



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter, Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)

WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com



Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

April 2014

Commanders Corner: Odd thoughts while being snowbound for a day. How many folks that voted for the non-smoking laws voted to legalize marijuana? When I get up in the morning that's the youngest age I'll be for the rest of my life. If everybody was as forgiving and loving as my dog, there would never be another war. Thank goodness my wife and my dog are both forgiving! I finally got off my duff and updated the web site with some information on the 2014 Americal Reunion and added a new feature. I have added the chapter financial information to the selections in the left column. This will allow all members to view the chapters financial status and individual dues information. We'll try to keep this updated quarterly. It's a good place to check your dues status if you are in doubt. Regarding the Americal reunion, it will be held in Houston, Texas, September 10-14, 2014. If you are planning to attend, it would probably be a good idea to make you room reservations as soon as possible. I know they ran out of rooms at the Nashville reunion hotel and a lot of people ended up staying at another hotel—a logistical bummer!

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

Chuck



Four POW/MIA Soldiers Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Office recently announced the identification of remains belonging to four soldiers who had been unaccounted-for since the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Identified are:

- Army Pfc. Donald C. Durfee, 19, of Painesville, Ohio. In November 1950, Durfee was assigned to Company M, 31st Infantry Regiment, 31st Regimental Combat Team, when his unit was attacked and forced into a fighting withdrawal south of the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. He was reported killed-in-action on Dec. 2, 1950. He was buried in Rittman, OH.
- Army Staff Sgt. Lawrence Woods, 39, of Clarksville, Tenn., will be buried as part of a group on March 21 at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony honoring the servicemen who were lost in an aircraft crash on Oct. 24, 1964. Woods and seven other servicemen were aboard a C-123 *Provider* aircraft that was shot down after resupplying the U.S. Special Forces camp at Bu Prang, Vietnam. Seven remains were recovered, but they could not locate Woods.
- Pfc. James R. Holmes, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 1, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 14 and will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in May.
- Cpl. Cristobal Romo, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 13 and is scheduled to be buried with full military honors in Riverside, CA.

New Veteran Job Newsletter: The American Legion's Career Center Newsletter aims to help veteran job-seekers who are either looking for employment or just testing the job market. Mailing out at the beginning of each month, the newsletter provides subscribers with a listing of veterans career fairs that are coming to every area of the country. The Career Center Newsletter also provides general job-search help with feature articles written by hiring experts. Subjects include resume-writing tips, ways to research an employer before an interview and nailing the ever-important "elevator pitch." For more veteran job news, job postings and transition advice, visit the Military.com [Veteran Jobs Center](http://VeteranJobsCenter).

Bring Your Talents to Prudential: Discipline. Leadership. Excelling under pressure. As a veteran, you're transitioning from active duty with a set of proven, highly valuable skills and talents. At Prudential, you'll discover an environment that can help you cultivate those capabilities, contribute to our success, and develop a flourishing corporate career. For 138 years, Prudential Financial, Inc., has helped individual and institutional customers meet their financial challenges. Today, we are one of the world's largest financial services institutions with operations in the United States, Asia, Europe and Latin America. We also have one of the most recognized and trusted brand symbols: The Rock®, an icon of strength, stability, expertise and innovation. Recognized as a veteran-friendly employer, Prudential is not only committed to supporting employees with military experience, but is interested in recruiting veterans as well. [Learn about VETnet, Prudential's Military Veteran's Network.](#)

By presidential proclamation, March 29 was designated "Vietnam Veteran's Day" to commemorate the 50 year anniversary of the Vietnam War. Let's remember and give thanks to our Vietnam Veterans, POWs and MIAs.



Fort Knox Installs First Female Commander: Brig. Gen. Peggy C. Combs has become the first woman to take command over Fort Knox and U.S. Army Cadet Command. The change of command ceremony took place recently at the central Kentucky Army post. Combs, who's served in the Army for 28 years, succeeds Maj. Gen. Jeff Smith in the role. In a speech during the ceremony, Combs noted that Fort Knox is an important hub in attracting and recruiting soldiers. She praised the work MG. Smith has done to improve the post and develop new strategic approaches for Cadet Command, which runs the Army's ROTC program. Combs said her goals include making sure Smith's vision is carried out.

