



Special Edition

7 July 2015

## From Our Commander



### **SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE**

Headquarters 4<sup>th</sup> Military District

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4<sup>th</sup> Military District Order #1

Series 2015

Brothers,

As you may or may not have already received the information, I have been appointed Commanding Officer of the 4<sup>th</sup> Military District of the SVR, effective 1 June 2015. My experience is, until moving to Southwest Missouri from Valparaiso Indiana in March of 2014 I served several years as Commander of the 3rd Military District and I have been on the SUVCW Military Affairs Committee since 1997 broken only from 1999 to 2001 while I served as Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief and Commander-in-Chief. I am a Vietnam combat infantry Marine and have nothing to prove to myself or anyone else. I accept criticism when presented in a gentlemanly manner and obey orders of those legally elected or appointed over me. Chest pounding is abhorrent to me but you need to know where I am coming from so please accept my apology if I came across as such.

I want you all to know that I will respect each and every one of you as gentleman, no matter what rank you hold in the SVR. Yes, this is supposed to be a Para-Military organization. There is a chain of command and should be followed. However, we are all volunteers, without pay or subsidy, many too old to be in the real military. Our mission is to assist the National Organization of the SUVCW in its mission and purpose.

SVR Units may assist camps and departments, as well as on their own, present programs that inform the public about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the sacrifices of the BOYS IN BLUE 1861 to 1865 to preserve the Union. In compliance with the C&R, no SVR unit is under the command of the camp or department they are in. Also, in compliance with the C&R, camp guard or department guard units are not part of the SVR. They are under the command of their respective camp or department.

The SVR Regulations on uniforms is to be followed. In addition, each SVR unit is expected to have its own rules on uniforms including when a member is expected to have their uniform. Personal hygiene and a clean uniform is a matter of personal pride in what you are attempting to accomplish. If you are a hard core reenactor (mudsill) and find it necessary to keep your only uniform filthy, and have to urinate on your buttons, then perhaps the SVR is not for you.

The other major issue is the matter of IRS filling. Each SVR unit is an entity that must have an EIN and must file annual tax statements. This is not voluntary. It is IRS law. It is not difficult. The easiest way of filing is the 990N which I am not aware of any SVR unit anywhere that has to do more, if they have been legal.

I hope to see you all at future events and look forward to meeting you. If you would be so kind as to invite me to events you are involved in please do so. I will respond and try to visit with as many as possible. If you have any questions, comments, criticisms or remarks please follow your chain of command in communications.

I remain,

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Edward J. Krieser, Major  
Commanding