



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

WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com



Volume 5

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

February 2015

Commanders Corner: As you all should know; dues should have been remitted to Don last month. If you aren't current, get with it; check the web site for your status if you don't know. Through the benevolence of your treasurer, the dues payment period will be from January 1st until April 15th. As mentioned last month, you now have the ability to become a chapter member for life for a measly \$50. We have had several guys sign up to date. I have added a "Member Information Update and Dues Payment Form" to the Financial page for your convenience. It is both .doc and .pdf formats. Our web site has been updated to reflect the information for the Americal Reunion for 2015 and, as usual, our annual chapter meeting will be held at the same time. It looks like we are all set with our hospitality room in Norfolk. Members that have attended the annual meeting have enjoyed having our own area so, we'll keep on doing it. You should make your reservations as soon as you can because the rooms go fast. When making your reservations mention you'd like to be on the same floor I am on. I've talked to the hotel and they will try to get us all as close as possible instead of being spread all over the hotel but, they couldn't guarantee it. The direct number of the Norfolk Waterside Marriott is 757-627-4200. The general Marriott reservation number is 800-2289290. I suggest calling the hotel; less hassle. Online communication with the hotel shows a \$20/day parking fee. This does not apply to our reunion group; the hotel has waived the fee. The hotel is offering complimentary self-overnight parking in the Main Street Garage (across Main Street from the Marriott) – Please do not park in the Waterside Garage (attached to the Marriott) unless the Main Street Garage is full.

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

Chuck



1,000 82nd Airborne Paratroopers Headed to Iraq: The 82nd Airborne, and specifically its 3rd Brigade Combat Team, are no strangers to Iraq. Since 2003, parts of the brigade have deployed in support of U.S. efforts there on at least three occasions. Now, more than three years after the U.S. military presence in Iraq was thought over, about a quarter of the Panther Brigade will return with a new mission to help train Iraqi forces to fight ISIS. The deployment was officially announced in December and is expected to last nine months. As his paratroopers prepared for the mission, the brigade commander, Col. Curtis A. Buzzard, has watched tensions boil in the Middle East -- and Iraq in particular -- as forces have fought against ISIS, also known by the acronym DAESH based on the group's Arabic name, ad-Dawlah al-Islamiyah fi al-Iraq wash-Sham. "We've seen the impact of DAESH over the last year and a half, not just on Iraq, but on the region," Buzzard said. "It's clearly an existential threat."

DoD Identifies 7 Missing War Service Members: The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to seven service members. Recovered are:

- **Army Air Forces Maj. Peyton S. Mathis Jr.,** 28, of Montgomery, Ala. On June 5, 1944, Mathis was piloting a P-38J Lightning when the aircraft lost power while attempting to land at Kukum Air Field on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomon Islands. A rescue team located the crash site but was unable to recover Mathis because the aircraft was submerged in a dense jungle swamp. He will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Army Cpl. Francis D. Knobel,** 20, of La Crosse, Wis., was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, when he was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Air Force Col. William E. Cooper,** 45, of Albany, Ga., was assigned to the 469th Tactical Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, when his F-105D Thunderchief was shot down while on a strike mission on a highway-railroad bridge north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, on April 24, 1966. He will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Marine Corps Pvt. Jack M. Redman,** 20, from Watseka, Ill., was lost on Nov. 20, 1943, during the Battle of Tarawa. He was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment. He will be buried with full military honors on a date/location yet to be announced.
- **Army Sgt. Joseph M. Snock Jr.,** 21, from Westmoreland, Pa., was lost on Nov. 30, 1950, in North Korea, where it would be learned he died as a prisoner of war. He was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 31st Infantry Regiment. He will be buried with full military honors on a date/location yet to be announced.
- **Army Sgt. 1st Class James W. Holt,** 26, of Hot Springs, Ark., was lost Feb. 7, 1968, in Vietnam. He was assigned to Company C, 5th Special Forces Group. He will be buried with full military honors on a date/location yet to be announced.
- **Air Force Capt. Richard D. Chorlins,** 24, of University City, Mo., who was piloting an A-1 Skyraider aircraft on a night strike mission over the Mu Gia Pass in Laos when his aircraft was shot down by enemy ground fire on Jan. 11, 1970. He was assigned to the 602nd Special Operations Squadron, 34th Tactical Group. He will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be announced.