CNO Tells Congress the US Needs 450-Ship Navy: Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert told lawmakers recently that the Navy would need a 450 ship fleet in order to meet the global needs of combatant commanders. "For us to meet what combatant commanders request, we need a Navy of 450 ships," he told the House Armed Services Committee. Officially, the Navy's position is to achieve a 306-ship fleet by the end of the decade, service officials said. At the moment there are 289 ships in the Navy, according to service officials who said the number reflects a new method of counting ships. The new counting method, based on what the Navy calls a global force allocation management plan, adds hospital ships and forward-positioned patrol craft to the ship-counting methodology. In addition, the new counting procedure only counts forward-deployed mine countermeasure ships and does not count those that are not deployed. As a result of the new ship-counting method, the Navy's current ship total jumps from 284 to 289.

Commander Defines 'Winning' in Afghanistan: The U.S. can still salvage a win in Afghanistan, the top U.S. commander said Wednesday. If the American people are prepared to have U.S. troops stay there indefinitely and Afghan leaders commit to a post-2014 coalition presence, the return of the Taliban and their Al Qaeda allies can be prevented and an Afghan democracy can survive, said Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford. "That is what winning will look like," Dunford, commander of the International Security Assistance Force, said in testimony to the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Despite all the skepticism around our mission, that is what winning looks like to me." Dunford, who was expected to be on the short list to replace Gen. James Amos as the Marine commandant, told Congress that Al Qaeda was now in "survival mode" but would quickly regroup in Afghanistan and, in turn, pose an eventual threat to the homeland if U.S. troops left.



Force Cuts Mean Army Can't Fight Two Land Wars: The U.S. Army and the Marine Corps could fight a war with North Korea, but not without exhausting their combined ground forces leaving nothing in reserve, senior Army and Marine officials told Congress during recent testimony. With the threat of more sequestration cuts in 2016, service leaders have been warning Congress that the U.S. military -- particularly the Army -- will become too small to handle a combined fight like Iraq and Afghanistan in the future. The Pentagon's fiscal 2015 defense budget will reduce the active force from 490,000 to a force size of 440,000 to 450,000 by 2019. But sequestration cuts scheduled to occur in 2016 will likely force the Army to reduce the active end strength to 420,000.

We started a new feature in last months Newsletter. To date no other story to print has been received. Please send your entry to the Editor, 2/1 Newsletter either by email rheroux1@nc.rr.com, or by snail mail at 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525. In any case we can not over emphasize these articles contain historical value for all of us.

One of Those Customs I Will Never Forget: I joined up with Bravo Company, 2d of the 1st Infantry as a new squad leader in late December, 1968. It was just after Christmas and we were coming off of Stand Down. My rucksack was loaded with everything I could possibly need. It was so heavy to get it on I had to lay down on the rucksack, strap it on, then roll over like a turtle and stand up. Anyway, we were climbing up this mountain. Long line of GIs stretched out up it. I was about at the end of my rope and thought "Geez, what happens if I can't go any further?" I looked way up the mountain and there was a GI carrying everything I was.....and a case of beer. One of the many times thereafter where I was inspired by beer!
From Jerry Komnick 1968-1969

Army Set to Unveil New Uniform, Grooming Regs: Army Secretary John McHugh said the Army plans to release new uniform and grooming regulations that will essentially return the service back to rules in place before 2006. McHugh didn't say the exact date the regulations would be released, but warned soldiers to look out for an update to Army Regulation 670-1 in the next several weeks after he said he officially approved the updated regulation. Soldiers can expect the updated regulation to tighten rules on tattoos and uniform wear as the Army looks to shrink and service leaders have emphasized professionalism in appearance. The Army could shrink down to 420,000 if sequestration cuts are not removed from the military's budget. When the Army chose to loosen the rules in 2006, the environment was very much the same. The Army was looking to grow its force by 80,000. Service officials loosed the regulations in order to help recruiters. Officials have said the reverse will happen with this new update to Army Regulation 670-1. Army brass has warned soldiers for the past year that the service will likely restrict any new tattoos below the elbow or the knee. These warnings have set off a run on local tattoo shops as the new rules will allow current tattoos to be grandfathered in. The new rule would only apply to new tattoos.



