

# THE WESTERN DISPATCH

*The Official Newsletter of the 6th Military District*



Volume 17 No. 1

Winter 2021

## NEW SVR UNIT FORMED IN CALIFORNIA

*By Maj. Wayne L. Eder*

As promised to the commanding general of the SVR I am bringing on a new unit in the 6th Military District.  
Welcome to the men of

### Company H - 3rd U.S. Artillery, SVR



*Soldier stationed at a mounted Rodman Gun at Fort Alcatraz during the Civil War.*

This will be an artillery battery based in the San Francisco area at Alcatraz and Fort Point, both locations which are former Civil War era forts with actual Civil War era artillery. The brothers of the new unit currently do living history with these heavy guns. The new unit has eight members and Brother Robert Mayer will serve as company commander with the rank of 1st Sergeant.

We are also pursuing one additional new unit.



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

*Headquarters Kingman, Arizona  
January 2021*

Greetings Brothers!

It is with a great sense of humble honor that I announce my appointment by Major General Robert Grimm, Commander of the Sons of Veterans Reserve to Major commanding the 6th Military District, SVR. The promotion was effective October 1, 2020. As discussed previously, I will do my utmost to honor and lead our organization.



Regarding 6th MD Staff assignments, I have made the following appointments:

**Maj. Wayne Eder**

**Mark Stevens** will retain his position as Adjutant at the rank of Captain.

**Gary Dickey** will continue to serve as Chaplain at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

**Randy Fletcher** will continue to serve as Public Information Officer at the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

**Owen Stiles** is appointed as Inspector General at the rank of Captain.

I have one vacancy left to fill: My former position as Chief of Staff is vacant. This position serves as liaison for the District and handles other duties as assigned by the District Commander. The Chief of Staff carries the rank of Captain. This position would require someone who has a strong background in both the SUVCW and SVR and would assist with various camp meetings, unit commander contacts, etc. If you have a current SVR Officer or NCO that you would like to nominate to fill one of these positions, please let me know ASAP.

I appreciate the support each of you has given me this year and I look forward to continuing in the up-standing tradition set by the previous Commanders and members of the 6th. I wish you a safe week.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dr. Wayne L. Eder  
Major, Commanding  
6th Military District SVR

## *THE SVR UNIT COMMANDER'S ROLE*

By Major Wayne Eder

If you are an SVR Unit Commander, you are expected to keep YOUR unit in the loop and keep ALL of our SVR members informed. All too often, I receive communications from members who are not sure if they are in a unit, if their unit is active, or what they should be doing as an SVR member. This is the Unit Commander's responsibility. I would personally appreciate it if you distributed each and every Western Dispatch Newsletter, SVR General Orders or any other communication from the 6th Military District Staff. As we do not operate in a vacuum, please send any info on your units activities, along with pictures to the 6th Military District Staff for inclusion in the Western Dispatch. Some units are out there beating the drum for the "boys in blue", while some are not. As the military and ceremonial branch of the SUVCW, we are often the first public contact between our organization and the public. Do you make yourself available to the public at events while wearing the uniform, or do you hold back. If the public is present, interact with them. Educate them! I recall an event where the public thought I was a Confederate and they literally attacked me for wearing the uniform. After explaining the difference in uniforms, I was able to educate them on what we do and what we stand for. Please keep our ancestors' memories alive in a positive manner, and please keep your unit members informed and out representing those that gave so much to preserve the Union. Please start making plans for Memorial Day 2021!



## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK



The 6th Military District has our own Facebook page but we need you to feed it pictures and stories. Post your unit and pictures and events to

<https://www.facebook.com/6thMD/>

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN'S TENT

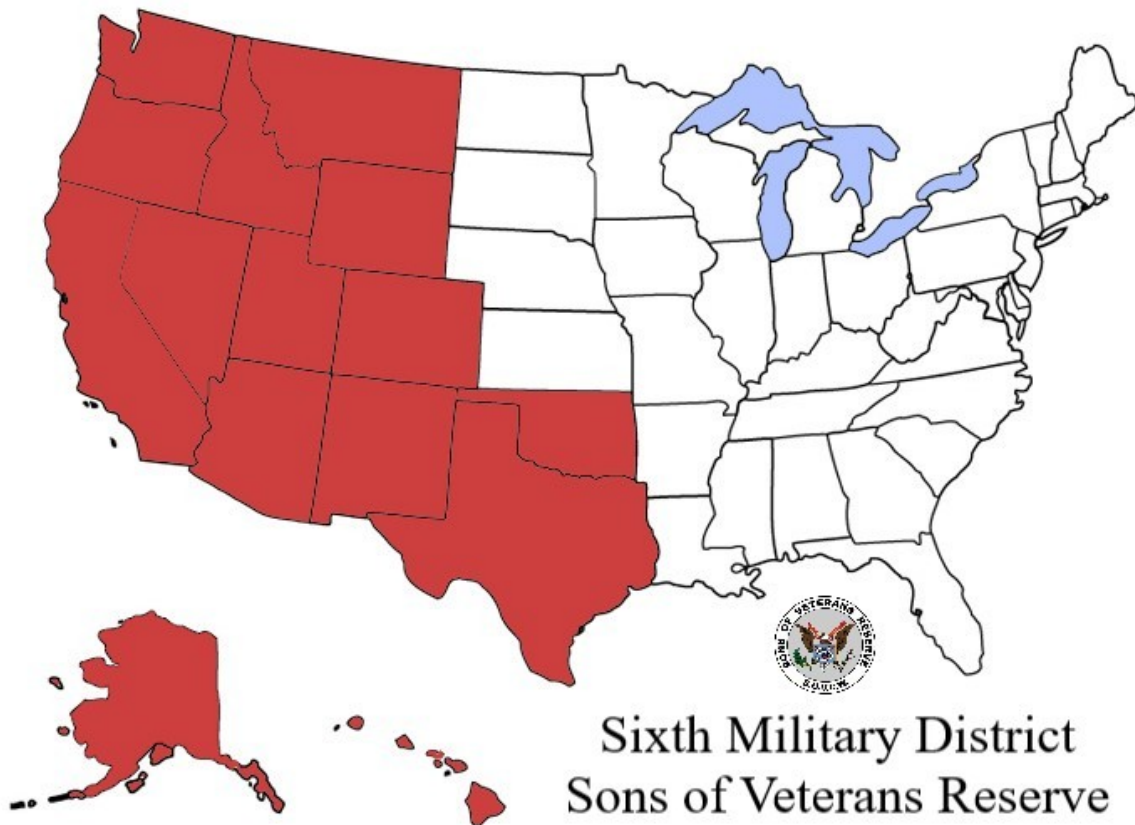
We have certainly faced a difficult past year with the pandemic and politicians, and people have been divided on both issues. I don't need to describe the conflicts but it made me think of the division in our country during the Civil War which those of us in this Society derive our membership. People were likewise divided and the nation also faced illness caused by war and want. What brought them together again to preserve a more perfect union? I believe it was a return to being able to forgive, work together, and to remember what the foundation for our great country was as well as could be.