"Coffee tastes better if the latrines are dug downstream from the encampment"

Female Terrorists Finding Their Place in Islamic Militants' Ranks: From bikini-clad beachgoer to veiled jihadist fugitive, the partner of Paris gunman Amedy Coulibaly underwent a startling metamorphosis that illuminates the dangerous potential behind militant groups' efforts to increase their recruiting of female terrorists. Although French police initially questioned Hayat Boumeddiene, 26, five years ago, they acknowledge that she was subsequently able to make hundreds of phone calls and arrange meetings for Coulibaly through the wives of fellow assailants. She is then believed to have fled to Turkey just before the rash of killings in Paris this month, and is believed to have crossed into Syria. "Hayat's case is just the latest example of how governments overlook and understate women's involvement in terrorist groups," said Jayne Huckerby, an associate professor at Duke University law school who studies the groups and advises governments in counter-terrorism strategies. Female terrorists have a long history of exploiting gender stereotypes to avoid detection, and though counter-terrorism measures have become more effective, experts said the Paris attacks show that more needs to be done to curb the growing number of women like Boumeddiene joining militants in Syria.

VA: Major Restructuring Will Set Standard Regional Boundaries: The Department of Veterans Affairs announced a major restructuring effort Monday to streamline its often disjointed bureaucracy by standardizing service regions in the country and increasing coordination between them. For years, the nine organizations within the department have divided the country into their own regions with little or no coordination. By June 30, VA aims to have the entire department under the same service boundaries through a program called MyVA, breaking the country into five regions. Officials said in a conference call with reporters that the move is a cornerstone of VA Secretary Bob McDonald's push to overhaul the scandal-ridden organization. The VA does not have an estimate for how much the restructuring will cost, officials said, nor are there many details about what the changes will mean for veterans' care. "The overall transformation will take a while," said Scott Blackburn, the Director of the MyVA Program Management Office. "There will be a lot of analysis and we'll know a lot more of the answers over the next couple of months. The department has been undergoing changes since a national health-care scandal cost former Secretary Eric Shinseki his job, following revelations that patients languished for years on secret lists created to make wait times appear artificially short. Some veterans died while awaiting care. In addition, the VA has been criticized for a backlog of hundreds of thousands of disability claims and a confusing bureaucracy that often frustrates veterans seeking care."

Hagel Instructs Services to Embrace VSO/MSO Support: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has signed two policy memorandums that direct the military services to allow veteran and military service organizations greater and more standardized access to installations and their troops and families. The VFW worked with Defense Department staff to shape the new policy in two ways: to increase national service officer presence on installations, and to create greater troop and military family awareness of VFW support programs, such as Unmet Needs, Adopt-a-Unit, and Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy, among others. The new policy will not, however, loosen current restrictions regarding on-base fundraising and membership recruiting activities. The VFW will provide additional information after the services publish their implementation guidance in March.

COMBAT STORIES:

NEVER FORGET! You're a 19 year old kid. You are critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. It's November 11, 1967. LZ (landing zone) X-ray. Your unit is outnumbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away, that your CO (commanding officer) has ordered the Med Evac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out. Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again. As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then - over the machine gun noise - you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in. But.. It doesn't seem real because no Med Evac markings are on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you. He's not Med Evac so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway. Even after the Med Evacs were ordered not to come. He's coming anyway. And he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety. And, he kept coming back!! 13 more times!! Until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm. He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey. Medal of Honor Recipient, Captain Ed Freeman, United States Air Force, died last Wednesday at the age of 70, in Boise, Idaho May God Bless and Rest His Soul.

More Female Drill Sergeants Help Change Army's Cadence: The platoon of 70 greenhorn soldiers rested on the barracks tile floor during a recent evening of Army basic combat training, while their drill sergeant, Megan Slone, gave a final lesson for the day about how to sight a rifle. Half of the soldiers had never shot a gun before, which was fine with Slone. That meant fewer bad habits to fix before qualification time. "If you are scared to fire a weapon, that's OK," said Slone, 27, assuring the kick isn't bad and ample practice time at the range. "You are going to shoot three rounds, five rounds, and then you are going to be OK. I promise. You will be fine." Later, she said physical training exercise the following morning would be held inside because of cold weather. The mild tempo defies the "Full Metal Jacket" image of a profane drill instructor barking out orders to terrified privates. It's exactly the kind of new relationship today's military wants to see between drill instructors and trainees. For starters, in a military whose leadership has historically been dominated by men, Slone is a woman. She is among nearly 500 female drill sergeants nationwide -- twice as many as in 2007 -- who are part of a push to not only integrate military leadership, but to ensure that men in the ranks respect the authority of women. In a wider sense, Slone's ability to show a gentler approach is consistent with a transformation of basic training. It's a shift designed to forge a new skill set as the nation transitions from lengthy wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today, the Army is training new soldiers to be "apprentice thinkers." Their first assignment likely won't be in battle. "The drill sergeant is more of a mentor and an instructor than an individual yelling at you," said Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Woods, senior enlisted adviser for the Center for Initial Military Training at Fort Eustis, Va., which oversees Army basic training and drill sergeant school.



