

187th RAKKASAN ASSOCIATION, INC.
BYLAWS



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National Rakkasan Association

BYLAWS

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National Rakkasan Association
BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

HEADQUARTERS AND OFFICERS

- A. The principal office of the Association shall be the address designated by the Board of Directors of the Association. The Secretary shall have custody of the seal of the Association and maintain the official files of the Association. Other Board members may maintain files appropriate to their areas of responsibility. Authenticated duplicates should be in the possession of the Secretary or Treasurer. Directors of the Association are authorized to dispatch and receive correspondence in the name of the Association.

ARTICLE II

RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. Executive Directors

1. The President shall be the Chairman of the Board and possess full executive authority and shall:
 - a. Preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and at all meetings of the membership in its entirety or as ex officio member of all committees thereof.
 - b. Appoint all committees of the Board.
 - c. Designate the primary areas of responsibility of the Directors of the Board.
 - d. Appoint, or cause to be selected by the Board of Directors, replacements for any Board member who dies, resigns, or is removed. A majority of the Board must concur, in any event, on the replacement. Tenure of the replacement shall be that of the member replaced.
 - e. Appoint representatives, functionaries, and special officials (such as the Reserve

Representative Chaplain, Shimbun Editor, Quartermaster, Reunion Chairman, Historian, Parliamentarian, Counsel, Audit Committee, Assistant(s) et cetera) as required, to administer the Association, subject to approval by the majority of the Board. In the event the Board of Directors elects to appoint assistant(s) and Executive Secretary, their responsibility and job descriptions will be defined for such activity.

- f. Function as the Chief Executive Officer of the Association.
2. The Vice President shall assume the duties and authority of the President as required in his absence, or in the event of his death, incapacitation, resignation, or removal. In his own right, he shall:
 - a. Be responsible for programs and protocol.
 - b. Identify and recommend to the Board of Directors proposed guest speakers for reunions.
 - c. Perform such other duties as the President directs.
 3. The Secretary is the principal administrative officer of the Association and has executive authority appropriate to his function. He is the repository of the official seal of the Association and the official files. In addition, he shall:
 - a. Responsible for administration and membership.
 - b. Develop and maintain official membership rosters.
 - c. Prepare charters and maintain data on Chapters after issuance of charters.
 - d. Act as presiding officer at all meetings in the absence of the President and Vice President.
 - e. Keep the official minutes of all Board of Directors and membership meetings.
 - f. Perform other duties as the President directs.

4. The Treasurer is the principal fiscal officer of the Association. He possesses executive authority commensurate with his responsibilities as Treasurer. In addition, he shall:
 - a. Be responsible for budget and funding. May form and chair a finance committee to review budget, funding and investing for review by the Board of Directors. This committee shall be composed of the Treasurer, and one or two other individual members with commensurate skills knowledge and experience in financial matters of the association.
 - b. Prepare, and issue all checks levied against the Association's accounts and receive and deposit all credits of the Association.
 - c. Recommend to the Board of Directors any change in Association fiscal policy which he deems necessary.
 - d. Prepare and publish required periodic reports to the Board of Directors and membership on the status of the Associations various funds.
 - e. Establish, in conjunction with the Chapter sponsoring a reunion, complete and adequate accountability for all monies dedicated to, earned or owed, or generated by reunion activities.
 - f. Establish and maintain all accounts (major and minor).
 - g. Perform other duties as The President directs.