As we enter this New Year there is much for us to accomplish as a nation. A large part of this is to remember our past and our ancestors who fought and died to preserve it. May we be in prayer for our nation both during this pandemic and for so many affected by it as well as to pray for recon-

ciliation and a new hope for our all of our futures. This is my prayer. I hope it may be your prayer as well: "May God bless America."

~ Chaplain Gary Alan Dickey, Ph.D.





## PROPER WEAR OF SVR MEMBERSHIP BADGES

*By Col. Steve Michaels, Inspector General, SVR*

In addition to cap and collar insignia, all SVR members are entitled to and should wear the SVR badge on their uniform, when participating in dedication ceremonies, parades, and at living history booths...even when these events are not under the auspices of our Order.

The caveat is that the SVR badge needs to be worn on the left breast of the uniform with and immediately to the right of either a Membership badge OR current Commander's Badge OR past Commander's Badge.

Miniature medals are not worn with regular size medals and are intended for wear with formal civilian attire.

While there is no limit to the number of badges that may be worn on the SVR uniform, good taste and standards of uniformity should prevail. Less is more; most have chosen to wear no more than three medals.

Wearing multiple rows of medals often works against the image of Lincoln's men that we wish to portray.

Nonetheless, when two or more rows of three or four medals are worn, only the top row of medals should be fully exposed. A second row is placed underneath the row above it, so that only the drops are exposed below the drops of the medals above them."

During the National SVR events I visit each year, I see uniformed brothers wearing collections of old souvenir badges, miniature badges, various size badges, or service badges with no "Badge of the Order" worn. This irregular and improper appearance hurts our credibility, especially when the SVR participates in activities with other patriotic and public service groups. Please take time to review badge wear in Chapter V, Article 6 of the SUVCW Constitution & Regulations. A few highlights:

*Miniature badge wear is reserved for dinner suits, jackets or tails. Wearing miniature badges on a Civil War uniform is incongruous.*

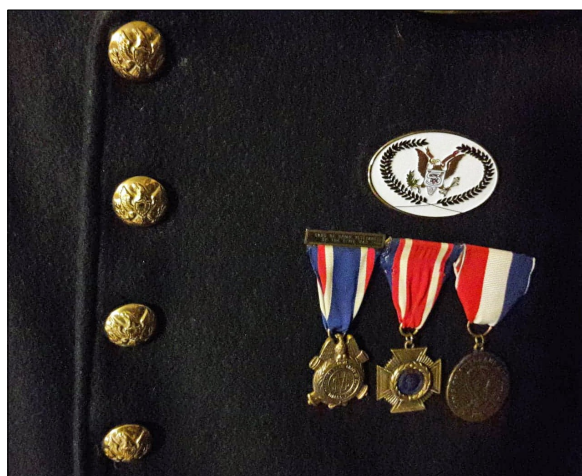
*Only the current year's National OR Dept. Encampment souvenir badge may be worn and only then with a "Badge of the Order."*

*War, Military Service, SVR, Souvenir, or Commemorative badges are not stand-alone. They must be worn with a "Badge of the Order."*

*GAR badges may only be worn if the brother is actively involved in a first person portrayal of a GAR man while the badge is being worn.*

### Example of SUVCW & SVR Proper Badge Position on Uniform

This photo is of the uniform of Color Sergeant Mark Hagedorn, Co. B, 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, SVR and shows the correct placement of SUVCW and SVR badges.



Worn on Left Breast of Uniform

The Badge of the Order come first, to the left of uniform buttons. Only the Badge of the Order is "Stand Alone" all others badges must be worn in conjunction with a Badge of the Order.

If awarded either the Military Service Medal or War Service Medal will be worn next. Only one of the two may be worn and neither is required. Shown here is the War Service Medal.

The medal on the right is the SVR Membership Badge. If no Military or War medal is worn then the SVR Membership Badge would be next to the SUVCW Membership badge.

The white enameled badge above the medals is the SVR Unit Citation Medallion. If it has been awarded it is worn on the uniform only, centered over other badges.

Sgt. Hagedorn shares his exact badge placements on his uniform frock coat: Align the top of medals with the bottom of second button from the top. For three medals I do three inches from center of button to edge of first medal. The Unit Citation is centered above the row badges whether you wear two, three, or four badges. You do not need to be as precise as Br. Mark, just use this photo as an example.

*Capt. Mark Stevens also contributed to this article.*