



Volume 2

"A Soldier's Footsteps"

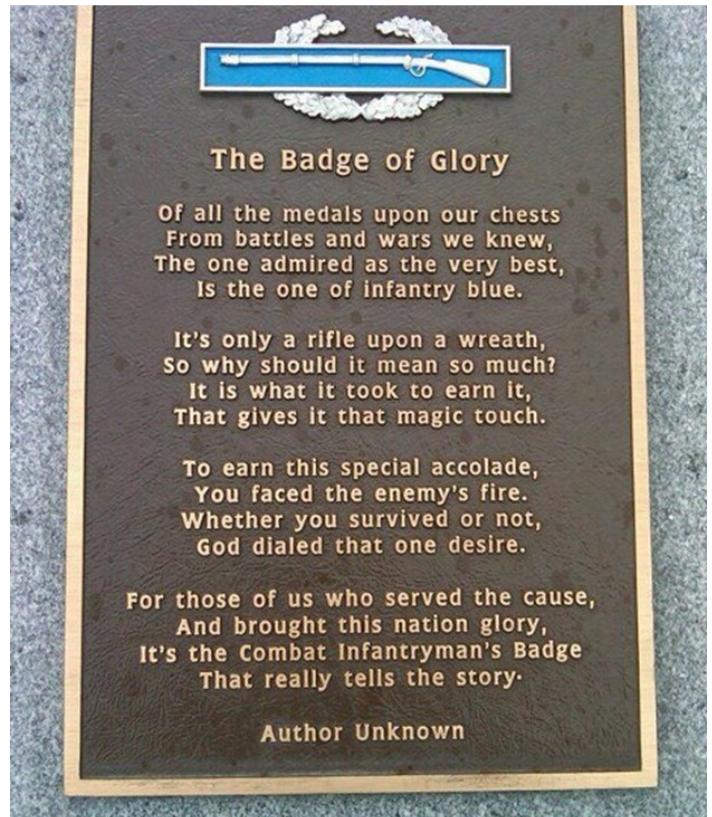
November 2012

Commander's Corner: Hope you all enjoyed Halloween with the kids, grandkids, etc. November is a month for giving thanks and remembering veterans. I pray that all of us will demonstrate in whatever chosen way to honor the nation's veterans living and deceased. Those who swore with their lives – and those who paid the ultimate price, as well – share a bond few others understand. Now it's time for Thanksgiving and I'd just like to impart a few things I am very thankful to have been blessed with. First and foremost is my family; who have stuck by me through thick and thin and always been there to support me; especially my great wife, Sam. Sam's a trooper! Secondly, is the camaraderie I have had the good fortune to share with all of my 2/1 fellow veterans and the various other friends I have accumulated over the years. Initially, I wasn't too thankful I was going to be sent to Vietnam but, in retrospect, it was probably the greatest year of my life. I learned more about people in general and myself than I could have ever imagined and became inseparably attached to my fellow soldiers in B 2/1. The guys I met will be forever in my heart and thoughts; especially, our comrades who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country and fellow soldiers. I am grateful to have met several men from other companies through various events and the 2/1 Chapter and really enjoy their friendship. I am also thankful to live in such a great country with so many fantastic opportunities for all Americans. By the way, I hope you will all perform one of the greatest privileges afforded to all citizens and take time to vote. There is a lot at stake in this year's Presidential Election and the next 4 years will undoubtedly have an immense effect on the future path of our nation. We have 5 new members I'd like to welcome to our chapter; Pete Cullen (E), Dave Blanton (B), Carl Fryman (C), Lee Klein (B), and Allen W. Smith (B). I may have missed a couple of new members because I don't have an updated roster at hand but, if I missed anyone, please forgive me, and I'll make it up in the next issue. **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Chuck

Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!