B. Directors:

1. The Directors shall be assigned specific areas over which each shall exercise monitorship and a limited degree of executive authority necessary to make day to day decisions in their respective area of monitorship required for efficient management, such as assisting in maintaining membership rosters and mailing lists.
2. Directors shall also perform such other duties as the President may direct.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP

A. Membership in the Association shall be defined in Appendix I, Classes of Membership

1. Loss of Membership

a. Active membership in the Association shall and/or may be terminated for any of the reasons following:

- i. Failure to pay dues in accordance with the procedures as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Association.
- ii. Receipt of written resignation by any member of the Board of Directors .
- iii. Receipt by the Board of Directors that a member has acted, in a manner to bring discredit upon the Association (except that the Board of Directors shall be obliged to notify such individual of its contemplated action and allow adequate time for presentation of rebuttal).
- iv. Irrefutable proof received by the Board of Directors that the member has acquired such status through fraud or falsification of membership qualification documentation.
- v. Any member may have membership terminated as a result of action by the membership, providing no less than two-thirds (2/3's) of the regular active members so vote following presentation to the membership of the pros and cons of such action by the advocates of the Association and the member concerned.

b. Membership numbers of terminated members may be reused.

2. Reinstatement of Membership

- a. A member, whose name has been dropped from the rolls or has been placed on an inactive status, may be reinstated to the class of membership previously held (or other as determined by the Board of Directors) upon approval of no less than two-thirds (2/3's) of the Board of Directors, or a majority (50% + 1) of the regular active membership, provided that as a condition to reinstatement such former member may be required to pay membership dues and/or assessments levied during the period the member was dropped from the rolls or in an inactive status. An exception to the foregoing condition may be granted by the Board of Directors in its discretion.

3. Death of Member

- a. The Secretary of the Association shall, upon notification of death of a member:
- b. Publish notification in the next Association Newsletter and/or announce at the next general membership meeting (whichever occurs sooner).
- c. Issue to the surviving spouse of any Regular Member an appropriate Reserve Membership card valid for the remaining tenure of the deceased spouse membership period unless the surviving spouse has previously acquired a Reserve Membership of longer tenure.
- d. Retain on the rolls of the Association the names of all deceased members (of any class of membership) and identify as deceased by appropriate symbol. Deceased numbers will not be reused

4. Membership Rosters

The Secretary of the Association shall periodically publish (but no more than once during any membership year) a roster of the Association membership in alphabetical order. If a member acquires any form of life membership status subsequent to issuance of original membership number, the membership card and roster listing will reflect the original number

5. Approval of Membership

Membership application may be submitted direct to the Secretary of the Association with appropriate dues using methods acceptable at that time to the Secretary and the BOD. A presumption of eligibility for the class of membership for which applying shall be assumed without review unless just cause to the contrary is presented to the Secretary of the Association. The Board of Directors always reserves the right of inquiry.

Any Member wishing to hold a Board position must have his eligibility as a member of the regiment verified.

ARTICLE IV FINANCE AND FISCAL

- A. The fiscal year of the Association shall be January 1 to December 31st to coincide with the Association's tax filings.
- B. The annual membership dues rates, if changed by a vote of the membership, shall take effect on the first day of the new membership year following announcement of the change. (See Appendix III)
- C. Annual dues for active members shall be due and paid by January 31st . The new membership year shall begin January 1st . Members who are in arrears more than 90 days after notice by the Secretary of the Association, shall be denied all rights and privileges of active membership and shall be dropped from the rolls of the Association, unless such member has requested dispensation due to economic hardship.
- D. The Treasurer shall provide:
 - 1. Upon request, abbreviated financial statement to each member of the Executive Committee by the tenth (10th) of the following month of the request, except for the month of annual reunion.

2. To the editor of the Association Newsletter, The Shimbun, for publication therein, an abbreviated current financial statement.
3. An annual complete financial statement to each member of the Board of Directors within seventy-five (75) days following the close of the fiscal year generally in conjunction with the tax filing of the association. This report will also be provided to the editor of the Shimbun for publication in the next issue following dissemination of the report.
4. Such other special financial reports as may be necessary or as requested by the Board of Directors, such as financial data for the Audit Committee.

