



Volume 2, Issue 8

December 2021



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From the Commander



As hard as it is to believe the holiday season is once again upon us. I want to extend my thanks to all of our Veterans, their Families, and all Expats here in Thailand and around the world. I find myself struggling to describe 2021. It was no doubt an unusual year for all of us. But somehow, we persevered. Our Veterans and Expats performed so many selfless acts during the year. Whether it was the food drives, the volunteers working on behalf of the community, or the assistance rendered on behalf of those in need, it really was a historical year. We all will have a different take on the events of 2021, but for me I truly saw the best in individuals. As an organization a lot of our service is behind the scenes and not visible to all. The impact is nevertheless as important. We will continue our service to those who truly need it. For all of this I am forever grateful to all of you.

The upcoming Holidays for some can be difficult. The isolation of being in a foreign country and not with all of our family can be a stressful time. Please take the time to be aware of this. Reach out to others and check on their status. Buddy checks are especially important during the Holidays. Never under-estimate how a single gesture on your part may be all the difference to another.

I do want to wish you the very best during the Holidays and oddly I am looking forward to the challenges to come as I know I have the support all of you.

Finally, I want to announce my appointment of Scott Thomas South as the 2nd Vice Commander. This position has been vacant for far to long. I look forward to working with Thomas moving forward. I believe he will be a valuable asset to all of us at TH02.

**William Martin Ahlberg
Commander, TH02**



From the First Vice Commander



I want to begin by thanking all of you who came out and participated in a very successful celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. I also want to extend my thanks to those of you who recently came out to the monthly meeting. It was encouraging to see the number of participants slowly start to increase. As we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, we are seeing some improvements.



During this time of year, we all have tendency to look back and evaluate our own personal situations. We may dwell on the negatives and overlook the positives. As the Commander has stated 2021 was a historical year. We will let the negatives go and learn from them and hopefully concentrate on the positives. I want to thank all the members of TH02 who have made a difficult year a little better. The organization may be small but there is no denying the impact it has on others is huge. We will continue to grow and make our presence felt. That is the power of individuals who truly care for one another. "Veterans helping Veterans"

I also am thankful to be a part of this. I am looking forward to the challenges that may come our way. I know that I have the support of the family, friends, TH02, and individuals I have not met yet.

I want to wish all of you the very best for the upcoming holidays, the new year and what ever may come our way.



I would also like to welcome Thomas to his position as the 2nd Vice Commander.

Thank You,
Howard Gundy

From the Second Vice Commander



Dear Fellow Veterans, my name is Scott (Thomas) South and I'm originally from Kansas City, Kansas. I served in the US Army and Army Reserves from 1982 through 1988. I'm a father of four daughters and grandfather of 11 grandchildren. I moved to Thailand in 2015, and I've lived here ever since, and normally vacation home to the United States every summer. As we all know, the world changed in early 2020, and I have not been able to freely fly home since the summer of 2019. I'm married to a great Thai lady and we will celebrate our 6th anniversary on 12/15/21. During my 7 years in Thailand I have been very active in different capacities. I taught English second language for Thailand public high school for 2 years in 2016 & 2017. I then went on to teach English for the Royal Thai Army Academy in Nakhon Nayok for 2 years, 2018 & 2019. My wife and I had vacationed to Ban Chang Rayong several times over the years. When I decided to stop teaching English in Thailand we moved to Phala, Ban Chang where we have now lived for two years. My wife and I invested in a post pandemic start-up business in the summer of 2020. We opened a bar & grill in Phala September 2020. We later added an American breakfast restaurant on December 25th 2020. Unfortunately because of the pandemic, our bar and grill has been shut since mid April this year due to the prohibition of dine in alcohol sales. Our breakfast restaurant has become very popular and we have a good customer base established. However, without the ability to operate the nightclub it is a struggle to stay open solely as a restaurant. I've always enjoyed being a part of my community and volunteering my time. I'm looking forward to being a line officer in the American Legion post. I know there are many veterans in our area that would benefit from the association of a veterans group. I'm committed to serving our fellow veterans and welcoming them to the TH02 post. I feel it is imperative during these difficult times, for us all to do our part in making veterans and their families realize that they are not alone. I humbly accept this appointment as 2nd Vice Commander, and look forward to serving my fellow veterans. Hoorah!

