



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

WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)



Volume 6

"A Soldier Once And Always"

February 2016

**Commanders Corner:** Oops! I must be getting a case of "Old timers disease". I forgot to remind all of you who haven't paid dues for 2016 that they were due in January. Guess February will be okay since I screwed up on this. Dues are always accepted throughout the year and our annual dues are still a mere \$5 and our lifetime dues are still \$50. Our coffers are looking good for the start of 2016 and Jesse Mendoza (with the help of the more than capable, Eileen) has transitioned into the Sec'y/Treasurer job seamlessly. Also, I want to thank Don Hicks (and Renee) for the years of service they gave us maintaining our finances. Effective, June 1<sup>st</sup>, Stan Disorda will be our representative on the ADVA Executive Council. The term runs for 2 years per the association's by-laws so Stan will be involved on our behalf until June, 2018. I have notified the ADVA Executive Council leaders to send pertinent council information to Stan effective on that date. I enjoyed my stint on the council and I'm sure Stan will serve our needs adequately. I have updated the financials section on our web site with our financial and dues information for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2015. You can check there to see where your dues stand. I hope all of you and your families a happy, healthy and prosperous new year. I find it hard to believe, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, it was exactly 47 years since I first stepped onto the soil of Vietnam. Wow!



Chuck

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



**Are You Registered To Vote?** Every election is important, but many people may not be properly registered to vote. If you have moved, changed your name, changed party affiliation or never registered before, you could be blocked from voting on the day of your primary, caucus or the general election. For more information on registering to vote, visit: <https://www.usa.gov/register-to-vote>.

***Ever wonder where the term "Pucker Factor" originated.*** It is the formal name of the equation that states the more hairy the situation is, the more of the seat cushion will be sucked up your ass. It can be expressed in its mathematical formula of **S** (suction) + **H** (height above ground) + **I** (interest in staying alive) + **T** (# of tracers coming your way)

**Spending Deal Includes Funding for 1.3% Troop Pay Raise, More Weapons:** U.S. lawmakers agreed to a \$1.1 trillion spending deal for the fiscal year that includes funding for a 1.3-percent troop pay raise and more weapons from fighter jets to helicopters. The spending package rolls several fiscal 2016 appropriations bills into one -- known as an omnibus -- and would authorize about \$573 billion for defense, including \$514 billion for the base budget and almost \$59 billion for the war budget, or overseas contingency operations, known as OCO, according to information released by congressional committees. While the overall amount is less than President Barack Obama's request, it supports the two-year budget deal that Congress and White House agreed to last month. The pact eased automatic spending caps known as sequestration and raised the debt ceiling through March 2017. Sen. Thad Cochran, a Republican from Mississippi and chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, urged his colleagues to support the measure. "This legislation is our best option to responsibly meet national security requirements, improve our country's infrastructure and address other public needs," he said in a statement.

**In Major Change, Army Removes Social Security Numbers from Dog Tags:** U.S. Army dog tags will no longer include soldiers' Social Security numbers, the Army announced recently ending a more than 40-year identification system. The tags will instead display the 10-digit Defense Department identification number currently included on Pentagon ID cards, and will be issued to soldiers on an as-needed basis, with those deploying getting priority, service officials said in a press release. "This change is not something where Soldiers need to run out and get new tags made," Michael Klemowski, the soldiers programs branch chief at U.S. Army Human Resources Command, said in the release. "We are focusing first on the personnel who are going to deploy. If a Soldier is going to deploy, they are the first ones that need to have the new ID tags." The change was first published in Army Pamphlet 600-8-14 on Nov. 30, officials said. The switch is being done in an effort to reduce the use of Social Security numbers and curb identity theft, they said. "I think removing the social will help," Klemowski said. "If you find a pair of lost ID tags you can pretty much do anything with that person's identity because you now have their blood type, their religion, you have their social, and you have their name. The only thing missing is their birth date and you can usually get that by Googling a person." The Defense Department in 2007 announced plans to move away from using Social Security numbers. The Pentagon in 2009 began removing the number from military ID cards. Social Security numbers, however, continue to be used throughout the Army and military, including in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment system, or DEERS, to identify service members and their dependents. It appears that the Army is the only service thus far to make the dog tag change.

**DOD MIA Recovery Update:** Four Korean War MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced the identification of remains of two soldiers who had been missing in action since the Korean War. Returning home for burial with full military honors on a date and location to be determined are:

-- Army Pfc. Roy A. Henderson, 18, of Newark, Ohio, was declared MIA in North Korea on July 27, 1950. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 29th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division.

-- Army Cpl. Kenneth R. Stuck, 24, of Hummelstown, Pa., was declared MIA in North Korea on Nov. 2, 1950. He was assigned to Company L, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

-- Army Pfc. David S. Burke, 18, of Akron, Ohio, was buried with full military honors in Rittman, Ohio. On Nov. 25, 1950, Burke was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces near the border between China and North Korea. Under heavy pressure, outnumbered and surrounded with no avenue of escape, the unit surrendered. It would be later learned that Burke died of malnutrition between March and May 1951.