E. The Treasurer and the Finance Committee shall establish:

1. Funds as provided for in the Constitution.
2. Savings and checking account into which all receipts will be promptly deposited.
3. Savings account which shall be used to provide and maintain a reserve for the Association to meet contingencies and to hold funds programmed for pre-reunion advances.
4. Procedures to reimburse Directors for funds expended on supplies, mail and phone calls essential for conduct of their official duties.
5. Procedures for the authentication of all checks drawn against Association accounts for funds, or any transfer of assets from one account or fund to another. in the absence or incapacitation of either or both, the other remaining signatories shall authenticate.
6. Procedures to provide reimbursement to members of the Board, when authorized by the Board in accord with the Constitution, for other authorized expenses. Adequate receipts are mandatory.

ARTICLE V
CHAPTERS

A. The Board of Directors may authorize issuance, upon application of regular members in good standing on a probationary basis for one (1) year), of a Charter authenticating the formation and existence of a Chapter of the Association.

1. Applications for charter must include:

a. Names of all Regular Members and all other associate, Affiliate, Honorary, Hereditary, Reserve and Active-Duty Members who have joined to form the Chapter, They shall be listed as charter members of the Chapter.

b. Proposed name of the Chapter. In the event of conflict of names, the Board of Directors shall resolve the issue.

2. Names of Directors of the Chapter and their titles. Ideally, the minimum number of officers should be:

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

3. Charters will be issued only in the name of the Chapter.

4. Chapter Charters may be rescinded for cause by the Board of Directors. The Board must give no less than sixty (60) days notice of rescission, with explanation, to the Officers of the Chapter. The board shall consider, in formal session, any rebuttal to include personal appearance of a Chapter designated advocate or ombudsman.

5. Chapters shall be bound by the National Association's Constitution and Bylaws, and changes thereto as they occur.
6. Provide membership lists containing directors and members names to the Secretary thirty days (30) following Chapter elections of Directors .
7. Not engage in activities or conduct that violate the letter, spirit, or intent of the Constitution, Bylaws, and mores of the Association or in any way disgrace the Rakkasans.
8. Submit at a minimum an annual financial report to the Treasurer of the National Association. Any funds leftover upon dissolution of a Chapter are property of the Association and must be remitted to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI
COMMITTEES

A. The following committees of the Association may be established by the President:

1. Executive Committee

- a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, who shall be its Chairman, the Vice President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer. The committee shall have executive authority collectively as granted by the Board of Directors, the Constitution and Bylaws, to administer the Association and conduct its affairs, including expenditure of funds in accord with the Association's operating needs, ensure accomplishment of the Association objectives, and carry out the desires of the Board and the general membership.
- b. Whenever the Executive Committee, or a member thereof, has reason to doubt that there exists implicit authority to act, the Board of Directors shall be polled for explicit authority. A majority of the Board shall prevail, except in matters of expenditure of funds or interpretation of the Constitution or Bylaws, where a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall be required for any action.

2. Other examples of committees:

Program Committee

Finance Committee

Membership and Chapter Committee

Reunion Committee

Site Select Committee

- B. The President shall be authorized to appoint other standing or Ad Hoc Committees as deemed necessary to effectively conduct the affairs of the Association. At the time of such appointment, he shall outline the purpose, responsibility, period of operation and authority of the committee.

ARTICLE VII

MEETINGS

- A. The President, or in absence, the Vice President shall preside over all meetings of the membership, meetings of the Chapter representatives, meetings of unit representatives or state representatives when scheduled by the Association, and meetings of the Board of Directors.
- B. Should both the President and the Vice President be unable to preside at a scheduled meeting, the Secretary of the Association shall preside. In his absence, the members of the Board of Directors present shall select one (1) of their members to act as President Pro Tem, and he shall preside.
- C. Except as provided in the Constitution, no meeting at which there is less than a majority (50%+1) of active members can consider issues which properly required that the total membership be informed and afforded an opportunity to vote in a manner prescribed by the Board.
- D. The executive Directors shall prepare a draft agenda thirty (30) days prior to each meeting

followed by a final agenda for each meeting membership and for other meetings scheduled by them. The Secretary shall ensure that each member attending a scheduled meeting is provided an agenda, and a copy of any issues on which he is expected to vote during the meeting, except that chapters presenting proposals to sponsor a reunion need not provide written copies of their proposal to each member.

