



BADGER LEGIONNAIRE



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Official Publications of The Wisconsin American Legion Family

THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN IS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.

Commander Batty meets with Guard Leaders, Reaffirms Legion Support

Dating back to our inception in 1919, The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin has always taken an active role in support of the National Guard. In fact, many of those responsible for the founding of the Department entered military service in World War I through the Wisconsin National Guard (WI NG).

Commander Batty met with Brigadier General Donald Dunbar, The Adjutant General of the WI National Guard along with WI Guard Deputy Commanders Brigadier General Mark Anderson, US Army, and Brigadier General John E. McCoy, US Air Force. Accompanying Commander Batty to the meeting at Joint Forces Commander on December 4th were Department Vice Commander Denise Rohan, Department Service Officer James Fialkowski and Department Adjutant David A. Kurtz.

The meeting was requested by Commander Batty in order to brief Guard leadership first hand on the importance of keeping The American Legion connected to the WI NG. The Department needs to keep the WI NG informed about all the programs that have been created for them, many of which are grossly underutilized.

The summit focused on a variety of issues related to support activity including an update the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Guard and The American



Commander Batty with General Dunbar at WI National Guard Joint Forces Command. General Dunbar will speak at the Mid-Winter Conference.

Legion originally executed in January 2008. Legion leadership provided an update on the Department Troop & Family Support program and other details about how The American Legion is working on behalf of veterans in our state.

Department Service Officer James Fialkowski outlined activities at Camp American Legion and the Service Office located at the VA Regional headquarters in Milwaukee. He stressed the importance of informing National Guard soldiers and airmen that the benefits and claims services offered by The American Legion are free of charge and can greatly ease burdens on younger service members recently returned from deployments. The latest combat stress and PTSD peer-support

activities at Camp were also highlighted. In briefing General Dunbar and his staff, the Department wishes to ensure that all active Guard members and veterans are aware of these vital programs that can be of immediate and direct benefit to them.

It continues to be a priority for the Department to foster closer relationships at the unit level by identifying a representative from local posts that could support individual Armories as needed. Deployed units could have a rear support team in place with a stronger connection than is currently available through the Department level. Legionnaires who are interested in active participation are encouraged to contact Steve Dykes at (608) 745-1090 or steve@wilegion.org.

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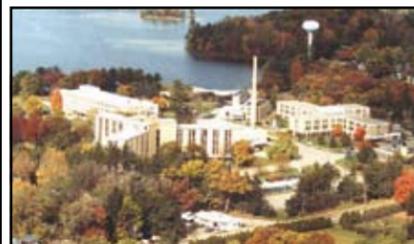


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