Combating Illness: Good News Gerry (BO) Borysiak's surgery was successful. He is recovering nicely in the comfort of his quarters. Francis (Si) Nerone missed the ADVA reunion due to back surgery. He is also recovering nicely at his Virginia home. Hope to see you both at our 2013 annual reunion in Nashville. Gary Carder's condition continues to baffle the doctors. He has been hospitalized off and on for several months. Please take a few moments to ask the resourceful upstairs Commander to watch over our fellow comrade to ensure their continued recover and to guide the doctor's care as they convalesce from their illness and/or ailments. If you are aware of anyone in our Chapter needing our encouragement and cheer as they go through times like these, please let the Commander or Editor know so we can get the word out to our members.



New Arlington App: Arlington National Cemetery released an application that enables family members and the public to find gravesites and explore Arlington's rich history. ANC Explorer allows users to use a smart phone or common web browser to locate gravesites, events or other points of interest throughout the cemetery; generate front-and-back photos of a headstone or monument; and receive directions to these locations. The free app is now available on Arlington's website, the iTunes store, and Google Play, and is loaded on new kiosks in Arlington National Cemetery's Visitors Center. For additional information and the link to the ANC Explorer app, go to <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Map/ANCEXplorer.aspx>.

Editors Notes: Newsletters are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter ADVA Website. If you missed an issue or would like to look at one from the past look on the Website. The Web address is identified in the heading of the N/L. If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them to the following addresses; Email: rheroux1@nc.rr.com or gcarder@columbus.rr.com. Snail mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.



Impact of Sequestration: It is very important that all VFW members and supporters are aware of what sequestration is, its impact, and how you can help by addressing the VFW's concerns with your elected leaders at every opportunity. Current budget realities are forcing very hard choices in Congress and in agencies and departments across the executive branch, but also recognize that balancing the budget on the backs of disabled veterans, those in uniform, their families and military retirees is not a solution and could potentially jeopardize the continued success and viability of the all-volunteer force. After the election, VFW will contact every member of Congress and tell them to put their petty issues aside and do what's right for the country. The VFW is very concerned how sequestration will impact DOD. The Pentagon agreed to cut its discretionary budget by \$487 billion over 10 years, but the total amount due is \$1.2 trillion, and some in Congress want DOD to absorb the entire amount. Defense is 20 percent of the federal budget, but it amounts to half of all discretionary spending (the other half includes NASA, Homeland Security, etc.). Absorbing a \$1.2 trillion cut would be a game changer that would not only eliminate Quality of Life programs for military personnel and their families, it could potentially jeopardize our military's ability to respond when and where needed. VFW's focus last year was on the "10 for 10" Plan, which are 10 DOD and VA programs and services that we continue to believe are in jeopardy of increased fees or being eliminated or curtailed to help pay for 10 years of war. Sequestration keeps all 10 on the radarscope. They are:

- Change the 20-year military retirement plan to resemble civilian plans.
- Increase healthcare premiums for military families and retirees on TRICARE.
- Increase pharmaceutical fees for military families and retirees.
- Reduce cost-of-living allowance increases.
- End government subsidies to military commissaries.
- Eliminate DOD elementary schools stateside.
- Eliminate DOD tuition reimbursement programs for service members.
- Eliminate presumptive service-connected conditions for disabled and ill veterans.
- Lock out or increase fees for VA Priority Group 7 and 8 veterans.
- And freeze military pay like federal civilian pay, which will now see a third consecutive year without a raise.

Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue!

TAPS: Almost 20 times a day at Arlington National Cemetery, a military ritual occurs that is both familiar and moving. An escort of honor comes to attention and presents arms. A firing party conducts a salute of three volleys. After the briefest of moments, a bugle call sounds. The flag held by members of the honor guard is then folded into a triangle reminiscent of a cocked hat from the American Revolution, and presented to the veteran's next of kin as an expression of gratitude from a grateful nation.