It's always darkest before Daylight Saving Time.

Soldiers and Families Push Back against Army Drawdown at Town Halls: Governors and community leaders nationwide have been lining up to voice their opposition to the Army's planned drawdown due to budget cuts. Maj. Gen. Gary Volesky, the commander of the 101st Airborne Division, who is leading the fight against Ebola in Liberia, phoned in to an Army "listening session" before overflow crowds at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Volesky urged speakers to "leave nothing in your rucksacks" in defending the base, the Leaf-Chronicle of Clarksville, Tennessee, reported. Lt. Gov. Crit Luallen, D-Kentucky, and Gov. Bill Haslam, R-Tennessee, also spoke against projections that would cut about 16,000 soldiers and civilians through 2021 at Fort Campbell. "Fort Campbell should not be considered for any more cuts, but should be maximized as the premier power projection platform in the Department of Defense," Luallen said. "We've got the facts, we've got the statistics, we understand what is here at this installation. We want to hear Fort Campbell's story," said Brig. Gen. Roger Cloutier, the Army's director of Force Management. The Army began holding the base listening sessions on force reductions in late November and planned to conduct 30 through March at bases nationwide. The tenth session was held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington, where the Army is considering cutting 8,000 soldier and civilian positions, resulting in the potential loss of an estimated 17,000 jobs in the surrounding community. In a statement, the Army said that the listening sessions were "designed to enable community leaders to provide their concerns and unique perspectives on topics regarding their communities for additional force reductions anticipated to take place between 2016 and 2020." Army active-duty troop strength currently is at about 510,000 and was scheduled to go down to 490,000 under sequestration. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and others have warned that the number could go as low as 450,000 or even 420,000 unless Congress provides relief from sequestration. "At this point, the Army has not made final decisions on the specifics for re-alignments resulting from force reductions below 490,000," the Army statement said. To enhance prospects for sparing bases in their states, some governors have been making preemptive moves to improve amenities at their bases. In his state-of-the-state address, Gov. Andrew Cuomo, D-New York, announced \$1 million in improvements for Fort Drum, home to the 10th Mountain Division in northern New York near Watertown. Cuomo said the \$1 million was "one of several key efforts to maintain the facility as an active army installation and vibrant part of the North Country economy." Last year, Cuomo made the case for sparing Fort Drum in a letter to Odierno and Army Secretary John McHugh, a former Republican representative from New York whose district included Fort Drum. Troop reductions at Fort Drum would "devastate Northern New York's regional economy," Cuomo said in the letter.

General's A-10 Treason Comment Sparks Concern Over Protected Speech: Maj. Gen. James Post raised eyebrows this month when he warned fellow airmen in Nevada that talking to Congress about the embattled A-10 Thunderbolt could qualify as treason. "If anyone accuses me of saying this, I will deny it ... anyone who is passing information to Congress about A-10 capabilities is committing treason," Post told an audience of officers at Nellis Air Force Base, according to the military blog John Q. Public. The Air Force has brushed off the statement as hyperbole but confirmed Friday the inspector general has opened an investigation. The two-star general's warning comes at a delicate time for the Warthog -- the service is facing an internal backlash from airmen who want to keep the close-air-support aircraft and another uphill budget battle with Congress over the retirement. The blog said it corroborated the quote through senior officials and several other sources who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Hire More Heroes' Offers Veterans Boost for Small Business Jobs: Legislation to boost veteran employment and offer a financial break to small businesses will give military retirees, reservists and some disabled veterans an advantage in hiring -- against civilians and other fellow veterans. Under the Hire More Heroes Act, a small business not offering a health plan could hire someone covered by Tricare or receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and not have to pay the employer mandate stipulated in the Affordable Care Act. That possible wrinkle appears to be only one of the unintended consequences of the bill, which passed the House and now must be approved by the Senate. Ed Haislmaier, a senior research fellow for health policy studies at The Heritage Foundation, said the bill is another example of Congress trying to fix something it did not get right originally. "There is a symbolic dimension to it [helping veterans], which is why it passed overwhelmingly," he said. Some veterans' organizations have already endorsed the bill, though none contacted by Military.com on Thursday were ready to talk about financial incentives for hiring one type of veteran over another. Lawrence Korb, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and former assistant secretary of defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs under President Reagan, likened the law to the veteran's preference given to service members applying for work with the federal government. Typically, 5 points are added to a score of a veteran who served during wartime or during specified dates. A veteran with a service connected disability, for example, would get 10 points.