-- Army Staff Sgt. Kenneth L. Cunningham, 21, of Ellery, Ill., was buried Jan. 21 with full military honors in Albion, Ill. As previously announced, then Private 1st Class Cunningham on Oct. 3, 1969, was an observer in an OV-1C Mohawk aircraft on a surveillance mission over the tri-border area of Cambodia, Laos and South Vietnam. Contact was lost and the aircraft was found two days later atop a 7,000-foot peak in a mountain range north of Kontum. Cunningham's remains were not recovered. He was assigned to the 225th Aviation Company, 223rd Aviation Battalion, 17th Aviation Group, 1st Aviation Brigade.

**Pentagon Considering Retroactively Demoting Petraeus:** Defense Secretary Ash Carter is reportedly considering retroactively demoting retired General David Petraeus, amid a crackdown on generals who engage in misconduct. The Daily Beast reported that the Pentagon is in the process of considering the move against Petraeus, who admitted giving classified information to his mistress and biographer before he retired. The decision now rests with Carter, who is said to be mulling overruling a prior [Army](#) recommendation that the general should not be demoted. "The secretary is considering going in a different direction," a defense official told The Daily Beast, adding that Carter wants to send a message of consistency in his treatment of senior officers who engage in misconduct. The official said Carter wants to send a message that even officers of Petraeus reputation are not immune to punishment. In November, Carter removed his senior military aide, Lt. Gen. Ron Lewis, for personal misconduct. The case is currently with the Pentagon's inspector general. "The Department of the Army is still in the process of providing the Secretary with information relevant to former Secretary McHugh's recommendation," Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook told Fox News, referring to former Army Secretary John McHugh who recommended that Petraeus not be demoted. "Once the Secretary has an opportunity to consider this information, he will make his decision about next steps, if any, in this matter," Cook said. Petraeus was sentenced to two years of probation in April, and given a \$100,000 fine for giving Paula Broadwell, with whom he was also having an affair, classified material while she was working on the book about him. The scandal destroyed the four-star general's reputation, who had led U.S. forces both in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## America's Fighting Forces:

story by CPT Bennett Dickson

Submitted by Pete Vander Haegen

I really enjoyed the story about the Captain's bars. When I was a Captain and commanding B Company in 1971, I had to go back to DaNang and testify at a Court Martial (Not a B Co guy, someone from HHC). When you needed something from supply, my RTO would collect the list and call it in on Admin Log at night. The stuff would be sent out on a resupply bird, usually in a barracks bag. You reached into the bag and grabbed the stuff that you had asked for. I needed a replacement jungle fatigue jacket and the one that arrived was complete with the old subdued sew on rank on the sleeves for a SP4. It fit, and since everyone knew that I was the company commander, I never bothered to take them off. This was what I was wearing when I was flown back to DaNang. After I testified, I had some time so we ran over to the PX at Freedom Hill. Since this had been a Navy/Air Force facility, it was as nice as it got in that part of the world. We never wore our boonie hats in the field, they were left in the rear and steel pots were all that was ever seen off the rear. I had grabbed my boonie hat from the supply room and wore that in and around that day in DaNang. The problem is that my Captain's bars were on the boonie cap. Additionally, my jungle boots were almost white, the black finished layer was completely gone and all that was left was rough raw leather. The was all fine in the court room, but when I got to the PX, the MP's were on alert. I was grabbed by a couple of big MP's and dragged into their holding area. Finally, the MP Company Commander showed up, but even then the MP's still thought that I was some subversive element. The lesson learned that rank did not matter so much, it was rather what part of Vietnam you inhabited. I came to appreciate the world I lived where the real fighters lived.

## Court Rules Ex-Service Members can Wear Medals Not Earned:

A Federal court in California has ruled that a former Marine can wear service medals he did not earn, saying that displaying them was a form of free speech. The case involving Elven Joe Swisher, an Idaho man who enlisted in the Marines after the Korean War, touched on a sensitive issue that has been scrutinized by groups dedicated to confirming when people, either motivated by profit or status claim to be military heroes but are not. The 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that Swisher, who was honorably discharged from the Marines in 1957, had the right to wear medals, including the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, even though he had not been awarded them. Since 2006 the Stolen Valor Act has gone through several changes. In 2012, a case that arose from a man who claimed to be a Medal of Honor recipient was addressed by the Supreme Court, which overturned a portion of the act, saying it infringed on the free speech. In 2013, Congress removed a provision that made it illegal to wear a medal.

