam War veteran interviews to propose to various media to mark a specific Vietnam War milestone or recognized holiday.
 - a. There are good candidates for interviews on the Committee.
 9. Exhibit art at commemorative ceremonies. Select artwork from the Vietnam War Era by the Army's Combat Artist Teams.
 10. Increase outreach through private family reunions to allow family members to honor Vietnam War veterans in their families.
 11. Increase outreach efforts through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).
 - a. Collaborate on the VA's annual ceremonies honoring veterans, especially former POW's, throughout its vast system.
 - b. The VA, working with local Veteran Service Organizations, has the ability to reach down to the local level in identifying and contacting these veterans, and their families.
 12. Support traditional veteran organizations (e.g., Veterans of Foreign Wars, FW, American Veterans, and the Disabled American Veterans organizations.) and support them with commemorative materials until 2025, with a close out of other activities in 2020.
 13. Identify four key dates annually and increase significant events around those 3 or 4 dates.
 - a. March 29 anniversary of the last United States troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War. The VWC could do much to cement March 29 as Vietnam Veterans Day.
 - b. Memorial Day
 - c. November 11-19 highlighting Veterans Day and the Anniversary of the Wall.

14. Host the large National Wall event before 2023. Gain national audience attention sooner since the Vietnam War veteran population is decreasing.
15. Target each state to develop at least one proposal for an event to mark a specific Vietnam War milestone or recognized holiday.
16. Rather than a wreath-laying ceremony Memorial Day 2023 at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, there should be a major effort to focus attention on the third Friday in September, National POW/MIA Recognition Day.
17. Don't use a holiday to recognize Vietnam War veterans. Culminate the Commemoration with a weeklong event at the Vietnam Memorial [in Washington, D.C.]
18. As to 2025, a ceremony in conjunction with the National Memorial Day Concert at the U.S. Capitol could be preceded by an invitation-only ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where the POW/MIA flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.
19. The Committee should provide advice on the design of one major, time specific event (day or week) to conclude the commemoration in 2025.
 - a. Seek an amendment to the Commemoration's statute, if necessary, to conclude this effort by 2020. A closing event in 2025 is appropriate.
20. The Strategic Plan should have a minimum of three phases. [The years 2019 and 2024 are marked as a paradigm shifts. It's not clear what happens in 2019 and 2024. Is each shift an event, an activity or something else? What are the triggers for the activities in other periods? Recommend each year's activities be spelled-out by phase.]

Object 2: To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces:

1. The VWC Strategic Plan should identify the preponderance of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental that served with or in support of Armed Forces.
2. Other strategic partners may be necessary to meet the requirements of Objective 2.
3. Incorporate the VWC Oral History Program with those of the Armed Services and patriotic non-profit organizations such as Witness to War. Exchange interview files and archive all of them with the National Archives.

Objective 3: To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

1. The VWC Strategic Plan should specifically address contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
2. Place more emphasis on these populations in the VWC's messaging and pinning events:
 - a. veterans who served between '55-'65 and were not actually in Vietnam
3. Other strategic partners may be necessary to meet the requirements of Objective 3.

Objective 4: To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War:

1. The VWC Strategic Plan should provide more detail on the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
 - a. Comment: These contributions were significant, but raising them in a public way so they can be understood and celebrated seems unlikely.
2. Other strategic partners may be necessary to meet the requirements of Objective 4.

Objective 5: To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War:

1. Work with veteran service organizations and the U.S. allies to reach out to recognize their Vietnam War veterans, including those who served for the Republic of Vietnam.
2. Increase outreach in the Vietnamese community in the U.S.
3. Analysis for each ally is needed: Given the current state of play with those allies, particularly Australia and South Korea, it is unclear if those countries would be comfortable or even interested with such recognition at this time.



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2018-2025 Strategic Plan Evaluation

Instructions: The Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Committee's task on September 28, 2017 is to deliver a qualitative evaluation and advice on the draft 2018 – 2025 Strategic Plan for the Vietnam War Commemoration Office (VWC). You are asked to first review the Strategic Plan prior to the meeting and jot down your personal evaluation. Do not share your evaluation with others on the Committee until the public meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. that day. You will share your individual evaluation at that time and build a consensus on what recommendations to make to the Secretary of Defense in regard to the Strategic Plan.

The VWC asks that your evaluation focus on three factors that are most critical at this time in the 13-year life of the Commemoration of the Vietnam War. While your evaluation needs to be qualitative, we have provided questions to give you an idea of what is intended by the factor. Bring your form with you to the meeting.

For your convenience, the Congressional objectives in section 598(c) of the FY 2008 NDAA are in the **attached** file.