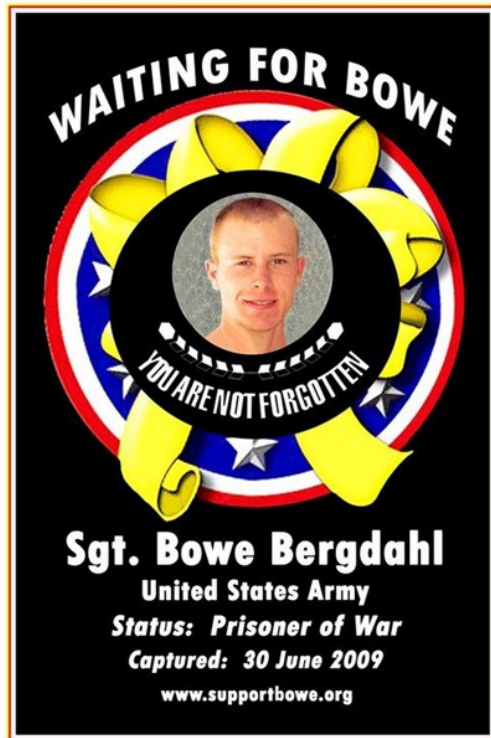
"TAPS" is a call. It may be the most precious piece of music in America, every day in every corner of the country. It is unique to the military. Taps is played at funerals, layings and services. Its haunting melody consists of three notes, and is recognized by the first three. With 4 different tones and lasting less than a minute, Taps has the power to evoke emotion from the most battle-hardened warrior. The military's only bugle call played slowly throughout, it has the dual purpose of signaling the day's end and serving as musical honors to servicemembers who have died. Taps has been open to interpretation and arrangement, from solo renditions to echoed versions to accompanied arrangements and various musical settings, and has had many lyrics set to its melody. Its name comes from the three distinct drum taps also used to signal "Lights out." It is performed by polished military professionals, school bands students and volunteers alike at veterans' funerals. Like the "Star Spangled Banner," Taps was born during a war, but its origin has been clouded by competing accounts. Until the Civil War the Infantry bugle call for "lights out" was to Extinguish Lights. Like most Infantry calls, Lights was copied note for note from French military manuals. In July 1862, General Daniel Butterfield, changed the evening signal music because he felt Lights was too formal to signal day's end.



Government Employees going to work during Hurricane SANDY

Congress Takes Steps to Improve Stolen Valor Act: Veterans should be pleased with Congress these days. Those who deliberately lie about military service, wear medals they did not earn or make claims of combat heroism they did not achieve are more than just liars. They are perpetrators of the worst kind of fraud. Their lies are an insult to all who have truly stood in harm's way and earned their decorations. This issue has been brought to Congress and the House of Representatives have acted. A new Stolen Valor Act was approved by the House of Representatives on September 13, 2012 by a 410-3 vote. The revised legislation replaced the law struck down in June by the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that the former Stolen Valor Act was unconstitutional because it violated the First Amendment right to free speech. The revision narrows the scope of the Act, by focusing on fraud and profiteering from lies of military achievement.

Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.



Congress Clears CR: The Senate worked overtime to clear a six-month continuing resolution. The measure, cleared by the House earlier this month, extends funding through March 27, 2013, with a 0.6 percent increase for most programs and agencies. With the beginning of the fiscal year looming (October 1) and all 11 appropriations bills still awaiting passage, the must-pass funding bill was the last item on the agenda for those congressional members hoping to get back to the campaign trail. The President is expected to sign the bill soon.

\$50K Reward for Man Accused of Plot to Kill GIs: US authorities offered a \$50,000 reward for a American of Syrian descent with alleged Al-Qaeda ties, who is accused of plotting to kill US military personnel overseas. Officials have been searching for Ahmad Abousamra, 31, since November 2009, when a federal warrant was issued for his arrest. He has been indicted on nine charges, including providing material support to terrorists, conspiracy to kill in a foreign country and conspiring to provide material support to Al-Qaeda. "Conspiring to use force or violence to achieve a political or social goal violates our cherished ideal of peaceful dissent," said FBI Special Agent Richard DesLauriers. "Our goal is to find and arrest Abousamra so he can be tried by a jury of his peers," DesLauriers said in a statement. Abousamra, who was born in France, has dual citizenship in the United States and Syria. The FBI said he is a former resident of Mansfield, Massachusetts, who left the United States in 2006, and may be living in Aleppo, Syria with his wife and extended family. Abousamra was first indicted in 2009, after taking multiple trips to Pakistan and Yemen, where he allegedly attempted to obtain military training for the purpose of killing American soldiers overseas. He also traveled to Iraq with the hope of joining forces fighting against the United States there, the US statement said. In 2011 Abousamra's co-conspirator, Tarek Mehanna, was convicted by a federal jury on four terrorism charges and three charges related to providing false information to the government.

