

Clifford Smith

1. **What Year were you National Commander? 2001-2002**
2. **How old were you? 48**
3. **How many visits were you able to make? 33**
4. **Did you have a favorite visit? Why? Where? There were many but I did have the fortune to be the first National Commander to visit the Detachment of France which was actually in Kaiserslauten Germany.**
5. **Throughout your year how many days were you away from home? 141**
6. **What was the highlight of your year? I feel just meeting and talking to our members and seeing all the great projects and programs that each Squadron takes part in. However, I was the first Commander to have the S.A.L. National Color Guard not only win the Clyde Stillwell Award but also took home the Red Gideon in winning The American Legion Open Military Color Guard competition. A feat that has never been duplicated. Also the new “Blue Brigade New Membership Recruiter Award” was established and 53 members qualified for the award.**
7. **Would you run for National Commander again? I believe this is a onetime honor that is bestowed to you but being a mentor to a member who maybe a future National Commander is one of our real goals. I have been involved with three Past Commanders after my term and I am very grateful for this involvement.**
8. **What would you say to a Blue Capper that wants to someday be a National Commander? I made this statement to the first National Commander who visited Massachusetts when I was a relatively new member. It is wonderful to set high goals for yourself but you must first be the best member that you can possibly be personally and your dedication and commitment to our organization will be awarded by your own actions.**
9. **What was your main project for the year? My Commander’s Project was for The Salvation Army Veterans Centers in memory of my mother who passed away when I was a candidate for National Commander. We raised \$18,000.0 for the project and the funds were distributed to 10 Veteran’s Centers run by The Salvation Army across the country.**
10. **What was your motto and or theme? “Focus on The Future” This could have been no better suited for the year because two weeks after being elected the 09/11 attaches occurred.**
11. **As of 2014-2015 how many years have you been a member? 26 years**
12. **Why did you join the S.A.L? To honor my Grandfather from WWI my Father from WW11 and my Brother from Viet Nam.**
13. **What was your membership goal? Was it achieved? My final membership totals for 2002 were 266,126. Every Region was over 104% for the year and we had a net increase over the prior year of 18,947 members. This is the highest increase in membership for any National Commander.**

14. What was your CWF Goal? Was it achieved? The final total was \$268,193.5 for the year.

15. Are you still active in the S.A.L.? I continue to serve my Detachment as Adjutant and Membership Chairman. I am also my Squadron Adjutant and have been teaching the National Commanders and Adjutants Seminar for the past 11 years. I am currently also the PNC Liaison for the Children & Youth Committee.