Evaluation Factor: Relevance

Evaluate and comment on the Strategic Plan as it relates to the requirements set forth in section 598(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 ("the FY 2008 NDAA") (Public Law 110-181), that the appropriate audiences are targeted, and that the focus is on the Vietnam veteran, rather than the Vietnam War, with sensitivity to the messages most likely to appeal to Vietnam veterans and their families?

"The overall program is adequate and helpful to the nation as it continues to absorb the Vietnam War."

"The Committee's Concept Plan and timeline highlighting the shift in 2019 from the current building phase to sustainment phase appears consistent with the objectives. I see that this is the same format included at the end of the March presentation so I presume this will be the purpose of this one summary pager going forward?"

I note the new reference to Paradigm Shift at the transition between the Main phase and the sustainment phase of the timeline. I suspect we will hear more about that at the meeting. Is it the intention to cease recruitment of Commemorative Partners at some near term point and focus fully on "Reach back" to those partners who are providing the best opportunity to meet the Commemoration Objectives?

I do believe that Chairman Ridge's comments in March about maintaining relevance are critical going forward so I am pleased to see you highlight this as the first of three key factors."

"Overall, I think the Committee is doing a good job in reaching appropriate audiences. A question is: Would it be possible to ask the Veteran Service Organizations (American Legion, VFW, DAV, VVA, etc.) to assist in reaching out to the VietNam Veterans within their Organizations. These Organizations, through their Publications apparatus, have the ability to reach to all their VietNam veteran members. These Organizations could be helpful in assisting the Committee in fulfilling its Strategic Objectives for 2019-2025.

Do not forget that the USA had Allies in VietNam, mainly Australia and South Korea. Working through their Embassys, I feel they can help in recognizing their veterans that served in VietNam, thereby assisting the Committee in fulfilling Objective 5.

We also had Republic of VietNam troops fighting alongside ours. Many of these veterans now live in the USA and have been successful in business and have been good American citizens. Working through active local Community Partners, can't these Vietnamese communities also participate in the Committee's objectives?"

"While we have appropriately focused on the Vietnam veteran, it may be time to place more emphasis on their families in our messaging and events. I continue to experience reluctance by the Vietnam veteran to step forward, but find that his/her

family members more actively seek recognition for their loved ones who served during the Vietnam War.

I also envision increased interest in the Commemoration in 2018-2019 as we relive the Tet Offensive of 1968 and its aftermath. Numerous books and documentaries are planned or are already in bookstores and being viewed. We need to take advantage of this environment with additional outreach efforts to enlist new Commemorative Partners.”

“By definition the Vietnam Period Veteran is described to have served this country from 1955 – 1975....I have found it difficult to get that veteran who has served their country between '55-'65 and where not actually in Vietnam to embrace this recognition to be pinned.

I also have received questions about those individuals who served in the Reserves if they are included in this recognition.”

“I agree that the target should be the veterans who served during the era. Although some of the veterans that did not go to the Vietnam war are reluctantly to accept the pin.

The family members of the veteran are more receptive to receiving the pin than the veteran.”

“I BELIEVE WE HAVE STRUCK THE APPROPRIATE TONE AND SUBSTANCE IN ALL OUR CEREMONIES AND MEETINGS REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT IS FOR 500 PEOPLE OR 50 PEOPLE OF 5 PEOPLE. THERE IS A NATURAL SENSITIVITY AMONG US TO NOT CONFUSE THE WARRIOR WITH THE WAR. AT FT CAMPBELL, FOR EXAMPLE, I WAS VISITING THE INSTALLATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A COUPLE OF YEARS AND WAS SURPRISED AT THE VIETNAM EXHIBITS ALL OVER THE BASE FOCUSING ON THE WARRIOR. I WAS WITH APPROXIMATELY 50 OF THE MEN WITH WHOM I SERVED AND THEIR FAMILIES. WHEN I ARRIVED, A FEW HOURS AFTER THE MAIN BODY ARRIVED, THE COMMISSION PARTNERS WERE MAKING A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE TROOPS FROM THE 101ST WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM AND AS PART OF THAT VERBAL PRESENTATION THE COMMISSION PARTNER PRESENTED COMMEMORATION PINS TO THE WIDOWS AND CHILDREN FIRST AND THEN TO THE MEN WHO HAD FOUGHT. NOT ONE MENTION WAS MADE TO THE POLITICS, THE ANTI WAR ACTIVISTS, ETC. THE ENTIRE FOCUS WAS ON THE WIDOWS AND FAMILIES FIRST AND THEN TO THE VETERANS WHO WERE AMONG THEM.

NET: OUR MISSIONS WAS TO INSURE RECOGNITION AND AKNOWLEDGEMENTS WERE MADE AS APPROPRIATE AND WE HAVE. WELL DONE.”

"I evaluate the Strategic Plan regarding "relevance" based upon both my involvement on the committee and my viewing of individuals wearing commemoration memorabilia and from public announcements of events and people recognized. From this perspective I strongly believe we are reaching people who were involved during this time period...and educating or at least forming an awareness of those that were not.