E. Order of business at all meetings, modified as appropriate, shall be:

1. Call to order
2. Presentation of Colors and/or Salute to Colors if posted
3. Invocation
4. Read, or by unanimous consent dispense with, Minutes of last meeting
5. Officers Reports
6. Committee Reports
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Installation of Officer and Non-Officer Directors by Honorary Colonel of the Regiment
10. Benediction
11. Adjournment

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS

A. These Bylaws may be amended under the same rule prescribed for amendments to the Constitution.

APPENDIX I
CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

A. The classes of membership are as follows:

1. REGULAR MEMBER

- a. Any individual who served honorably as an assigned member (or is presently serving in a successor unit) of the Rakkasans, and those individuals who served as members of any unit while such units were attached to the Rakkasans, and any individual assigned to any U.S. unit while such unit was assigned or attached to the Rakkasans , is eligible for Regular Members status
- b. A regular member shall enjoy full rights and privileges of membership to include the resistibility of right to vote on all issues and matters presented to the membership and in the elections of Directors of the Association
- c. A Regular Member shall become and maintain such through payment of annual dues as designated by the Board of Directors o unless such membership is terminated by action of the member, the Constitution, the general membership or Board of Directors.
- d. Any Regular member may serve as a Director of the Association.
- e. Regular Members may become:
 - i. Charter Founding Regular Life Member if they served as a member of the 187th ARCT during time of Korean war and have paid a one-time life Membership fee designated by the Board.
 - ii. Charter Life Member if they served as a member of the Rakkasans during time of armed conflict and have paid a one-time life Membership fee designated by the Board.

- iii. Regular Life Member if they pay a one-time Life Membership fee designated by the Board..

2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER

- a. Any individual who served honorably in the military and is in support of the Rakkasans.
- b. Associate Members shall enjoy all the rights and privilege of membership except that they may not vote on issues and matters dealing with the Constitution and Bylaws or on the election of members of the Board of Directors.
- c. Associate Members shall become and remain such upon payment of annual dues designated by the Board
- d. No Associate Member may serve on the Board of Directors.

3. AFFILIATE MEMBER

- a. Any civilian who was in support of the Rakkasans Affiliate Members shall not be authorized any voting privileges in the Association and may not serve as a member of the Board of Directors or as a representative thereto.
- b. Affiliate Members shall become and remain such upon payment of annual dues of designated by the Board.
- c. Affiliate Members may become an Affiliate Life Member if they pay a one-time life membership fee of designated by the Board.

4. HEREDITARY MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a. A family member of a qualified member may be entitled to this class of membership.
- b. Hereditary Membership shall be one (1) generation up and open generations down. Hereditary members annual dues shall be designated by the Board.

- c. Hereditary Members shall not be authorized any voting privileges in the Association and may not serve as a member of the Board of Directors or as a representative thereto.
- d. Hereditary Life Membership is available with a one-time life membership fee of designated by the Board.
- e. Charter Founding Hereditary Life Membership is granted to the parent or child of anyone qualified to be a Charter Founding Life member and with a one-time life fee of designated by the Board.

5. HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a. Honorary Membership status may be bestowed upon any individual not otherwise eligible for any class of membership that the Association desires to recognize with such distinction.
- b. Honorary Members may be recommended for such status, in writing, by any member of the Association. Upon receipt of such recommendation, the Secretary of the Association shall inform the Board of Directors and request consent as appropriate. A vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Board of Director is required to approve Honorary Membership status.
- c. Honorary Membership is to be restricted to clearly deserving individuals.
- d. Honorary Members shall have no voting rights, may not serve on the Board of Directors, and may not participate in floor discussions of matters raised during general membership meetings. They shall, however, be recognized during the ceremonial functions of all general membership meetings, if present, and shall be accorded honors by Association members.
- e. Honorary Members are such for life and are not to be subject to dues, fees, or assessments.