VA Leads Nation in Breast Cancer Screening Rates: The Department of Veterans Affairs leads the Nation in breast cancer screening rates and has outperformed non-VA health care systems in breast cancer screenings for more than 15 years, with 87 percent of eligible women receiving mammograms in the VA health care system in fiscal year 2010. In comparison, in 2010, the private sector screened 71 percent of eligible women, Medicare screened 69 percent and Medicaid screened 51 percent, according to Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set, a tool used by more than 90 percent of U.S. health plans to measure performance on important dimensions of care and service. Since 2000, the number of female Veterans using VA health care has more than doubled, from nearly 160,000 to more than 337,000 in fiscal year 2011. As the number of women Veterans increases rapidly, VA not only focuses on improving access to breast screenings and coordination of care, but also trains providers in the latest breast exam techniques. VA provides mammograms for all Veterans, with 45 facilities providing services on-site utilizing digital mammography. Some facilities offer mammograms to walk-in patients and same-day ultrasounds. VA also offers mobile mammography in some areas of the country. This mammogram technology-on-wheels allows women Veterans in rural areas to get screening mammograms and have their mammograms read by a VA breast radiologist, without traveling far from home. All this improves access for more than 337,000 women VA health care users. In many cases, VA is using technology to bridge the distance between providers at facilities in its 21 regions throughout the nation. VA uses simulation technology to train VA providers in the latest breast exam techniques. VA is also developing a breast cancer clinical case registry to track when a provider orders a mammogram, the results of the test, and the follow-up care provided. The system will improve care coordination and help VA track and study breast care outcomes throughout VA. It is expected to be available in 2013.

National Guard Responds to Hurricane Sandy: As more governors declared states of emergency in advance of Hurricane Sandy, the National Guard stood ready to respond to the aftermath of the storm. Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia were among jurisdictions declaring a state of emergency in advance of Hurricane Sandy. The National Guard Coordination Center was reporting 369 Guard members already activated in Delaware, North Carolina and Virginia. The National Guard Bureau is monitoring the situation closely and coordinating with state, federal and local partners to ensure a coordinated and efficient response, Guard officials said. The National Guard -- the nation's first military responder -- supports the Federal Emergency Management Agency response and that of U.S. Northern Command, among other agencies. More than 61,100 National Guard members are available to assist civilian authorities in potentially affected states in support of relief efforts. In addition to the hurricane National Guard members were supporting the Department of Homeland Security in the four Southwest border states, conducting Counter-drug operations.

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you. - *Winston Churchill*

THINGS YOU LIKE TO FORGET!**Relaxing on the Bunker Line**

Army Continuing 'Sacred Duty' to Wounded Warriors: The Warrior Transition Command has cared for some 45,000 wounded, ill and injured Soldiers and has transitioned 51 percent of them back to the force. The Army's commitment to its wounded warriors will continue beyond the draw-downs in Afghanistan. If anything the Army has increased its commitment to ensure that Soldiers are either able to return to duty or able to find gainful, meaningful civilian employment. "Each Soldier develops (a comprehensive transition plan) for himself or herself with the support of an interdisciplinary team and, of course, their families, who are very much invited to participate. This [comprehensive transition plan] is the Soldier's road map to his or her desired future. The Army's Civilian Human Resource Agency is helping maintain a resume database for wounded warriors, and to help Soldiers achieve their goals, WTC has partnered with agencies across the federal government to help wounded veterans find jobs. The National Chamber of Commerce is even helping out: WTC is working on a pilot program with them to engage local chambers of commerce to assist in finding employment for returning service members. Most WTUs are also located near a Soldier and Family Assistance Center, which offers information, referral services and education and career counseling, financial counseling and services, Army Emergency Relief referrals, human resources and military benefits. The centers also usually offer childcare so spouses can easily accompany their Soldiers to medical appointments. And because marriages and relationships are often drastically changed after a serious injury a marriage enrichment will help families cope.

