



Legion News

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE



BELGIUM-CHINA 01-DENMARK-ENGLAND-FRANCE-GREECE-GERMANY-IRELAND-ITALY-NETHERLANDS-SPAIN-THAILAND

January 2025

Vol. 23 / Nr. 1



Happy New Year everyone. I hope that everyone has had a relaxing and regenerating time with family and friends these past couple of weeks.

2025 looks to be as busy as ever here in the Department of France. Our first order of business is our Department Mid-Winter Conference on the 25th and 26th of January. This Training is for Every Post Officer, even if you have held that office for years, you can still learn something new. Comments, Questions and Answer sessions follow each training block. MWC Schedule should be in your inbox shortly! If you do not receive the schedule of training, first ask your Post Commander or Adjutant, then please just ask me or Adjutant Fleming and we will personally send it to you.

The holidays and just after holidays are a depressing time for many. It is really a time to be watching your friends and family close. Especially if you think they might be depressed a bit. If they have just gone through an experience that changes their lives like divorce, death of friend or family member, or even losing a dear pet. Please do keep an eye on them. If you see that they are in despair and are sinking lower and lower in their depression, then Be The One to be there for them. Be The One is much more than a slogan or a motto, it is a mission we should all do well. Life depends on it. Before it was a motto. Be The One to listen, Be The One to give a hug, Be The One to be watching others. But now with the help of the Columbia Lighthouse Project found here... Please look up: (<https://cssrs.columbia.edu/>) The Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), the most evidence-supported tool of its kind, is a simple series of questions that anyone can use anywhere in the world to prevent suicide. Be there, be aware and Be The One.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS 2024 - 2025MY

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With these series of designed questions, you can go into action to help them. It gives you a rating scale of how likely one is considering suicide. If you find he or she or even yourself is answering yes to these questions, then call the professionals for help. In the USA, the hotline is 988, then dial 1 for veteran help. In Germany and most of Europe that hotline is 112. Just Ask, You Can Save a Life.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful New Year. If you have been dragging emotional baggage along with you in your life, time is now to let go of it and your load will be much lighter giving yourself more energy to participate in life and love and service to your community.

Very best wishes,
Dennis



**DEPARTMENT
ADJUTANT**



John Fleming

Greeting Comrades,

Happy New Year!

The Commanders and Adjutant Meeting is scheduled for 1400 CET, on 5 January 2025. The

link for the meeting will be sent out on Thursday, 2 January 2025.

HOT TOPICS:

1. My email address: If you have and/or are using Adjutant.DFR@outlook.com, STOP using it. Delete it. It is an unmonitored email box. I might not see it for months.

2. The correct abbreviation for the Department of France is DFR. That stands for the Department of France. Please do not use DOF or DoF.

Certification of Officers:

Thank you to the Posts who have recently held elections and sent in the Notification forms. I can add all Post Officers to the Post Officers Roster on myLegion.org. Reminder, after Post elections or a change in Post Officers, it is required to send two forms to the Department Adjutant.

1. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants: This form must be sent to the Department Adjutant immediately (**within 24 hours**)

after Post elections. The form should be dated the date of the elections/appointment.

2. Post Officer Certification of Service Form: This form has been revised and sent to all Posts. It needs to be forwarded to the Department Adjutant as soon as possible after Post elections (**within 15 days**). The Effective Date of Election of Appointment is the date of the original election or appointment. For example, if an Officer was elected on 1 May 2023 and reelected on 1 May

2024, the Effective Date block will show 1 May 2023.

These forms are critical to keep the current Post Officer informed of Department news. If I do not have the correct information, your Post may not receive vital information.

Please contact me for any questions or if you need the forms.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR): The 2024-2025 CPR is available on myLegion.org, so I

suggest everyone start working on this.

Dates to Remember:

5 January 2025, 1400-1500 CET – Commanders and Adjutants Meeting, via WebEx

25-26 January 2025 – Mid-Winter Conference

15 March 2025 – 3rd DEC

12-15 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

Thanks, and best wishes.

John Fleming
Department Adjutant



Helga Brandt-Marshall passed away on 09 December 2024 at the age of 70 years old

She was a member of the GR42 Auxiliary and a longtime supporter of Omar Bradley Post GR42 and the Department of France

She will be dearly missed by those who knew her.

Bent Kohler Nicholzen - Copenhagen Post DK01

Bent passed away on 18 December 2024 at the age of 92. He has had a fantastically long and eventful life, and if it were up to him, he would be here for a long time. He fought a stubborn battle to the very end, and he got almost all his wishes fulfilled.



DEPARTMENT VCAL



Quincy Foster

Season Greetings Comrades,

Thank God, we have almost made it through another year even though we have lost a lot of our brothers and Sisters. I hope and pray that you and your family are doing well and had a

great Christmas, and you have a Happy New Year.

I was able to attend GR01's Christmas Party. They have supported the Department in all the events that our Department has asked. Thank you GR01 for all your support and all the Posts that are working so hard to make this Department of France one of the Best.