May your home be blessed with the courage of compassionate hearts, seeing the greatness in every soul illuminated by the light within you. May the garden of your heart bloom with even the smallest of kind acts, giving your life the gift of divine purpose.

Shinseki: Advance Funding Won't Solve VA Problems: Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki on recently told a Senate panel that advance funding for all VA operations would not solve all the department problems in the event of another government shutdown. Shinseki told lawmakers previously that he could not say whether advance funding – which the VA now gets for health care programs – would be a good idea. He told the House Veterans Affairs Committee last year the administration would have to look at the impact on other federal departments. He recently told the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that advance funding has worked out for VA patients and employees and would seem “to make sense for our other accounts [operations].” But then he indicated that advance funding probably would not help since other agencies that the VA must deal with do not have the same kind of protection. “In the case of veteran benefits, we can’t process a claim within our own confines,” he said. “To process a claim, we have to go to Social Security to validate other disabilities, go to the IRS to validate ... threshold income requirements. We deal with [the Defense Department]. We deal with the Department of Education [for] the GI Bill, the Department of Labor on employability issues.” “The best way for us to be meeting our full mission would be to have a budget for the federal government every year,” he said. “That would make all of our work much easier.”

New Army Uniform Guidelines Limit Tattoos: Troops with extensive, visible tattoos will be able to stay in the Army under a new uniform policy about to take effect, but they won't be able to get new ones and they face restrictions on their career advancement. The new rules were leaked online Thursday in the form of a 57-page PowerPoint presentation dated March 19. Secretary of the Army John McHugh signed an order adopting them earlier this month, according to Army Times. The rules, Army Regulation 670-1, cover everything from the ways troops must present their medals on their uniforms to how female soldiers can wear their hair during physical training. For the first time, the new policy allows female soldiers to wear ponytails during exercise. Changes to Army tattoo policies drew the most attention last year when senior leaders were debating the regulation because body art grew in popularity among soldiers during the recent wars. The new tattoo rules:

- Forbid tattoos on the head, face, neck, hands, fingers and wrists.
- Allow no more than four hand-size tattoos below the elbow and knee.
- Prohibit sleeve tattoos that cover a person's entire arm.
- Ban sexist, racist, indecent or extremist tattoos.
- Bar enlisted soldiers from requesting commissions as officers if they have tattoos that violate the new policies.
- Require commanders to document any tattoos that violate the new rules among current soldiers.
- Order commanders to check their soldiers for new tattoos every year.

Veterans' Unemployment Drops in 2013: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released its employment report of veterans for 2013. According to BLS, unemployment among all veterans in 2013 was 6.6 percent—nearly one percentage point lower than the national average. Unemployment among Post-9/11 era veterans also dropped to 9 percent, but remains significantly higher than civilian unemployment. This would indicate that employment initiatives like the *VOW to Hire Heroes Act* have produced results, but gaps remain in services for younger Post-9/11 era veterans and female veterans.

Marine Corps Gets First Female MEU Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Octaviano Gallegos, Jr. relinquished the duties of sergeant major of 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Sgt. Maj. Lanette Wright aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, March 14. Wright became the first female MEU sergeant major in the history of the Marine Corps. “Today is a chance for me to serve the Marine Corps at a higher level, I’m humbled and thankful to be able to take over this position,” said Wright. “Being a Marine leader, this is a great opportunity to be able to expand on my leadership.” Wright assumes duties for the 24th MEU after leaving the Command Inspector General office, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, as the senior enlisted advisor. Her personal decorations include two Meritorious Service Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals. Wright accepts her new duties during Women’s History Month; 71 years after the Marine Corps began accepting women into recruit training.