Parents are now telling their children about their involvement during this time period...again from observation and interaction.

It will take repeated messages and ceremonies to continue the connection and recognition. The assistance the committee provides through DOD is making a difference.

And, although only one issue, the miniseries by Burns will only help to increase the awareness and knowledge of this period and those who served in Vietnam or during that period.

I have heard no negative comments from anyone regarding our efforts to recognize and commemorate of the Vietnam War.

The recent conflicts as well as the all-voluntary military has been involved in, combined with our efforts at recognition have heightened the awareness of those who served and those that did not or have not served.

Connecting the American citizen with the sacrifices that those in uniform make or might make on their behalf is critical to the well being of our country. Thus the commemoration efforts are relevant."

"Relevant but not relevant enough!

We need a stronger focus on the specified task to address the personnel held as POW's and MIA's. It is relevant for the veterans who returned home. However, the POW's and MIA's likely will not be present to thank and to honor. There must be a greater focus on the families of POW's and MIA's. It will be challenging to identify them. How do we thank and honor them? Are we talking about the spouses, who may have remarried? Are we talking about their children, who will be adults? Are we talking about their parents, many may be deceased at this point.

Objective #2 --not sure we have identified the preponderance of Federal agencies, GO/NGO that served with or in support of Armed Forces. This too is a specified task which means that we must comply with the Law.

Objective #3--not sure contributions made to the home front is addressed in the Concept Plan.

Objective #4--likewise, the advances in technology, science and medicine must be broadened."

Objective #5-- the allies--this task appears to be covered through ceremonies especially 2023-2025.

“Excellent emphasis on thanking.

However, the narrow perspective of my personal experience is that I’ve not talked to a single, not one, AF veteran of the VN war who is aware of this effort. Therefore, I wonder to what the “Communications Plan” refers. Are we putting articles in popular veteran publications, such as Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association; Wild Weasels; Air Force Association? AF Sergeants Assn? Frankly, my view is that the word is NOT getting out. And if it’s not getting out, then we’re not accomplishing the mission of thanking.”

“Strategic plan provides the appropriate framework for the program implementation. Relevance has been remained throughout the program activities. Campaign messages are consistently focused on the Veteran. Objective 4 activities needs to be included in the strategic plan. Don’t need much detail but introducing the intent would set the conditions for implementation at the action level.”

“Exhibit art at commemorative ceremonies of art works done during the Vietnam War by the Army’s Combat Artist Teams (CATs). The art works of CATs depict skills and knowledge of those who served in the military during the Vietnam War, and our appreciation for their contribution in preserving our US military history.”

“From what I’ve seen & heard, mostly as I’ve moved around the country meeting vets & their families as I worked on & screened my documentary American Medevac, the Commission has succeeded in reaching many in its targeted audience but a bigger effort has to be made. How? I still think it can & should be done by significantly expanding use of social media.

Among civilians I run into I’ve found there isn’t much awareness at all about the efforts being made by the Commission or about its goals. Again social media is a key.”

“I feel that by and large, the objectives set out by the Congress in the FY2008 NDAA (Public Law 110-181) are being met with significant steps to honor and remember our Vietnam Veterans. The specific pins, honors, certificates, the countless ceremonies with Commemorative Partners, more than call attention to our nation’s obligation to never again fail to appreciate the Armed Forces serving our country and protecting our freedoms.

There is, however, a lack of substantive focus on our nation’s commitment to accounting as fully as possible for America’s unreturned Vietnam Veterans, those still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR) from their service

during the designated dates set forth. The massive level of attention to National POW/MIA Recognition Day on September 15, 2017, demonstrates that there is widespread, increasing awareness and commitment to not only achieving the fullest possible accounting for Vietnam War missing, but to recovery and identification of remains related to wars and conflicts further past.

This increased attention includes Military Services, especially those deployed around the world, despite the lack of any substantive, or even rudimentary, DoD educational programs. This is a lapse that warrants correction and which the first 50th VN War Anniversary Commemoration Commemorative Partner is actively working with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. This initiative is based on remarks by Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Paul Selva, USAF, on June 22, 2017, at the 48th Annual Meeting of our nonprofit, humanitarian organization.”

“I do not believe we have fulfilled, nor will we be able to fulfill the objectives identified in Section 598 (c) 4 and (c) 5. These contributions were significant and many, but raising them in a public way so they can be understood and celebrated seems unlikely. Given the current state of play with those allies, particularly Australia and South Korea, it is unclear to me if those countries would be comfortable or even interested with such recognition at this time.”