6. RESERVE MEMBER

- a. Individuals (e.g., spouses of living or deceased members) who otherwise might belong to an auxiliary of the Association may be granted this form of membership upon application. Specifically:
 - i. Spouses whose deceased spouse was eligible for membership, but who had never joined or had allowed membership to lapse, may upon application become Reserve Members.
- b. Membership dues for Reserve Membership shall be at a rate designated by the Board.
- c. Reserve Member shall enjoy all rights and privilege of membership. Reserve Members are authorized to vote for the Reserve Representative to the Board of Directors
- d. Reserve Life Member by payment of a one-time life membership fee of designated by the Board. or by assuming such status upon the death of their spouse, who held such status.

APPENDIX II

A BRIEF HISTORY

The 187th Infantry Regiment was constituted on 12 November 1942 at Camp Mackall, North Carolina. On 25 February 1943 the Regiment was activated, designated a glider regiment, and assigned to the 11th Airborne Division. A two battalion Regiment, the 187th prepared for combat with its men trained both as glider and parachute troopers.

In May 1944, the Regiment deployed with the Division to the southwest Pacific, debarking at Oro Bay, Lae, New Guinea. With the invasion of the Philippines, the Regiment landed at Leyte and participated in bitter fighting to include repulsing the only Japanese airborne operation against U. S Forces in WWII and the bloody battle for Purple Heart Hill in the mountains of Leyte.

In January 1945, the 187th landed with the Division at Nasugbu Bay on Luzon to block Japanese forces and to advance to Manila from the south. From January to April, the 187th was in constant action from Nicholas Field and Fort McKinley in Manila to Mount Macleod and Mount Malepunyo.

In May, the Regiment moved into Lipa to refit, rebuild and prepare for the invasion of Japan. At this time, the 3rd Battalion was formed, and the Regiment was designated a para-glider regiment. When the war ended, the 187th was selected to spearhead the occupation of Japan and gained the distinction of being the first foreign ground troops to enter Japan.

While serving as occupation forces, the 187th received the title “Rakkasan” (falling down umbrella) from the Japanese. In April 1949, the Rakkasans returned to the United States with the Division and settled into Camp Campbell, Kentucky. In early 1950, the Rakkasans participated in Operation Swarmer, the largest peacetime airborne maneuver in history. The performance of the Regiment during this exercise was instrumental in the selection of the 187th to form an Airborne Regimental Combat Team to fight in Korea.

With the outbreak of the Korean War, the unit was redesignated the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. The Rakkasans landed at Inchon in September 1950, assisting in the liberation of

Kimpo airfield, Seoul, and the Kimpo peninsula. In October, the Rakkasans made the most successful combat jump in history at Sukchon-Sunchon to cut off retreating North Korean forces less than 100 miles from Manchuria. Battles at Hoensong and Wonju were followed in March 1951 by 3,500-man Munsan-ni combat jump cutting off and destroying large number of enemy forces above the 38th parallel followed by the battles at bloody Inje. Joji-do established another reputation for the Rakkasans as they quelled riots at the South Korean Island prison camps. Order to Japan, the paratroopers were quartered at Camp Chickamunga, Camp Wood and Camp Kashii. As the Far East mobile reserve, the Regiment deployed to Korea again to quell POW riots in 1952 and to hold against heavy Chinese attacks in 1953.

With the adoption of the battle group concept in 1957, the Regiment was designated as the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Airborne Battle Group, 187th Infantry. These battle groups served proudly in various units and locations to include the 101st Airborne Division, the 11th Airborne Division in Germany, as a peace keeping force in Lebanon in 1958 and with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

In February 1963, the unit was re-designated the 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry and assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division at Fort Benning, Georgia, to test the concept of air assault tactics. A year later, following successful evaluation of the concept, the Rakkasans were once again assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.