Fully Disabled Vets Get Social Security Fast-track: The Social Security Administration will immediately begin fast-tracking paperwork for veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the new process, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions just as it does for disability claims filed by troops who become disabled for any reason while on active duty. “We have reached another milestone for those who have sacrificed so much for our country and this process ensures they will get the benefits they need quickly,” Carolyn W. Colvin, acting Social Security commissioner, said in a statement released recently by the White House. The decision by Social Security does not affect the disability claims backlog that the VA has been dealing with for years. Rather, it is for veterans who are applying for SSA benefits in addition to the disability compensation awarded by VA. SSA's move came as a welcome surprise, said Joe Davis, national spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. “It recognizes seriously disabled veterans as deserving of expedited claims processing,” Davis said. Colvin said expediting Social Security disability claims processing for the veterans does not guarantee approval for Social Security benefits. The vets must still meet the eligibility requirements. Also, it will be up to the veteran, not the VA, to inform Social Security that they qualify for the expedited processing. Veterans will have to inform Social Security that they have permanent and total VA disability rating of 100 percent. Along with that notification they must also include proof of the rating, Colbert said.

Coast Guard Offloads \$23 Million of Cocaine: Crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Richard Etheridge offload approximately 1,500 pounds of cocaine, worth an estimated wholesale value of \$23 million, in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently. During an early March 2014 a patrol in the western Caribbean, crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard Cutter Tampa detected a suspicious go-fast vessel moving at a high rate of speed in international waters. A Customs and Border Patrol Maritime Patrol aircraft provided over-sight of the suspected vessel and the Tampa's onboard helicopter launched to pursue the vessel. Upon arriving on scene, the helicopter crew fired warning shots effectively stopping the vessel. A Coast Guard boarding team from the Tampa subsequently boarded the vessel and discovered 695 packages hidden inside the vessel's hull which later tested positive for cocaine.

**Light travels faster than sound.
This is why some people appear
bright until you hear them speak.**



Don Hicks B/2-1 Inf. 196th Inf. Bde. January 1970. Staging Center for FNG's coming into the Brigade and Short stickers going home. Located at Chu Lai.



Here is Don Hicks & wife Cheryl at the ADVA Nashville, TN Reunion 2013

Report on "Soldier Ride": For vets like myself
 ...SOLDIER RIDE is as much a personal healing as giving. You know - you get more out of something than what you gave. When saying goodbye to this special group of lads and lassies, I said; "When I came home from Vietnam and went to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. dedication - there was a Korean War there to welcome me home. Think about that. So it is my distinct honor to welcome you all home! ...and yes - someday your turn will come to welcome another future vet home. You do that ya hear? ...and from all 60 vets



World War II Vets Awarded France's Legion of Honor: Fourteen WWII veterans from across North Carolina will soon gather in Raleigh, NC as French officials award them the Legion of Honor for their service during the war. The men all fought on French soil in 1944 or 1945 during the liberation of France. About a decade ago, the French government decided to recognize all war veterans who contributed to the liberation. The award is the highest honor in France and recognizes those who have served the country in some distinguished way. Napoleon Bonaparte founded the National Order of the Legion of Honor in 1802. Hundreds of WWII veterans from across the U.S. have received the award. Allen Evans, who lives in Chapel Hill, NC will be among the men who are so honored. Evans was a staff sergeant with the headquarters battery in the Army's 76th Field Artillery Battalion during the war. Evans, now 89, can remember how France looked as Allied forces moved through the county during the final year of WWII. He saw buildings riddled with bullet holes and people devastated by years of war. But he also remembers the way people lined the streets for soldiers. Knowing that they craved something other than canned rations, the French would toss them tomatoes along with flowers in gratitude. It was a gesture that meant a lot to the soldiers. "The French people were just unbelievably hospitable," Allen said. The crowd's enthusiasm and patriotism stick with him to this day, a rush of emotion he describes as extraordinary.