Evaluation Factor: Cooperative Assets

Evaluate and comment on the objective as it relates to developing and/or capitalizing on partnerships with groups most ideal to meet the requirements set forth in section 598(c) of Public Law 110-181, and how likely will the Strategic Plan obtain cooperation from groups most ideal to meet the requirements set forth in section 598(c) of the FY 2008 NDAA? What, if any potential partnerships are missing?

“The partnerships appear adequate. I do like the idea of outreach to the Vietnamese community in the USA.”

“I can’t imagine that we have missed a significant potential partner. Certainly there are those who could have done more or done anything for that matter but I believe that key contributors are already on board

The key to me is investing the Committee’s assets to the top 10% of partners that are clearly reaching our target objectives.”

“I believe I have covered part of this in the previous Evaluation. Particularly the ability of the Veterans groups to assist on a National effort.

Perhaps we are overlooking one more huge asset that can work with the DoD in meeting the requirements. That being the Department of Veterans Affairs. With hundreds of Health Care and Benefits offices in every state, I feel the DVA can be a more important ally than it has been.

The DVA holds annual ceremonies honoring veterans, especially former POW's, throughout its vast system. But the majority of patients for whom the DVA now provides care in its hospitals and clinics, are the VietNam Era veterans. The DVA, working with the local VSOs, has the ability to reach down to the local level in identifying and contacting these veterans, and their families. The DVA can assist in the Committee's efforts with objectives 1 through 4.

To highlight Objective 4, the DVA and the DoD's Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences can help tremendously in identifying those advances made during the Vietnam War.

"I believe that there are many more local, regional and national groups that are potential Commemorative Partners. Our challenge is, first, identifying these groups and, second, not scaring them away with real or perceived administrative requirements (burdens to them) to become and maintain being a partner.

Perhaps it is time to evaluate and strengthen our outreach program for seeking new Commemorative Partners by:

1. Identifying potential candidates after reviewing the list of current partners,
2. Developing specific messaging for each candidate, and
3. Directly asking them to participate using Advisory Group members to assist in "the ask."

I further suggest that 2018-2019 might be a good time for re-charging the Commemorative Partner Program. The significance of the 1968 Tet Offensive and the swelling number of Vietnam War related publications and events being scheduled during this period create an environment in which we can grow additional support."

"I think the Staff has done a thorough evaluation of defining partnerships. The question is how to sustain the excitement or interest over the next eight years in these partnerships to pay honor to all the veterans.

I also think we need to ride the crest of Ken Burns Vietnam War Documentary to extend the need of partnerships to honor our veterans...."

"I think we need look at who are all of the partners and what have they done to help. I see no reason for the strategic plan to last until 2025, we should focus on bring it to close around 2020.

We should look at the traditional veteran organization (VFW, AMVET DAV etc.) and support them with commemorative material to continual until 2025."

"THE GROUPS WE HAVE ARE, BY AND LARGE, THE APPROPRIATE GROUPS.

I BELIEVE IT WILL BECOME EASIER TO ATTRACT EVEN MORE OF THE GROUPS ONCE THE KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY IS BEING SCREENED AND THE OTHER MOVIES SUCH AS "PHANTOM FORCE" AND "VIETNAM MEDEVAC" JOIN

IT ON OUR TELEVISION SCREENS. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ARRANGE A PSA THAT IS A TEASER FOR AUDIENCES TO BE TOLD OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS WORK AT ONE OF THE MAJOR MEDIA COMPANIES LIKE CBS OR CNN.

NET: I BELIEVE IT WILL BE EASIER TO ATTRACT COMMEMORATION PARTNERS DUE TO THESE MAJOR MEDIA OFFERINGS FOCUSED ON VIETNAM.”

“I believe there has been a strong development and linkage of partnerships with groups targeted as well as many that might not have been identified at the beginning of this commemoration.

We have greatly surpassed my initial expectations.

I believe many people, whatever their background, now understand the need and desire to recognize those that served during this time.

I was involved in the 50th and 60th D Day Celebrations in France and England and I see many of the same trends continuing...veterans returning to where they were deployed, veterans talking with their grandchildren and some talking to their children for the first time. The outreach that our commemoration started in many cases, I believe, provided the impetus to begin this “healing” and/or recognition of their involvement.”

“The specified task for the five Commemorative Objectives should be dissected for implied task and addressed in much more detail so that we will know where we are going in the process. It appears Objectives 1 & 5 is developed in considerably more detail than the other objectives in the Concept Plan.

Given Objectives 2, 3 and 4 are also specified in the Law, not sure we have brainstormed each Objective to develop an exhaustive list of tasks that would allow us to capitalize on partnerships. Once the list of tasks has been established, we can then determine who and when to partner in order to meet requirements in the Law. However, there may be other strategic partners necessary to meet the requirements in Law.”

“See my last comment. There is a bounty of veteran’s organizations out there that perhaps we’re not reaching. Do we have a canned piece that stimulates activity in veteran’s groups?”

