

**End of Year 2005**

## KWVA Recruiting Committee Report

2005 was a great turn-around year for the KWVA. More Total New members were added to the rolls this year compared to the Total New members last year. Many of these new members are veterans who served in Korea after 1954. If it weren't for these veterans joining the KWVA last year, we would have had a net loss in our growth rate in 2005.

December 2005 was the biggest December month of recruiting for entirely new members since 2000, and the month of August 2005 was the biggest August month for total new KWVA members going back to 1997. Very few VSOs (Veterans' Service Organizations) can make a claim to any increase in first time new members for the year 2005. In fact, most VSOs are losing members, and posts and chapters are closing.

For an organization that almost exclusively targeted veterans who served during the war years of 1950-53 for most of our existence to experience an increase in new members is incredible. A lot of the veterans who served during those years are passing away and many are in their late seventies. The KWVA is increasingly assured of being an organization that will exist for several decades with the addition of these veterans who served in Korea after the armistice was signed. We need to let these veterans know that we are their organization, and that we welcome them.

The KWVA optional decals ordered by the President in response to member suggestions offered at the Reno, Nevada Executive Council in March 2005 have been advertised on the KWVA website and in *The Graybeards*. The first ad in *The Graybeards* was in the Sep-Oct 2005 issue. So far, \$2100 has been paid back to the Treasurer, and \$900 was en route as this report was being prepared. We appreciate the services of Tom D. Sunseri, Department of Florida Quartermaster, for running the decal sales as a no-cost courtesy to the national organization.

We have had a very successful year, but we urge more and more chapters to recruit. Our chapters are asked to put posters up in VA hospitals, Legion halls, and VFW halls. We also suggest that all chapter officers need to become more fully informed about the Korea Defense Service Medal, so they can better inform the younger veterans of Korea service of their eligibility to join the KWVA.

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In 2005 we sent over 700 copies of *The Graybeards* to Korea to be placed in dayrooms. In December, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, was added in the distribution, and in January, 2006, Fort Detrick, MD, was added. We appreciate the support of Finisterre Publishing in making these hundreds of additional issues available at no cost.

Recruiting tools—KWVA posters, flyers, website, *The Graybeards*, decals, and patches—are becoming more widely available at various government posts and agencies throughout the country, and our website is the best in the country. Potential new members are out there—4.5 million who have served since 1955, in addition to the 1.5 from the wartime era. We need to get out there and enlist them!

You can use veterans associations' rosters and websites to locate some of these potential new members and send them applications. All veterans-related websites are rich sources to locate potential new members.

We plan to exceed the 2005 totals in 2006—and in every year into the future. For 2006 we have set a goal of at least 100 new members per month. So far, we are ahead of that goal: we have added 135 new members since the year began. We plan to have a wide variety of recruiting materials available to the members at the National Convention in San Antonio.

Finally, we are seeking the ways and means to establish a field office or chapter in the Republic of Korea for recruiting new members, and to inform troops rotating back to the homeland of the KWVA's organization in the United States.

Let's make 2006 a bigger year than 2005: every day, every member a Recruiter!

*KWVA Recruiting Chairman,  
Jeff Brodeur*

## Prayer Under Fire

Prayer was not always easy in Korea. Chaplain (Capt.) Frank Griep, of Shawano, WI, had to pause several times on May 6, 1951, as nearby artillery positions carried out fire missions while he conducted worship services.

Chaplain Griep, 7th Cav. Regt, 1st Cav. Div., was conducting services near Uljongbu when this photo was taken. He can be reached at 3505 Coolheights Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275.



**Chaplain Griep conducts worship services**