Generals Say Troops Understand Need for Pay Cuts: Senior Pentagon officials told Congress recently that troops are willing to sacrifice portions of their pay and benefits if it means keeping and improving the training and equipment needed to do their jobs. Personnel officials from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and the Department of Defense met with the House Armed Services' military Personnel subcommittee to talk about cuts to pay and benefits the Pentagon is proposing for its upcoming budget. These include a smaller pay raise -- 1 percent raise, an average 5 percent reduction in housing allowances, and higher health care fees for some retirees. The proposed budget for next year reflects a savings of \$176 billion, according to the Pentagon, because of the personnel cuts. Military leaders say personnel costs make up about a third of their budgets and remain the fastest growing portion. Testimony from the military brass took some lawmakers by surprise after troop advocacy groups have rejected the cuts to pay and benefits proposed in the upcoming budget.

History: The Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. Lieutenant General Lesley J. McNair, then the Army Ground Forces commanding general, was instrumental in its creation. He originally recommended that it be called the "fighter badge." The CIB was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle." Then Secretary of War Henry Stinson said, "It is high time we recognize in a personal way the skill and heroism of the American infantry."



Originally, the Regimental Commander was the lowest level at which the CIB could be approved and its award was retroactive to 7 December 1941. There was a separate provision for badge holders to receive a \$10 per month pay stipend, which was rescinded in 1948. Let us know if any of you are receiving the \$10.00 per month stipend.

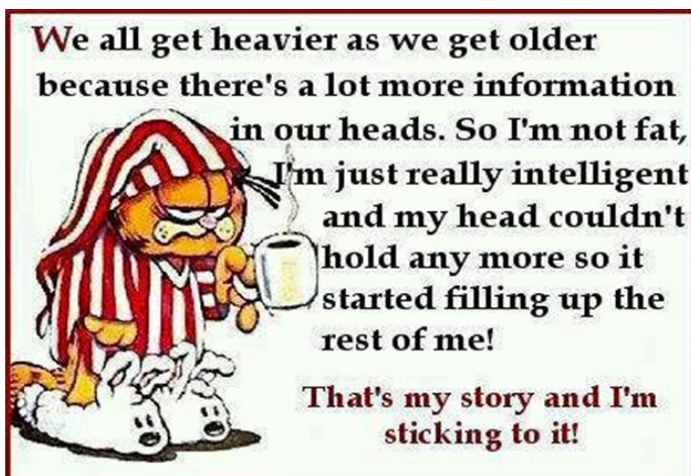
Leavenworth Escapee Caught After Almost 37 Years: One of the U.S. Army's "15 Most Wanted" was tracked down in Deerfield Beach after nearly 37 years on the run, according to the U.S. Marshals Service. James Robert Jones, 59, was arrested Thursday after marshals followed him from his home to his job in Pompano Beach, they said. Jones was an Army private when he was convicted of premeditated murder and aggravated assault in 1974. He was serving a 23-year sentence when he escaped from the maximum-security prison in Leavenworth, Kan., in 1977, officials said. In January, the Army asked the Marshals Service to help solve the cold case. Using a facial recognition database, investigators found a match for Jones under his alias, Bruce Walter Keith, marshals said. Jones had gotten a fake Florida driver's license in 1981 using the name. He changed his birth date but kept his true birth year of 1954 and used his real address in Deerfield Beach on all personal identification and documents, investigators said. He admitted his identity after being fingerprinted during his arrest, officials said.

