

I want to wish all members of Gimlet Nation a Happy Fourth of July. Fly your American flags with pride, take in a local parade to honor the day. Celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776, saluting the Red, White and Blue in true Gimlet fashion. Honor the day, but above all have a safe and sane Monday, July 4, 2016.

The end of month Gimlet news is sad. I've received another late obituary notice. Paul A. Stephens, Jr., 65 years old passed away, leaving another vacancy on the Executive Council. He was an officer who served with the 2-21 Infantry Battalion Gimlet at Fort Stewart, GA, March 1976 to July 1977 as well as an Army JAG Officer who later served in Somalia. Paul's passing opens yet another spot on the Executive Council that must be filled with immediacy.

There are currently four vacant seats on the Executive Council due to death or illness. Within coming weeks these vacancies must be filled expeditiously. There are also both elected and appointed positions that need to be filled because of death or illness. I have been interviewing people to fill positions and as the list firms up I will pass it onto to the Executive Council for confirmation.

I met with Rafal "Ski" Stachowski, the 1-21 IN S-2 during the Gimlet deployment to Iraq 2007 – 2009, in Las Vegas Sunday, 26 June 2016. I discovered we shared many commonalities in Army life which helped establish a good Gimlet rapport before we got into the meat of the meeting.

I quickly discovered since Ski left the Army he opened an ice cream shop in Hawaii: <https://thehawaiianpole.wordpress.com/>

When in Hawaii stop and say hi and enjoy an ice cream. Ski appeared excited about plans to rebuild Gimlet Nation and pledged his leadership skills towards accomplishing goals laid out in the agenda I brought to the table Sunday. Ski told me that he is the administrator for Gimlet 1-21 OIF 07-09 "BORE BROTHER BORE" FaceBook sites with over 500 Gimlet subscribers. I am hopeful his Gimlet excitement continues to build about the rebirth of Gimlet Nation.

In my opinion, younger Gimlets might be the answer to Gimlet Nation's future. There is a dire need for younger Gimlets to fill vacant positions, because WW II, Korea and Vietnam Gimlets are getting long in the tooth. Gimlet Nation belongs to all of us, but, again, in my opinion, newer Gimlets need to take the initiative to guide the association into the future.

Gimlets I have spoken with feel that the 1-21 Infantry Battalion Gimlet assigned to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, must be the Flagship location for Gimlet Nation because Gimlet roots, heritage and traditions are in Hawaii, I concur. The President and officers of the association can administer and lead the association from any location in

America. I want to make sure all Gimlets know that Schofield Barracks is home to the Regimental Association—Gimlet Nation.

I cannot accomplish rebuilding the association by myself. I need a full team effort to pull off this operation. I pledge an All The Way, Lead The Way, Bore Brother Bore leadership approach for the rest of the fiscal year to see that goals come to fruition.

As we all work towards accomplishment remember the Gimlet Nation Motto—
DUTY!

Bore Brother Bore!

R. Mitch Mitchell, President Pro Tem
Gimlet Association 21st Infantry