“I don’t see any partnerships missing. A review of the criteria to qualify as a commemorative partner should be included in our monitoring activities. My point is that over time activity levels could realistically change.

I don’t sense any cooperation issues with the implementation currently. In all, this program is working as outlined by the congress.”

“Encourage merging of Commemorative Partners, specifically smaller entities, to plan and host commemorative ceremonies, which would help to maintain focus and enthusiasm on the purposes of the Vietnam War Commemoration.”

“The Commission’s staff should be congratulated for the work it has accomplished. I think one goal we would all agree on is expanding the number of cooperative assets. Perhaps that should be or could be accomplished by quantifying a goal – a specific number – of new partners we would like to reach. Perhaps quantifying how many new partners we will strive to embrace each month/year of our future existence. Perhaps each one of us could be tasked to come up with a list of say 10 potential new partners.

The publicity generated by the Vietnam TV series certainly will, I think, help us reach whatever goal we establish.”

“The 50th Anniversary staff has done an outstanding job of reaching out to a broad cross-section of NGOs, VSOs, the League and others representing, or claiming to represent families associated with wars and conflicts further past, as well as the Armed Forces. In so doing, they have garnered support for our primary, stated objective of thanking, honoring and remembering those who served during the Vietnam War.

These same major national veteran organizations have consistently passed policy resolutions calling for the fullest possible accounting for their fellow Vietnam Veterans still missing (POW/MIA) and otherwise unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), as well as Veterans lost in earlier wars and conflicts, including the Korean War, Cold War and World War II.

Achieving the fullest possible accounting, an evidenced-based reasonable objective, is a unifying issue of common interest that is widely supported. It is also an ever-expanding, highly visible extension of the imperative for all Americans to stand strongly behind those serving in today’s Armed Forces. Those who serve our country must have confidence that should they be captured or become missing, we will be there for them, to do our very best to return them to their families and our nation.

It is crucial that the leaders of our Armed Forces be familiar with and strongly support the accounting mission and ensure that those who serve under their command know we, as a nation, will be there for them if captured or missing-in-action. Despite the horrors of war, those serving today must have confidence in the knowledge that our nation will do it very best to honor its pledge to leave no man (or woman) behind.

This, too, becomes an educational factor for DoD-wide implementation and is in keeping with the President’s unwavering commitment to our nation’s Armed Forces, active duty, retired and all in the legitimate veteran community, including those as yet unreturned.”

"The relentless efforts to build commemorative partners has been very successful. Naturally this level of commitment has varied, but the numbers are remarkable. It would be a good exercise to review the list and identify those with whom we can maintain a significant and public presence through 2020.

I continue to view the calendar and partnership fatigue to be our enemy. It is inconceivable, at least to me, that we will be able to keep the partners, old and new engaged through 2025. During our meetings next year we should consider the design of one major, time specific event (day or week) to concluded the commemoration in 2025

I have and continue to be skeptical of an agenda that takes us into 2025. Post 2020 expectations are unrealistic. We should seek Congressional, if necessary, to conclude this effort by 2020. Perhaps a closing event in 2025 is appropriate, but interests in and support of our effort will evaporate shortly. Geopolitical events are casting a long and ever darkening shadow over commemorative activities. Someone might be able to dissuade me of this point of view, but I am doubtful."

Evaluation Factor: Multi-year Goal-setting

Evaluate and comment on the goals set over the 2018-2025 period as they relate to sufficiently and ideologically supporting the Commemoration's culmination in the 2025 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, with respect to the actual milestones of the Vietnam War and recognized holidays to likely meet the interest of Vietnam veterans, and if these goals properly align with the Congressional objectives in section 598(c) of the FY 2008 NDAA?

"Adequate and in line with objectives of Section 598."

"I think it will be important going forward to identify perhaps four key dates annually and try to bring the volume up "Significant Events" around those 3 or 4 dates. I am concerned about delaying the large National Wall event until 2023, I think we will continue to lose the national audience as well as the steeply declining Vietnam Veteran population as the years go by. I understand we are committed to the 2025 timeline by our legislative charter. I am concerned about building to 2025. I would like to see the effort peak sooner

As to key dates I would suggest March 29, May 29, November 11-19 highlighting Veterans and the Anniversary of the Wall. This Commission could do much to cement March 29 as Vietnam Veterans day."

Key Dates:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| March 25th | National Medal of Honor Day |
| March 29th | March 29, 1973 (the last United States troops left South Vietnam, ending America's direct military involvement in the Vietnam War. |
| May 20 th | Armed Forces Day |
| May 29 th | Memorial Day |
| June 14 th | Army's birthday (Flag Day) |
| August 4 th | Coast Guard's birthday |
| August 7th | National Purple Heart Day |
| September 15th | National POW/MIA Day (Third Friday in September) |
| September 18 th | Air Force's birthday |
| November 10 th | Marines' birthday |
| November 11 th | Veteran's Day |
| December 13 th | Navy's birthday |

"Currently, the Committee is taking advantage of the planning both on a National scale, and the local scale, when it comes to Holidays.