Warrior-athletes Bring Home Sochi Gold: A wounded warrior led Team USA's sled hockey team to a hard-won victory over Russia at the Paralympics in Sochi, Russia, this March. Former Marine Corps Sgt. Joshua Sweeney, a bilateral amputee, scored a breakaway goal in the second period, cinching the team's 1-0 gold medal triumph in the nail-biting game. With that win, the U.S. became the first nation to win back-to-back Paralympic gold medals, according to the committee's website. "We all played hard and gave it our all," said Sweeney, a first-time Paralympian and former Brooke Army Medical Center patient. "It's great to know our team came together and did what we needed to do to come out on top." Just a few days earlier in a preliminary round, the U.S. had suffered a painful 2-1 defeat by Russia, doubling the team's determination to get more puck time in the gold medal game. "We knew going into the game we had to play hard," Sweeney said. "We weren't going to give them any more chances." With a gold medal in sight, both teams remained scoreless after the first period, but nearly 10 minutes into the second period, Sweeney saw an opportunity to catch a pass. Going into "autopilot," he stole the puck and slammed it past the goaltender into the net, scoring the game-winning goal. "I didn't do anything my teammates didn't do," he said. "Right after, I was thinking about how awesome it was to contribute to my team. "Russia played a hard game," he added. "It was definitely a battle."

Stanley Disorda's History with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade: Fresh out of high school in 1965, feeling free and young, working and with money in my pocket, life was good. After reaching 18 you become eligible for the draft. You just waited for your letter from the Government – it did come! I lived in Brandon, Vermont and the letter stated I was selected for the military service and to report to the nearest town, which was Rutland, Vermont, with your suitcase with personal items where we did some in-processing. We were loaded us on the bus and transported to Albany, New York, 100 miles away from Rutland, Vermont. Here we took our physicals and orientation into the military. I was offered the opportunity to go into the Navy or Army and I chose the Army; however, in hindsight I should have gone to the Navy. After our short stay in Albany, New York, we were loaded on the bus heading for Fort Dix, New Jersey. Here we were issued our gear and started training. You remember; learning how to march, physical training and the basic rules for becoming a soldier. We remained at Ft. Dix for a month until receiving orders in October 1965 to report to Fort Devens, MA and assigned to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. This was at the time a new experimental brigade. I was assigned to , Company, A 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry. There were about 27 Units assigned to the Brigade. Once we got in place we started Basic training, and the picnic was over. Every morning, running 3-5 miles, in combat boots (we never heard of running shoes back then). Following the run we would go back to the barracks to shower, shave, get into uniform, fall out for formation and march to the mess hall for breakfast. After our meal we would start our daily training. Training consisted of learning how to march and hand salute, uniform appearance, survival, communication, M-14 rifle training , hand-to-hand combat training, and all other basics required. My favorite training was rifle training and shooting on the range. I was an avid hunter in Vermont and I knew how to shoot a rifle. On the range I did not let on that I knew how to shoot a rifle, I let them train me. As the training went on one of the Rifle Range NCO suspected I knew something, he was watching me, one day he said to me "pretty good shooting there boy" and I said "not too bad" and he said "yea, you have done this before". He asked me where I was raised. I replied "Vermont". He said, "deer hunter, huh". And I said "yes". Toward The end of rifle training, the company commander said if anyone scores expert He will get a three day pass. I scored Expert!!

We were just about to finish our basic training, doing our PT testing and obstacle course; which includes running, jumping obstacles, low crawl in the mud under bob wire, machine gun shooting above our head and compass map reading. This was a two day training session. Finally it is all over, we pose for album pictures and we got ready to take time off to spend with family.

Report back here for the start on the next phase of training.



SPEED WAS HIGH, WEATHER WAS NOT;
TIRES WERE THIN, X MARKS THE SPOT
Burma Shave

24 Medals of Honor Awarded to Right Past Wrongs

The nation sought to right the wrong of past discrimination in the military by upgrading the Distinguished Service Crosses awarded to 24 mostly Hispanic and Jewish Army veterans to the Medal of Honor. President Obama presided at a White House ceremony for the three surviving veterans and the families of the 21 others who received the nation's highest award for valor posthumously. The ceremony was the largest group award of the Medal of Honor since World War II, and it reflected an effort by Congress and the services "to ensure those deserving the Medal of Honor were not denied because of prejudice," the White House said. In 2002, under the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress ordered a review of Jewish-American and Hispanic-American veteran war records from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. The services reviewed a total of 877 awards of the Distinguished Service Cross from World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and decided that 24 deserved upgrading to the MOH. Eight of the 24 served in Vietnam, nine in Korea and seven in World War II.