From the Service Officer



The same situation has affected our Service Officer. The Service Officer position is an appointed position and does not require a vote. This is a critical position in the Post. Veterans are going to look first to the local post in their community for assistance with their benefits rather than search out the Legion's national or department headquarters. Having a fully informed post service officer to direct them to the best resources to address their concerns is an essential component of most active posts. The post service officer (PSO) may serve as the initial contact between The American Legion and the veteran, providing basic information and assistance, including referrals to the department service officer (DSO). The PSO doesn't need to be an expert in veterans' law or benefits. What is important is for the PSO to have a strong desire to serve veterans. It is important for the PSO to establish a working relationship with DSO and local accredited veteran service representatives. Knowing how to acquire needed documentation prior to meeting with an accredited veteran service representative can help a veteran or veteran's family expedite a benefits claim. If you are interested in this opportunity please let it be known.



From the Finance Officer/Adjutant

I find myself with the difficult task of following the comments by the Commander and Vice Commander. However, I have the advantage of just echoing their comments and quoting them. I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of the members of TH01 and TH02 of the American Legion. In addition to the American Legion a shout out to all the VFW posts located throughout Thailand. We are very fortunate to have so many active organizations with a common goal of helping our Veterans. And help they did. Somehow, we were able to overcome the difficulties that 2021 presented us and that is a reflection of the true spirit of giving back. We may wear a different cap when we attend our meetings but that is where the difference ends. I have witnessed the power of our Veterans working together in times of need. Whether it was a member in distress or providing meals to those in need. I have seen the difference a few can make to the many.

As 2021 fades into the background we will face 2022 with the same if not more enthusiasm that we all have. We will slowly see Thailand and the world recover from the turmoil and disruptions brought on by the pandemic.

We continue in our 2022 membership renewal drive. To date we have been able to get 88% of our existing 2021 members to renew for the new membership year. We should have reached the goal of 100% total recruitment and renewal for the 2022 membership year. The strength of any Post is so dependent on its members. So I encourage you to take the time and please complete the renewal process for the 2022 membership year. If anyone is experiencing difficulties with the renewal process please let me know. I will work with each of you to overcome any problems and get you renewed for the new membership year.

I too want to welcome Thomas to the position of 2nd Vice Commander. I know all of the members of TH02 welcome you and look forward to your participation in your new role.

Michael J Chitwood
Adjutant, TH02





THE AMERICAN LEGION



TH02 Membership Renewal

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Register a MyLegion Account



Register a myLegion account at [myLegion.org](https://mylegion.org). Begin with the Register button at the top right of the page. During registration, open your email. A one time password will be sent to your email during this process.

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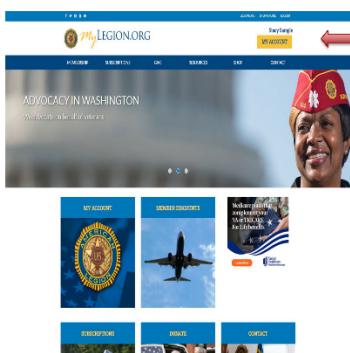
After selecting MY ACCOUNT the renew now button will be available

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Legion members eligible for renewal are provided a quick link to renew. Through this renewal process you can also set up auto renewal with a saved credit card. Setting up auto renew authorizes the subscriptions CC to be charged prior to the start of the membership term each year.

Options for Renewal

1. Renewal dues paid in cash of 1500 Baht to any TH02 Officer
2. Do It Yourself using the MyLegion Portal
3. Transfer dues to TH02 Bank account - Notify Finance Officer



After you log in the home page will open. Select MY ACCOUNT to start the process

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Members without a MyLegion account have the option of transferring the dues to the Post US or Thai bank account

US Bank Information	Thai Bank Information
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

The 2022 membership dues are \$50 US or 1500 Thai Baht. If you transfer your dues please notify the Finance Officer at michael.j.chitwood@gmail.com. Once the Finance Officer confirms your transfer the membership dues will be sent to renew your membership for the 2022 membership year.