A suggestion: Work with the recently released PBS Documentary, The Vietnam War, which chronologically goes through the war. The Documentary identifies major

battles and events that could be used as milestones in the Committees planning, ie, the introduction of Advisors, the introduction of combat troops, the battle of Ia Drang, the TET offensive, the withdrawal of the last combat troops and the homecoming of the POWs. etc., etc.

Possibly reach out to and highlight the veterans of those battles as that milestone is recognized."

"I believe that the Concept Plan will meet the interest of the Vietnam veterans, but must be more inclusive of the veteran's families to be successful. The families will get their Vietnam War veteran to the events. The families will want them remembered appropriately.

I would also suggest that we investigate incorporation our Oral History Program with those of the Armed Services and patriotic non-profit organizations such as Witness To War. I suggest that we seek their Vietnam veteran interviews for our program and provide them ours, by service, for their archives. All, of course, should be directed to the National Archives when the program is concluded. In this way, the we benefit by receiving interviews completed by the Armed Services and they benefit by those we have completed."

"I believe that what has been laid out for 2018-2025 meets the Congressional objectives.....can more be done will really be up to the discussion of the advisory Commission..."

"We don't need a holiday to recognize the Vietnam veterans. We should look at culminate the commemoration with a weeklong event at the Vietnam memorial."

I HAVE REVIEWED THE CHART ABOUT THE TIME LINE OF THE COMMEMORATION AND BELIEVE IT IS EXCELLENT. I THEN READ THE LAW AGAIN AND BELIEVE THEY TRACK PERFECTLY TOWARD ACCOMPLISHING THE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES DETAILED IN THE PUBLIC LAW THAT GAVE LIFE TO THE COMMEMORATION.

IF THERE IS ONE THING I WOULD RECOMMEND WE GIVE GREATER FOCUS TO IT WOULD BE THE ROLE OF FAMILIES AND HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS FOR THEM TO HAVE HOPE AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE GIVEN THE DAILY VIDEOS AND TV STORIES IN BLACK AND WHITE AND LIVING COLOR. THAT IS THE LINK TO THE PRESENT BECAUSE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES ARE FORGOTTEN TODAY AS THEY WERE THEN. I WAS ASKED TO BE THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS NATIONAL GATHERING IN TYSON'S CORNER, VA. I ASSUMED IT WOULD BE A LIVELY GATHERING WITH ALL SORTS OF ATTENDEES GIVEN THE PROXIMITY TO THE CONGRESS AND ALL THE PRO VETERANS AND PRO DEFENSE ORGANIZATIONS. I ARRIVED AND WAS REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN THE SHOWING. TWO TABLES WERE PURCHASED BY ROLLING THUNDER AND ONE BY THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA AND THE REST WERE THE GOLDSTAR MOTHERS WHO WERE

“BEING HONORED. NOT ONE MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS OR ONE STAFF MEMBER TO AN ELECTED OFFICIAL WAS PRESENT OR EVEN SENT IN A SMALL CONTRIBUTION.

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD USE OUR PLATFORM TO RAISE THE RECOGNITION OF THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS WHO HAVE MANY VIETNAM WIDOWS AND MOTHERS IN THEIR ORGANIZATION, BUT WHO ALSO ARE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED IN THE SUPPORT THEY EXPERIENCE EVEN THOUGH THIS WAR IS SUPPOSEDLY A “WELL SUPPORTED WAR.” BY REACHING OUT TO THE GOLD STAR MOTHERS AND INCLUDING THEM IN OUR RECOGNITION EFFORTS, WE CAN LINK THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. THE LEGACY OF NEVER FORGETTING THOSE WHO TRULY PAY THE MOST DIFFICULT OF BURDENS, THE GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND MOTHERS, CAN BENEFIT FROM OUR HELP AND OUR RECOGNITION OF THEIR SACRIFICES. THAT HAS BEEN OUR CAUSE FOR DECADES, BUT IT CAN USE OUR SUPPORT AND OUR RECOGNITION TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE. THEN OUR COMMEMORATION WILL HAVE ACHIEVED SOMETHING SPECIAL AND SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH WE CAN ALL BE JUSTLY PROUD.”

“I strongly believe they do...but one must recognize this is a long period of time since the commemoration began. Can the momentum and involvement be continued? I believe it will be harder over time but the goals can and should be pursued.

Particular attention to a successful and visible culmination in the last few years will be key.”