Navy Recruiting Enlisted Women for Submarine Force: The Navy is recruiting enlisted women to begin serving aboard submarines in 2016. Recently, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert formally detailed the plan for enlisted female sailors, ranks E-1 (seaman recruit) to E-8 (senior chief petty officer), to request to serve in the Silent Service. Congress approved federal funding for the plan in December. Chief petty officers and senior chief petty officers will be the first enlisted women assigned to mixed-gender crews. This is the next step following the integration of female officers into the submarine force. Women officers began reporting to submarines in late 2011. Initially, female sailors will be selected and trained to serve on board Ohio-class ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines on which women officers are already serving. In 2016, the Navy will add enlisted women to the blue and the gold crews of the guided-missile submarine USS Michigan. Women will join 12 additional crews over a five-year period through 2021. The second phase of the plan calls for enlisted female sailors aboard newly constructed Virginia-class attack submarines around 2020.

Cemetery and Burial Resources: There are several internet tools for getting more information about Veterans Administration burial benefits, national cemetery locations and gravesite locators:

www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp

You can also call one of the many veteran organization's service officers for free assistance with any questions on VA burial benefits. Find the nearest service officer online:

www.legion.org/serviceofficers

www.veteransofforeignwars.org/serviceofficers

Locate the nearest national veterans cemetery:

www.va.gov/directory/guide/division_fish.asp?du=num=4

Find a gravesite: Gravelocator.cem.va.gov or by writing to:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

National Cemetery Administration (43A1)

Burial locator Request

810 Vermont Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20420

Army Rejects M9A3 Proposal, Opts for New Pistol: U.S. Army weapons officials will not evaluate an improved version of the service's Cold War-era 9mm pistol, choosing instead to search for a more modern soldier sidearm. In early December, Beretta USA, the maker of the U.S. military's M9 pistol for 30 years, submitted its modernized M9A3 as a possible alternative to the Army's Modular Handgun System program -- an effort to replace the M9 with a more powerful, state-of-the-art pistol. The improved M9 features new sights, a rail for mounting lights and accessories, better ergonomics and improved reliability, Beretta USA officials said. But by late December, it was all over for Beretta's engineering change proposal for the M9. The Army's Configuration Control Board decided not to evaluate the M9A3, according to a source familiar with the decision. The move clears the way for the Army to release a pending request for proposal that will launch the MHS competition. Program Executive Office Soldier would not comment for this story until Army Public Affairs has approved a statement, PEO Soldier spokesman Doug Graham said Thursday night. The Army began working with the small arms industry on MHS in early 2013, but the joint effort has been in the works for more than five years. If successful, it would result in the Defense Department buying nearly 500,000 new pistols during a period of significant defense-spending reductions.

Devil's Brigade to Receive Congressional Gold Medal: Speaker of the House John Boehner announced that the U.S.-Canadian 1st Special Service Force, known as the "Devil's Brigade," will be presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in a Feb. 3 ceremony inside the U.S. Capitol. According to press reports, the Devil's Brigade was similar to today's Green Berets. They operated primarily in Italy and southern France, and were responsible for 12,000 German casualties and capturing 7,000 prisoners. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest award for distinguished achievement. Recent military recipients have included the Tuskegee Airmen, Native American Code Talkers, Women Air Service Pilots, the Japanese-American WWII units 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, Montford Point Marines, the 65th Infantry Regiment "Borinqueneers" and the Doolittle Raiders.