**"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN."**

Three MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to three servicemen who had been missing since post-World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. They are:

* Army Air Forces Tech. Sgt. William S. Cassell, of Mt. Airy, N.C. On Nov. 1, 1946, Cassell and seven other crew members were aboard a B-17G Flying Fortress that went missing after departing Naples, Italy. Search and rescue attempts proved unsuccessful and the remains of the crewmen were declared non-recoverable.

* Army Cpl. Joseph W. Fontenot, 20, of Maurepas, La. In February 1951, Fontenot was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division when he was captured by enemy forces near Saemal, South Korea. He reportedly died in June 1951 in a North Korean POW Camp.

* Air Force Airman 1st Class Jerry M. Wall, 24, of Jacksonville, Texas. On May 18, 1966, Wall and four other crew members were aboard a C-123B Provider that crashed while carrying out a nighttime flare-drop mission over Binh Dinh, South Vietnam. Heavy enemy presence in the area prevented immediate search and rescue efforts. The remains of three of the five crew members were later recovered. Killed in action and buried. The fighting withdrawal of U.N. forces later that month prevented the recovery of his remains.

Two MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced the identification of remains belonging to two soldiers who had been missing-in-action from the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Identified are:

* Army Pfc. James C. Mullins, 20, of Dunham, Ky. On July 22, 1950, Mullins and his unit, H Company, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, were fighting enemy forces near Yugong-ni, South Korea. Mullins was declared missing after the battle.

* Army Maj. James L. Whited, 42, of Norman, Okla. On Nov. 19, 1966, Whited was the co-pilot of an OV-1A Mohawk that crashed while conducting a daytime reconnaissance mission over Attapu Province, Laos. No parachutes were seen exiting the aircraft, and heavy enemy presence in the area prevented recovery efforts.

DoD Won't Label Hood Shootings as Terrorist Attack: Already facing intense scrutiny for its shifting narrative about the assault on the U.S. Consulate in Libya, the Pentagon now says it will not reclassify the Fort Hood shootings as a terrorist attack over concern about biasing the case against the gunman -- an argument that is getting a mixed review from legal specialists. After 160 victims of the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting called on the Pentagon to label the attack terrorism instead of workplace violence as it has for the past three years, the Department of Defense said it would not reclassify the attack. "The Department of Defense is committed to the integrity of the ongoing court martial proceedings of Major Nadal Hassan and for that reason will not further characterize, at this time, the incident that occurred at Fort Hood on November 5, 2009," Pentagon spokesman George Little said in the statement. "Major Hassan has been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder, and 32 counts of attempted murder.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of it comes from bad judgment.

Mort's Rescue at Kham Duc

It would make a rousing movie, the same genre as the siege of Zinderneuf in Beau Geste, the firefight around the DC-3 in The Wild Geese, the evacuation of the ice planet Hoth in The Empire Strikes Back, the fall of Osgiliath in The Return of the King. A Special Forces camp is overrun. Defenders desperately hold off a swarming attack. Fighter jets drop bombs ever closer to the shrinking perimeter to keep the attackers at bay. Other airplanes land under heavy fire, lifting out frantic civilian, dependents and combatants. The last team is almost left behind, surrounded. A pilot makes one last landing for a dramatic rescue.