“In the instructions, you asked us to provide comments on the strategic plan. I expected to receive a document that spells-out where we are going over the 13 year life of the Commemoration, how we are going to get there and how we will know if it got there or not. What we were provided was a one page Concept Plan. The Concept Plan appears to include some specific products that direct activities but the linkages are not clear.

The Public Law 110-181 appears to be silent, in terms of goal setting, except for the required report to the Congress NLT 60 days after the end of the Commemoration period. This provides enormous flexibility to the Advisory Committee to structure a Strategic Plan that drives all actions by articulating the concepts of vision, mission, goals, objectives, SWOT and other specific products that will direct activities.

The Concept Plan shows two phases through 2025 (the main and sustainment phases). Given the coordination and the number of activities involved, recommend a minimum of three phases. The years 2019 and 2024 are marked as a paradigm shifts. It's not clear what happens in 2019 and 2024. Is each shift an event, an activity or something else? What are the triggers for the activities in other periods? Recommend each year's activities be spelled-out by phase.”

"There were 3 big events of 1972-1973 (2022-2023) 1. The Easter Offensive. 2. Linebacker I and II. 3. The repatriation of POWs. These events occurred well after most VN vets had served and returned home. Therefore our committee is faced with a quandary: how do we generate interest in events that affected very few (relatively) vets, yet the events were very important. My view is focus on return of POWs and THEIR view that they represent all vets and that their return signaled the end of the war for Americans."

"Success criteria is mentioned in the strategic plan. This detail would introduce a more specific set of goals. At the action level, that detail will need to be included since program goals are not evident on the slide I reviewed."

"Family Reunions

This is not a holiday, but many families designate at least three days annually to celebrate their family reunion. This is opportune to include a ceremony to thank and honor veterans in attendance who served during the Vietnam War era."

"The one aspect beyond belatedly thanking, honoring and remembering our Vietnam Veterans for their service that doesn't deal with health and retirement benefits previously earned, around which all responsible national veteran organizations unite is the mission of accounting as fully as possible for America's unreturned Veterans, our POW/MIAs and KIA/BNRs still unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War.

There are significant dates upcoming in 1973, the 50th anniversary of the "Paris Peace Accords," at which time the President pledged the immediate release of all listed POWs, noting the accounting for the missing would take place during the 60-day timeframe of the withdrawal of remaining US Forces from South Vietnam. Obviously, nearly 50 years later, the accounting effort has grown to be the largest in the world, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, established by direction of former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, himself a Vietnam Veteran. That DoD Agency, now led by Maj Gen Kelly K. McKeague, USAF (Ret), has the unified support and confidence of POW/MIA families and engaged Vietnam Veterans.

Rather than a wreath-laying ceremony Memorial Day 2023 at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, there should be a major effort to focus attention on the third Friday in September, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, to thank, honor and remember our Vietnam War returned POWs and renew our nation's commitment to accounting as fully as possible for those still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR). That annual commemoration can also be held at the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and in conjunction with VVMF, as was held September 15, 2017, by holding a Candlelight Vigil.

As to 2025, a ceremony in conjunction with the National Memorial Day Concert at the U.S. Capitol could be preceded by an invitation-only ceremony in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda where the POW/MIA flag of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia has been on permanent display since March

9, 1989. By law it will remain in place until the fullest possible accounting for American POW/MIAs has been achieved.

In sum, the primary issue on which all responsible veteran organizations are on record supporting is achieving the fullest possible accounting for their missing comrades-in-arms.”

“See earlier comments. I see nothing but empty space and no interest between 2020 – 2025. A series of events and public recognition in 2025 should be considered, but the gap from 2020 will be impossible to fill with meaningful exposure. I think we will be challenged to maintain the existing level of support or anything close to it through 2020.”



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VIETNAM WAR

COMMEMORATION

COMMEMORATION OBJECTIVES

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

Defense Authorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 108-375; 118 Stat. 1989).

(c) COVERED MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “covered member of the Armed Forces” includes the following:

(1) Any member of a regular component of the Armed Forces who has served in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

(2) Any member of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve of the Armed Forces who served on active duty in Iraq or Afghanistan since October 2001.

SEC. 598. PROGRAM TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VIETNAM WAR. 10 USC 113 note.

(a) COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of Defense may conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. In conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.

(b) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary of Defense shall determine the schedule of major events and priority of efforts for the commemorative program in order to ensure achievement of the objectives specified in subsection (c).

(c) COMMEMORATIVE ACTIVITIES AND OBJECTIVES.—The commemorative program may include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:

(1) To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

(2) To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

(3) To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(4) To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

(5) To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(d) NAMES AND SYMBOLS.—The Secretary of Defense shall have the sole and exclusive right to use the name “The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration”, and such seal, emblems, and badges incorporating such name as the Secretary may lawfully adopt. Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede rights that are established or vested before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(e) COMMEMORATIVE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.—If the Secretary establishes the commemorative program under subsection (a), the Secretary the Treasury shall establish in the Treasury of the United States an account to be known as the “Department

Regulations.

of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration Fund" (in this section referred to as the "Fund"). The Fund shall be administered by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) **USE OF FUND.**—The Secretary shall use the assets of the Fund only for the purpose of conducting the commemorative program and shall prescribe such regulations regarding the use of the Fund as the Secretary considers to be necessary.

