



Always Ready
Always There

The Gem State Guardian

The official newsletter of the
Idaho National Guard

ISSUE #27
APRIL 5
2014

Idaho veteran receives long-overdue awards

By Col. Tim Marsano

On Friday, 28 March 2014, Brig. Gen. John Goodale and key Army Guard staff members traveled to the Post Falls Armory to present a Vietnam – era veteran of the U.S. Army with some long-overdue awards for his military service.

Mr. Leon J. Strigotte, Jr. of Coeur d'Alene enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1967 and served two tours in the Republic of Vietnam from 1968-1969.

While there, he was involved in many combat actions and sustained significant injuries. As a result of those injuries, he was awarded three Purple Heart Medals: One during the Tet Offensive in Northern part of S. Vietnam, March 1968; One in Central Highlands, Bong Song area, August 1969; One again in Central Highlands, Bong Song area, December 1969.

After a 44-year delay resulting from a clerical oversight, on March 28, Mr. Strigotte was awarded a number of other significant military medals to include the Bronze Star Medal;



Brig. Gen. John Goodale congratulates Mr. Strigotte after presenting him with long-overdue awards for his service in Vietnam. Photo by Col. Tim Marsano

the Air Medal; the Army Commendation Medal; a number of additional medals, badges and citations which were not originally listed on his separation papers.



Guardian Online Staff

Maj. Gen. Gary Saylor
Commanding General

Col. Tim Marsano
Editor

Lt. Col. Gary Daniel
and

Maj. Chris Borders
Assistant Editors