Finally, I would like to Thank our Vice Commanders and the officers of both Post's and Department. For all they have done to help our Veteran families. Please realize that all the Department office are here to help and serve you. Also realize that the Department can only be as good as our officers and its members. Without you we cannot exist.

So, I ask you to take the time to read the newsletter Dave has taken a lot of time out of his life to create and send this out to you. Not because it is what he must do but because he volunteered to do. This is a way for all to give back to our military Family. Dave, I want to say thank you for all you do!!!

Do not forget of our Mid-winter Conference (MWC) 25th – 26th January 2025! This is an event that the Department created to help and mentor all the post officers into being Department Officers. This way we can keep the Department of France going as our forefathers wanted it to be.

Thank you for all you do and God Bless you and your families!!

Quincy

Department of France Mid-Winter Conference 25th & 26th of January 2025 Saturday, 25th January 09:00-16:00 / Sunday, 26th January 11:00-16:00

Saturday, 25 January 2025

09:00	Opening Comments Foster	VCAL	Quincy
09:05-09:45	Commander Dennis Owens Leadership Be The One APP Legion + App Recruiting		
09:50-1000	Questions Break		
10:00-10:50	Adjutant John Fleming What is expected from a Post Adjutant		
10:50-1100	Questions Break		
11:00-11:30	Vice Commander at Large Quincy Foster The 4 Pillars of the American Legion		
11:30-11:40	Questions Break		
11:40-12:30	Commander Dennis Owens Awareness Table Conducting Fundraisers		
12:30-12:40	Questions Break		
12:40-13:15	Vice Commander Jim Brotherton Veteran Children's Foundation (VCF) Communication between Post to Post and Post to Dept.		
13:15-13:25	Questions Break		
13:30-14:00	Detachment Commander John Fleming S.A.L. Detachment Program		
14:00-14:10	Questions Break		
14:10-15:00	Finance Officer Larry Atkins Finance (Bank Accounts) Signature Cards How to do a good Financial Repost & Budget Planning an Annual Post Budget		
15:00-15:10	Questions Break		
15:10-15:50	Past National Vice Commander Doug Haggan		

Post and Department Historian
Social Media and Post Websites
Questions/Closing Comments VCAL Quincy Foster and Commander Dennis Owens

Sunday, 26 January 2025

11:00	Opening Comments from VCAL Quincy Foster and Commander Dennis Owens
11:10-12:15	Judge Advocate James Settle Effective Meeting / Parliamentary Procedures. Resolutions Post Operations
12:15-12:30	Questions-Break
12:30-13:15	Department Service Officer Frank Phillips Foreign Medical Program (FMP) Dependent Indemnity Compensation for Widows
13:15-13:20	Questions-Break
13:20-14:10	Chaplain Ken Keckler Post Everlasting Reporting Post Chaplain's Duties
14:10-14:15	Questions-Break
14:15-14:40	Commander Dennis Owens Proper meeting procedures and protocols
14:40-14:50	Questions-Break
14:50-15:45	Alternate NECMAN Lee Preston Leadership
15:45-15:50	Questions
15:50-16:00	Closing Comments from VCAL Foster, Commander Dennis Owens

**DEPARTMENT
Vice Commander**



Jim Brotherton

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone.

This will be a short and to the point article. This will not be a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday for everyone. I've experienced such a moment in the past when my father-in-law passed away. This past week I received word that a Department Post member has passed, what makes it even sadder is he was the last remaining member of this Post and the Post will cease to exist going into 2025.

Recently received news concerning one of our American Legion, Department of France Post members

[Bent NicholSEN](#) , the last member of American Legion Post DK01, in Copenhagen Denmark. Bent passed away 18 December 2024

Bent was 92 years old, served in the US Army in the mid 50's. He was a member of The American Legion for approximately 18 years.

He is survived by his wife [Hanne NicholSEN](#) and several immediate family members.

Please keep his family in your prayers.

Again, I ask each and every one to remember Bent and his family, to say a prayer for his family, to bring them strength and peace as they go forward.



God Bless
Jim Brotherton

**DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN LEGION
RIDERS DIRECTOR**



Jim Brotherton

No words of wisdom, figure most of the sane ones are tucked warm and safe at home. For those who are not, well you're on your own.

Want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and look forward to seeing you in 2025.

Jim Brotherton Dept. ALR Director

KAISERSLAUTERN POST GR01

KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

21 December 2024 American Legion Post GR01, we had our Christmas Dinner, at the Burgrestaurant Burg Lichtenberg.


Our Guests Were: Department Commander Dennis Owens and his Wife, Vice Commander at Large Quincy Foster and his Wife, S.A.L Detachment Commander John Fleming and his wife District Auxiliary Sgt. at Arms

Karin Fleming, S.A.L Detachment Chaplain James Fleming. It was a good evening, good conversation, very good food. Two members received certificates from Department Commander Owens, Chaplain Isaac Smith and Comrade James Stackhouse. Thank you everyone who attended.