(3) **DEPOSITS.**—There shall be deposited into the Fund—

(A) amounts appropriated to the Fund;

(B) proceeds derived from the Secretary's use of the exclusive rights described in subsection (d);

(C) donations made in support of the commemorative program by private and corporate donors; and

(D) funds transferred to the Fund by the Secretary from funds appropriated for fiscal year 2008 and subsequent years for the Department of Defense.

(4) **AVAILABILITY.**—Subject to subsection (g)(2), amounts deposited under paragraph (3) shall constitute the assets of the Fund and remain available until expended.

(5) **BUDGET REQUEST.**—The Secretary of Defense may establish a separate budget line for the commemorative program. In the budget justification materials submitted by the Secretary in support of the budget of the President for any fiscal year for which the Secretary establishes the separate budget line, the Secretary shall—

(A) identify and explain any amounts expended for the commemorative program in the fiscal year preceding the budget request;

(B) identify and explain the amounts being requested to support the commemorative program for the fiscal year of the budget request; and

(C) present a summary of the fiscal status of the Fund.

(f) **ACCEPTANCE OF VOLUNTARY SERVICES.**—

(1) **AUTHORITY TO ACCEPT SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense may accept from any person voluntary services to be provided in furtherance of the commemorative program. The Secretary of Defense shall prohibit the solicitation of any voluntary services if the nature or circumstances of such solicitation would compromise the integrity or the appearance of integrity of any program of the Department of Defense or of any individual involved in the program.

(2) **REIMBURSEMENT OF INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.**—The Secretary may provide for reimbursement of incidental expenses incurred by a person providing voluntary services under this subsection. The Secretary shall determine which expenses are eligible for reimbursement under this paragraph.

(g) **FINAL REPORT.**—

(1) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 60 days after the end of the commemorative program, if established by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing an accounting of—

(A) all of the funds deposited into and expended from the Fund;

(B) any other funds expended under this section; and

(C) any unobligated funds remaining in the Fund.

(2) **TREATMENT OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS.**—Unobligated amounts remaining in the Fund as of the end of the commemorative period specified in subsection (b) shall be held in the Fund until transferred by law.

(h) **LIMITATION ON EXPENDITURES.**—Total expenditures from the Fund, using amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense, may not exceed \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 or for any subsequent fiscal year to carry out the commemorative program.

(i) **FUNDING.**—Of the amount authorized to be appropriated pursuant to section 301(5) for Defense-wide activities, \$1,000,000 shall be available for deposit in the Fund for fiscal year 2008 if the Fund is established under subsection (e).

SEC. 599. RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONUMENTS, FINE ARTS, AND ARCHIVES PROGRAM OF THE CIVIL AFFAIRS AND MILITARY GOVERNMENT SECTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES DURING AND FOLLOWING WORLD WAR II.

Congress hereby—

(1) recognizes the men and women who served in the Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program (MFAA) under the Civil Affairs and Military Government Sections of the United States Armed Forces for their heroic role in the preservation, protection, and restitution of monuments, works of art, and other artifacts of inestimable cultural importance in Europe and Asia during and following World War II;

(2) recognizes that without their dedication and service, many more of the world's artistic and historic treasures would have been destroyed or lost forever amidst the chaos and destruction of World War II;

(3) acknowledges that the detailed catalogues, documentation, inventories, and photographs developed and compiled by MFAA personnel during and following World War II, have made, and continue to make, possible the restitution of stolen works of art to their rightful owners; and

(4) commends and extols the members of the MFAA for establishing a precedent for action to protect cultural property in the event of armed conflict, and by their action setting a standard not just for one country, but for people of all nations to acknowledge and uphold.

**TITLE VI—COMPENSATION AND OTHER
PERSONNEL BENEFITS**

Subtitle A—Pay and Allowances

- Sec. 601. Fiscal year 2008 increase in military basic pay.
- Sec. 602. Basic allowance for housing for reserve component members without dependents who attend accession training while maintaining a primary residence.
- Sec. 603. Extension and enhancement of authority for temporary lodging expenses for members of the Armed Forces in areas subject to major disaster declaration or for installations experiencing sudden increase in personnel levels.
- Sec. 604. Income replacement payments for reserve component members experiencing extended and frequent mobilization for active duty service.
- Sec. 605. Midmonth payment of basic pay for contributions of members of the uniformed services participating in Thrift Savings Plan.