Obama first called forward the three surviving veterans, who all wore their Army uniforms -- Spec. 4 Santiago J. Erevia, Staff Sgt. Melvin Morris, and Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodela. Erevia was honored for his actions as radio telephone operator in Company C, 1st Battalion (Airmobile), 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) during a search and clear mission near Tam Ky, South Vietnam.

Morris was honored for his courageous actions while serving as commander of a strike force from Company D, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, during combat operations in the vicinity of Chi Lang, South Vietnam, on September 17, 1969. Rodela's recognition came from his actions while serving as the company commander, Detachment B-36, Company A, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces during operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam, on September 1, 1969. Following the awards to the three surviving veterans, Obama called on members of the families of the other 21 to accept the posthumous awards on behalf of their loved ones.

Those who served in Vietnam were:

Sgt. Candelario Garcia, for his courageous actions as an acting Team Leader for Company B, 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division during combat operations against an armed enemy in Lai Khe, South Vietnam on December 8, 1968.

Spec. 4 Leonard L. Alvarado, for his courageous actions while serving as a rifleman with Company D, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) during operations in Phuoc Long Province, South Vietnam, on August 12, 1969.

Staff Sgt. Felix M. Conde-Falcon, who served as an acting platoon leader in Company D, 1st Battalion, 505th Infantry Regiment, 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division in Ap Tan Hoa, South Vietnam, on April 4, 1969.

Spec. 4 Ardie R. Copas, for his actions serving as a machine-gunner in Company C, 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, near Pho Romeas Hek, Cambodia, on May 12, 1970.

Spec. 4 Jesus S. Duran, for his actions while serving as an acting M-60 machine-gunner in Company E, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in South Vietnam on April 10, 1969.

Those who served in Korea were:

Corp. Joe R. Baldonado, Company B, 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment on November 25, 1950.

Corp. Victor H. Espinoza, for his actions while serving as an Acting Rifleman in Company A, 23d Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division during operations in Chorwon, Korea, on August 1, 1952.

Sgt. Eduardo C. Gomez, for his actions serving with Company I, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, in Tabu-dong, Korea, on September 3, 1950.

PFC Leonard M. Kravitz, for his actions serving as an assistant machine gunner with Company M, 5th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Yangpyong, Korea, on March 6 and 7, 1951.

Master Sgt. Juan E. Negron, for his actions serving as a member of Company L, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, in Kalma-Eri, Korea, on April 28, 1951.

Master Sgt. Mike C. Pena, for his actions serving as a member of Company F, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, in Waegwan, Korea, on September 4, 1950.

Pvt. Demensio Rivera, for his actions serving as an automatic rifleman with 2d Platoon, Company G, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, in Changyong-ni, Korea, on May 23, 1951.

Pvt. Miguel A. Vera, for his actions serving as an automatic rifleman with Company F, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2d Infantry Division in Chorwon, Korea, on September 21, 1952.

Sgt. Jack Weinstein, for his actions leading 1st Platoon, Company G, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division in Kumsong, Korea on October 19, 1951.

Those who served in World War II were:

Pvt. Pedro Cano, Company C, 8th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division on December 3, 1944.

Pvt. Joe Gandara, Company D, 2d Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 17th Airborne Division France on June 9, 1944.

PFC Salvador J. Lara, Company L, 180th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division on May 27 and 28, 1944.

Sgt. William F. Leonard, Company C, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, November 7, 1944.

Sgt. Manuel V. Mendoza, Company B, 350th Infantry, 88th Infantry Division on October 4, 1944.

Sgt. Alfred B. Nietzel, Company H, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division on November 18, 1944.