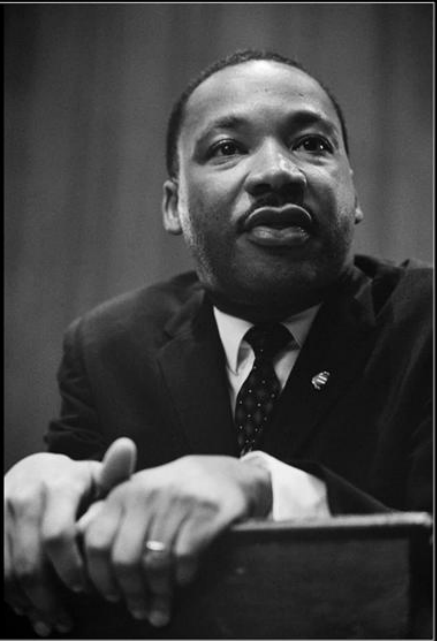
Commander David Garcia.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY



January 20, 2025



Barton, Haynes, Martone, and Washington complete American Legion Basic Training



Clyde Barton



Joseph Haynes



John Martone



Kendall Washington

Photos by Todd Johnson for The American Legion

Sons of The American Legion Wiesbaden Squadron, No. GR07, members Clyde Barton and Joseph Haynes, and American Legion Wiesbaden Post, No. GR07, members John Martone and Kendall Washington, have successfully completed the requirements of the Basic Training course of the American Legion Education Institute.

Barton, a Vietnam era U.S. Army veteran, is the son of a World War I era U.S. Army veteran and Haynes the son of a Vietnam era U.S. Army veteran. Martone, U.S. Air Force, retired, is a Panama, Persian Gulf, and War on Terrorism era veteran. Washington, U.S. Army, retired, is a Lebanon and Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf, and War on Terrorism era veteran.

THANKSGIVING DINNER 2024





THE HOMELESS CHRISTMAS DINNER WAS A SUCCESS. WE SERVED A TOTAL 170 MEALS, 150 PLATES AND 20 TO GO PLATES WERE PREPARED. THERE WAS LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.



**DEPARTMENT
Newsletter Editor**



David N. Greaux

REMINDER...ALL NEWSLETTER ARTICLES SHOULD BE TURNED IN BY THE 28TH OF THE MONTH. I WOULD PREFER IF YOU SENT IT IN WORD FORMAT, PDF WOULD ALSO DO. GET THE WORD OUT!

Davidg1959@t-online.de

**DETACHMENT
COMMANDER**



John Fleming



DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

**DETACHMENT
ADJUTANT**



James Dennis

Hello Sons,

Happy New Year!

Membership: The Membership report I received dated 28 December 2024 shows the Detachment at 54.19%. That is 97 Members of the 179 Members we need to reach 100%. Let's push a little harder this year and attain that goal.

I am asking all Squadrons and Posts to look at your membership rosters and contact every member

who is marked as Expired. We still need to get them renewed.

If you are having trouble accessing your Squadron Roster, contact me. I will help you.

Please talk to your Post members to see if they are eligible. If your Post does not have a Squadron, contact the closest Squadron or the Squadron of your choice and sign up. Talk to family members and sign them up. The Department has 3000 Members. The Detachment should have at least that many.

Consolidated Squadron Report (CSR): The 2024-2025 CSR is available on myLegion.org, so I suggest everyone start working on this.

Dates to Remember:
25-26 January 2025 – Mid-Winter Conference
1 March 2025 – 3rd DEC
7 June 2025 – 4th DEC/Convention/1st DEC

John Fleming
Detachment Commander

*“A speedy recovery goes out to our Detachment Adjutant / Squadron GR42 Commander James Dennis.”
David Greaux*

PCC President



John Gerdeman

Department of France

Past Commanders Club 2025MY

Who is eligible to join the Department of France

Past Commanders Club?

PCC Secretary



Kerwin Hester

Past and Present Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents... so if you were just voted into the office, you are eligible to join

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$25.00 / Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$10.00



GRANDE CHEF DE GARE *DAVID GARCIA*

GRANDE CORRESPONDANT *DAVID GREAUX*

LA SOCIÉTÉ DES QUARANTE HOMMES ET HUIT CHEVAUX (THE SOCIETY OF FORTY MEN AND EIGHT HORSES) IS AN INDEPENDENT, BY INVITATION, HONOR SOCIETY OF AMERICAN VETERANS, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS "THE FORTY & EIGHT".

THE FORTY & EIGHT IS COMMITTED TO CHARITABLE AND PATRIOTIC AIMS. OUR PURPOSE IS TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, TO PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING OF VETERANS, THEIR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND ORPHANS, AND TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN SELECTED CHARITABLE ENDEAVORS, WHICH INCLUDE AMONG OTHERS, PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE CHILD WELFARE AND NURSES TRAINING.

MEMBERSHIP IS BY INVITATION, AND OPEN ONLY TO HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS AND HONORABLY SERVING MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED

DATE TO REMEMBER: SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 2025!

Grand Wreck / Promenade - Heilbronn, Germany