Four Chaplain Sunday: On Feb 3rd the memory of the 4 military chaplains who gave up their lives so that others lived. The incident happened in 1943 when the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-Boat off the coast of Greenland killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seaman and civilian workers aboard. The four Chaplains; Rev. George Fox, Methodist, Rabbi Alexander Goode, Jewish, Father John Washington, Roman Catholic and the Rev. Clark Poling, Reformed Church serving as military chaplains aboard the vessel while assisting those who survived the initial blast load life boats. As a parting gesture of solidarity and sacrifice, the four chaplains offered their life vests so that others might survive. Each man demonstrated service before self in a time of crisis. The chaplains calmed the crewmen, comforted the injured, directed others to safety and distributed life jackets. When there were no more life jackets, the four chaplains removed theirs and gave them to four crewmen. Pvt. William Bednar recalled floating in oil-laden water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. "I could hear men crying, pleading, praying," Bednar said. "I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going." As the Dorchester disappeared under the waves, the Four Chaplains stood praying arm-in-arm. Feb. 3, 2015 will mark 72 years since the sinking and the display of bravery. So we designate the anniversary on the first Sunday in February, Four Chaplains Sunday.

Senate Veterans Committee Votes for Clay Hunt Suicide Bill: The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee voted to send to the floor legislation intended to help tackle suicide among veterans. The panel's move comes little more than a week after the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act was reintroduced to the Senate and following its overwhelming support in the House of Representatives. The anti-suicide bill was headed for easy passage in December when it failed on a procedural maneuver by since retired Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., who killed it with a legislative hold that prevented a Senate vote. Coburn claimed the bill duplicated existing Veterans Affairs Department programs and that its \$22 million price tag was not offset by cuts in other programs. Veterans groups and military associations condemned the lawmaker's action and vowed to see the bill reintroduced as soon as the new Congress convened earlier this month. With Coburn now out of Congress, there appears to be no opposition to the bill. The measure is named for a Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and who committed suicide in 2011. He was 28. Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Georgia, said after the unanimous committee vote that the full Senate would quickly pass the bill. When you have 8,000 veterans a year committing suicide -- which is more veterans than have died in all of Iraq and all of Afghanistan since we've been fighting -- then you have a serious problem and this is emergency legislation that we need to pass to help our veterans," Isakson said. The VA estimates that, on average, some 22 veterans take their own lives each day.

Army Orders Removal of 'God and Country' Recruiting Sign: An Army recruiting station has been ordered by higher-ups to shelve a sidewalk sandwich board with the wording "On a mission for both God and country." The order went out Friday to a recruiting station in Phoenix that had been displaying the outdoor sign since at least October. The sign board also shows an image of a Special Forces patch and Ranger, Airborne and Special Forces tabs. An inquiry from Army Times to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command prompted the sandwich board's immediate removal. The command's spokesman told the paper the sign's text was changed by "local recruiting personnel" but without clearance from command headquarters. "Had the process been followed, the copy shown would not have been approved," spokesman Brian Lepley said. On Thursday, the head of the atheist group Military Religious Freedom Foundation called the sign the "Poster of Shame." In an online post, the group's Mikey Weinstein called the display a "stunning, unconstitutional disgrace," Army Times reported. "The Military Religious Freedom Foundation is delighted the Constitution has been adhered to by the U.S. Army Recruiting Command," Weinstein said after the sign's removal. It appears that prior to being changed the sandwich board read: "We don't call for reinforcements. We make them."



Military Friends For Life

*.Did you ever depend on someone, to keep you alive.
To know that without them, you probably would not survive.
Military friendship is hard to explain, do not ask me why ?
I never served in the military, but I'll still give it a try.*

*In Vietnam soldiers are told, forget everything you've learned.
It's the only way you'll survive, and not get blown up or burned.
There's a special group of soldiers, my brother John is part of.
Thank you all for your service, know that your remember and loved.*

*They get together every year, " Healing Fields "is where they roam.
They lay bricks with soldiers names, friends that didn't come home.
It gets bigger every year, so many bricks it breaks your heart.
Yet every year they keep coming, nothing can keep them apart.*

*Ben calls my brother "Papa", they're only a few years apart.
Doug, Willie and Paulie Poo, Foxhole Terry are all in his heart.
Oliver, Bob, Jerry and Bo, Timmy, Frenchie and Dangerous Dan.
Chuck, Bruce, Juju and Julianna , all come when they can.*

*Howard County Indiana, is where "Healing Fields "can be found.
The bricks might look wet, from all the tears falling on the ground.
Thirty Two years in the making, so much pride you all must feel.
It keeps getting bigger every year, it's the memories that keep it real.*

*All the soldiers came back damaged, physically and mentally.
Doing the best with what they were dealt, stay proud as you can be.
The special bond you all have, some people just don't understand.
You are still keeping each other alive, living in this no man's land.
Even those that have left you, their memories come alive for the day.
It's a good way to remember your friends, I have nothing more to say.*

By Paul M. Careccia 9/28/14