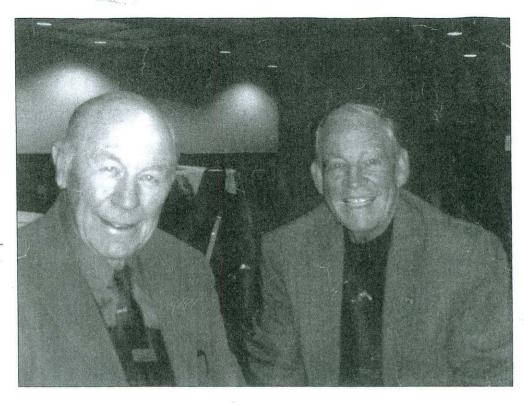
MACNEIL NEILS IN THE NEWS

Royce McNeill Honored by Safari Club International

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Royce Neil McNeill, our longtime former president of Clan Macneil, recently traveled to Reno, Nevada for a Safari Club Big Game Hunters Convention. During the time he was there, he was awarded the Safari Club Medal of Valor. General Chuck Yeager also received the same medal at the same time as McNeill. Yeager is known as "The fastest man alive," "The guy with the right stuff," "Mr. Supersonic," and "A true American." Yeager was a well-known fighter ace in WWII with his famous P-51.



McNeill says, "It was a great honor to sit at the same table with General Chuck Yeager."

The award reads, in part: "Royce N. McNeill, U.S. Navy, rallied to his country's call, ready to sacrifice life or limb in defense of freedom during World War II; and whereas he endured years of pain, loss and hardship, persevering until the conflict ended; the Safari Club International, along with its officers, members, and affiliates, does award him the World War II War Medal of Valor, expressing our profound and undying gratitude."



NATO troops get new leader, Gen. Dan McNeill

By Jason Straziuso, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan
— Gen. Dan McNeill,
the highest-ranking U.S.
general to lead troops in
Afghanistan, took command of 35,500 NATO-led
soldiers on Sunday [Feb. 4,
2007], putting an American face on the interna-

tional mission after nine months of British command.

McNeill, the former commander of the 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., replaced Gen. David Richards.

The transition comes after a year of sharply increased violence following the alliance's push into the Taliban's southern heartland.

The appointment of McNeill, one of only 11 four-star generals in the Army, raises the profile of the U.S. mission in Afghanistan two weeks after the Defense Department extended the tour of 3,200 10th Mountain Division soldiers.

There are now 26,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, the highest number ever. About 14,000 American military personnel fall under the command of NATO's International Security Assistance Force. The 12,000 troops focused on training Afghan forces and special operations fall under the U.S.-led coalition.

By comparison, there were only about 9,500 U.S. service members in Afghanistan in 2002, the year after the Taliban's ouster.

Col. Tom Collins, an ISAF spokesman, said McNei sarrival and the increased troop levels underscored the American commitment.