The Rakkasans returned to war in 1967 when the 3rd Battalion deployed to Vietnam with the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The 3rd Battalion engaged in countless helicopter air assaults and search and destroy mission in Vietnam. For operating alone in many areas, Chu Chi, the Ho Bo Woods, the A Shau Valley, Cam Ranh Bay and Khe Sanh, the 3rd was known as the “Nomad Battalion.” In battles from Trang Bang to Dong Ap Bia Mountains, sometimes referred to as the Battle of Hamburger Hill, the Rakkasans added nine decorations and twelve battle streamers to the Regiment’s colors to add to the three won in WWII and the six earned in Korea. The colors came home with two Valorous Units awards and a fourth and fifth Presidential Unit Citation, earned in the battles of Trang Bang and Dong Ap Bia Mountain. The Rakkasans returned to Fort Campbell with the 101st in 1971 and for the next nineteen years contributed to the development

of air assault tactics.

In September 1987, following a revitalization of the Army's regimental system, the three active-duty battalions of the Regiment were consolidated at Fort Campbell in the 3rd Brigade.

In September 1990, the Rakkasans deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield. In February 1991, 1st Battalion air assaulted into Objective Weber and captured more than 400 Iraqi soldiers. However, it was on Feb. 25, 1991, the 48th anniversary of the regiment, that the Rakkasans conducted the largest and deepest air assault operation of its time, as it struck 155 miles behind enemy lines into the Euphrates River valley. This action led to the timely defeat of Iraqi forces and helped ensure a total allied victory.

In 2001, as part of the ongoing war on terrorism, the Rakkasans were deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They conducted operations against the Taliban forces and were instrumental in liberating the nation from Muslim extremists. The 187th took part in numerous missions in Afghanistan to include fighting in the Shah-I-Kot mountain region of eastern Afghanistan, known as Operation Anaconda. In 2003, only months after their return, the Soldiers of the 187th Infantry were sent back to Southwest Asia to defeat Saddam Hussein and free the Iraqi people from his dictatorial form of government.

Throughout Operation Iraqi Freedom I, the Rakkasans conducted several air assaults as well as ground attack convoys. They secured numerous forward area-refueling points in central Iraq, and they participated in the liberation of Saddam Hussein International Airport. In the post-war phases, the Rakkasans conducted operations against guerrilla forces along the Syrian border in the Tikrit triangle region of Iraq.

In early 2004, the brigade returned to Fort Campbell for little more than a year. During that time, it was reorganized under Army transformation and became the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. The newly independent 3rd BCT also prepared for another deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, departing for Iraq in September 2005 as part of Task Force Band of Brothers. During the second deployment to Iraq, the 3rd BCT took part in Operation Swarmer, one of the largest combat operations in Iraq to date.

The Rakkasans returned to Fort Campbell in September 2006, only to deploy to Iraq in September 2007, this time for 14 months. When the Rakkasans arrived in Mahmudiyah Qada in late October, the operational environment required a heavy focus on security. But drastic security gains soon became evident, with attacks down by 90 percent. In June 2008, four months prior to the unit's scheduled redeployment, plans were announced to transition the battle space to the control of the Iraqi Army instead of being replaced by other U.S. forces. During their third deployment to Iraq, the Rakkasans focused largely on capacity-building projects that would improve the quality of life for the people of Iraq, create sustainable employment and revitalize the economy.

The 3rd Brigade Combat Team (187th Infantry Regiment) is the only airborne regiment in the history of the U.S. Army to fight in every war since the inception of airborne tactics. From glider to parachute to helicopters, the Rakkasans have entered combat in each mode of airborne warfare and has pioneered its implementation. Throughout history. The Rakkasans have upheld the motto "Ne Desit Virtus--Let Valor Not Fail" and they continue to do so today.