On May 12, 1968, 40 years ago today, Technical Sergeant Mort Freedman was rescued at Kham Duc, Vietnam. He was the last man out. Kham Duc had a 6,000 foot runway, surrounded by mountains. The North Vietnamese had the high ground. There were 1,700 defenders – Montagnard tribesmen, their families and dependents, American soldiers and US Green Berets. Before dawn a decision was made to evacuate the camp. C-123 and C-130 cargo airplanes launched from Cam Ranh Bay, Danang and Tan Son Nhut for the evacuation. A three-man Combat Controller Team, or CCT, was already on base. The CCT was composed of a C-130 pilot and two enlisted combat controllers. Their mission was to control air traffic in the combat zone. They were now the control tower, working with a radio jeep by the runway. Every fighter and bomber mission in Vietnam was diverted to Kham Duc. Cargo airplanes, some based out of Mactan air base in the Philippines, orbited overhead, with helicopter gunships, fighter jets, B-52s, and Forward Air Controllers flying small Cessna 0-2s. A CH-47 Chinook, a UH-1H Huey and a Cessna O-2 were shot down in the middle of the runway.

A C-130 Hercules, still loaded with cargo, landed under fire and was mobbed, people running into the propellers in a frenzy. Fuel gushed from bullet holes in the wing, and a tire was shredded. The pilot aborted his take-off. The passengers abandoned the airplane. The crew hacked the rubber tire away from the wheel and tried again. With just 4 passengers aboard, they made it out. The passengers were the 3-man CCT and another officer. They flew to safety in Cam Ranh Bay. Another C-130 landed and slammed to a halt. Hundreds of civilians mobbed the airplane. Women and kids were crushed in the rush to get in. The airplane stayed on the ground for only a couple of minutes, then hurriedly took off. As it rotated off the runway, it was hit by ground fire, and crashed and exploded a mile from the camp. All who had made it on board died.

Another C-130 crashed landed on the runway, hit the CH-47 wreck and slewed into a dirt mound off the runway. Other C-130s, a C-123 and helicopters landed and lifted out 600 remaining civilians and defenders. A last C-130 picked up the crashed aircrew and the last rear guard. The camp was now almost entirely in enemy hands. Then one more C-130 landed. The same 3-man CCT got off. In the confusion of the battle, they had been ordered back to control air traffic for the evacuation. They ran into the camp and found it empty. They were the only ones left in Kham Duc. They were stuck in a base that was now in enemy hands. The C-130 could not wait. No one came to be rescued. The pilot saved the airplane and flew out. As he climbed out, he heard the order to the orbiting fighters to destroy the entire base with bombs and napalm. The C-130 pilot screamed into the radio that they had just inserted an American Combat Controller Team. The entire frequency went silent as the blunder sank in. The CCT — two enlisted Combat Controllers and a C-130 pilot officer — hunkered down in a ditch beside the runway. They held off the North Vietnamese with their M-16s. They had just 220 bullets among them. A C-123 Provider then landed on the runway, the pilot hoping to flush out the CCT. He had to

immediately take off again because of heavy fire. As he banked left, his crew members saw the CCT running back to the ditch. They *were* alive!

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The next C-123 in line made a steep combat approach and stopped on the runway. The CCT ran out onto the airplane, and the last men out of Kham Duc were finally rescued. The C-123 pilot, Joe Jackson, got the Medal of Honor. One Combat Controller, James Lundie, met Jackson again by accident at the Charlotte Speedway in North Carolina in 1997, 29 years after the battle.



The other Combat Controller, Mort Freedman, made the Philippines his home. He has been the skydiving safety officer at the [Philippine International Hot Air Balloon Fiesta](#) for 2 years now. Mort is a gentle, quiet person. He told me about Kham Duc at the Fiesta. He holds the C-123 pilot in very high regard. I'm glad Mort was saved.

The picture is the only known photograph of an ongoing Medal of Honor action. The wrecked C-130 is in the foreground, the CH-47 in the middle of the runway. A crashed Cessna O-2 is just above the C-130, and across the runway from it is the wrecked UH-1H Huey. At the top of the photo is Jackson's C-123. Three tiny dots to the right are the CCT running for their lives.

Kham Duc is annotated in Google Earth. You can still see the broken up asphalt runway.

"Rescue at Kham Duc", [an article by John Correll](#) published in the online Airforce magazine, is a detailed narrative of this exciting episode. Some of the photos here came from that site. There is also a book, [The Airlift Evacuation of Kham Duc](#), by Alan Gropman.