Commander	William Ahlberg	williamahlberg@pattayapostth02.org	08-7142-7791
1st Vice Commander	Howard Gundy	howardgundy@pattayapostth02.org	08-0560-9053
2nd Vice Commander	Scott "Thomas" South	thomassouth@pattayapostth02.org	09-3012-8878
Adjutant	Mike Chitwood	michaelchitwood@pattayapostth02.org	08-5390-9437

Our page is located at- <https://americanlegionpost02.wixsite.com/home>

Any and all suggestion are welcome. Please provide suggestions to: michael.j.chitwood@gmail.com and I will forward these to our webmaster Shane Bentley. Take a look at the page and comment.



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JOINT UNITED STATES MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP, THAILAND
7 SATHORN TAI ROAD
BANGKOK, THAILAND 10120

15 Nov 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CHIEF OF STAFF, JUSMAGTHAI

SUBJECT: APO Service for Eligible Retirees and Surviving Family Members

1. PURPOSE. This letter is to announce the limited trial of APO mailboxes for eligible Retired United States military and surviving family members residing in Thailand. This is a trial attempt to provide APO service to the retired community, however due to initial limited capacity APO boxes will be distributed on a space available basis.
2. APO SERVICE AVAILABILITY. For this initial trial the APO has 170 mailboxes available to be issued using a LOTTERY system. Once all available boxes are allocated, a waitlist will be established. Only one box will be issued per member to include dependents.
 - a. Requirements for Service: To be eligible for APO service, members must be Retired U.S. Military or family members of deceased retired military member(s), provide proof of local residency, and a valid Thai visa. Proof of local residency can include, but not limited to, lease agreements or property agreements. Individuals must provide phone and email contact information; this is also required for individuals who would like to be on the waitlist.
 - b. APO office must be notified immediately if any information changes.
3. APO SERVICE REGISTRATION. To ensure fairness and equity in allocation of available boxes, selection of recipients will be completed through a lottery. All registered individuals will be notified NLT 15 January 2022 regarding results by email address provided during registration. The first 170 selectees will have 15 days from date of notification to register in person at the JUSMAG APO. The remaining registrants will be waitlisted based on order in which their names were pulled during the lottery. The waitlist will start with number #1 until the last number.
 - a. To register for the lottery, eligible members who meet the Requirement for Service (para 2.a) can submit their request starting on 1 December 2021-0001 through close of business 31 December 2021. Request needs to be submitted to jusmagthaiapo@jusmagthai.org. No request received prior to 1 December or after 31 December will be included in the lottery.

- b. When submitting the request to be added to the lottery the following information must be included:
1. Name/grade
 2. Sponsor name (same if you are the sponsor)
 3. Address in Thailand
 4. Phone number in Thailand
 5. Email address
 6. Copy of Retiree ID card or Dependent ID card
- c. A confirmation email will be sent to confirm receipt of request within 5 working days. Only one request per member or family will be accepted. Eligible members shall only submit one request for themselves and their eligible family members. Additional requests from eligible family members whose sponsor have already submitted a request will be null and void. If a confirmation email is not received, please contact JUSMGTHAI Joint Support for further inquiry.
4. APO CONSIDERATION. The establishment of the APO is intended to support JUSMAGTHAI mission activities within Thailand. Service to the retiree community is a privilege and should be understood as such. Privileges are limited to mail weighing up to 16 ounces. The 16 ounces restriction applies to incoming and outgoing mail.
- a. APO hours of operation will be 10:30 – 1600 hours, Monday – Friday (Except holidays)
5. After a sufficient period, result of this trial will be used to assess the feasibility of expanding eligible retiree beneficiary APO service.
6. All questions and concerns should be addressed to JUSMAGTHAI Joint Support office at jusmagthai@state.gov.



JOHN M. WAITE
Chief of Staff
JUSMAG, THAILAND