**Twenty-five Years Later: Desert Storm:** Twenty-five years ago, more than 600,000 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Storm. This massive war effort, America's first major military engagement since Vietnam, brought together 34 countries led by the United States and its commander-in-chief, President George H.W. Bush. In just 43 days, the U.S.-led coalition secured victory and liberated the Kuwaiti people. However, the brevity of Desert Storm belies the permanence of the service and sacrifices made during the war. Nearly 300 American service members lost their lives in the campaign. The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association is working towards building a monument to their sacrifice and their service.



**First Female Marines Apply to MARSOC:** Just weeks after previously closed military ground combat and special operations jobs were declared open to women, the Marine Corps' special operations command has had its first female applicants. Maj. Gen. Joseph Osterman, commanding general of MARSOC, told Military.com the command has already received several requests from female Marines to enter the assessment and selection pipeline to become a critical skills operator. While Osterman could not specify how many women had applied, he said the first female applicant surfaced only days after the Jan. 4 deadline Defense Secretary Ash Carter set for new jobs to open. "The very first week of January ... we had one female applicant on the West Coast," Osterman said. "Unfortunately, there was something in the prerequisite stuff she didn't have, a [general technical] score or something. It was, 'get re-tested and come on back,' that kind of thing." Osterman said MARSOC is actively soliciting and recruiting qualified female Marines to join the command's ranks. The command does not have, as Osterman put it, a "street to fleet" recruiting program; rather, it recruits from within the ranks of the Marine Corps. To qualify for MARSOC critical skills operator assessment and selection, a Marine must be a seasoned corporal or a sergeant, or a first lieutenant or captain. The Marine must also have a minimum GT score of 105 and a minimum physical fitness test score of 225 out of 300, and be able to pass a command swim assessment and meet medical screening criteria.

**Debriefing Process Begins for US Sailors Involved in Iran Boat Seizure:** The ten U.S. sailors who were returned to U.S. protection after briefly being taken into custody in Iran are no longer in Bahrain and are in the process of being repatriated, a senior Navy official said recently. The official, who spoke under condition of anonymity to discuss the matter, said the sailors -- nine men and one woman -- began the first day of their debrief, a process that is expected to take days or a week. The sailors are also in the midst of a "reintegration process" to assess their states of physical and mental health, the official said. That reintegration is conditions-based and will be tailored to the needs of the individuals involved. The Navy does plan to release more details about the incident after it completes the debrief, but the official said the service has no plans to publicly identify the sailors who were taken hostage ahead of that process. "We find it is not very helpful to sailors and their families" to do so, the official said. The specifics of how the sailors and their two riverine command boats ended up in Iranian waters are still scarce. A defense official confirmed that the boats had drifted, but said they did not run out of fuel. The official said at least one of the boats had engine trouble. The U.S. has recovered the boats and the radio equipment on board, the official said. Still unclear is whether the drifting of the boats was a mechanical or user error. Questions also linger about videos and images that have surfaced showing one of the sailors apologizing to an unseen Iranian interrogator and calling the intrusion into Iranian waters a mistake. Those images were circulated by Iranian media ahead of the sailors' release.



**Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifice.**

Harry S. Truman

**TRICARE Nurse Advice Line:** TRICARE has established a Nurse Advice Line (NAL) that is available at no cost to TRICARE beneficiaries in the continental United States, Alaska, and Hawaii. The NAL is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NAL has health care professionals on staff ready and able to answer urgent care questions, give health care advice, provide assistance locating a doctor, and schedule next-day appointments at military hospitals and clinics. More than half of the calls to the NAL are related to pediatric health concerns, which are routed to the NAL's experienced team of pediatric registered nurses. The NAL may also answer questions about high fevers, allergic reactions, rashes, and/or accidents, and advise you on the clinically appropriate level of care you should seek for your child. To learn more about the NAL, visit: <http://www.tricare.mil/ContactUs/CallUs/NAL.aspx>.

**Islamic State Razing of Iraq Monastery Condemned:** The Obama Administration and the Vatican condemned the Islamic State group for razing Iraq's oldest Christian monastery, a 1400-year-old structure that survived assaults by nature and man for centuries before it was deliberately destroyed by extremists. At the United Nations, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova said reducing St. Elijah's monastery in Mosul to a field of rubble was malicious and misguided. The Associated Press confirmed the news with exclusive satellite images published. "Despite their relentless crimes, extremists will never be able to erase history," said Bokova, who called the demolition a war crime. "It also reminds us how terrified by history the extremists are, because understanding the past undermines the pretexts they use to justify these crimes and exposes them as expressions of pure hatred and ignorance." St. Elijah's monastery on the outskirts of Mosul was a place of worship recently for U.S. troops, who worked to restore it. In earlier centuries, generations of monks tucked candles in the niches and prayed in the cool chapel. The Greek letters chi and rho, representing the first two letters of Christ's name, were carved near the entrance. During a press briefing in Washington State Department spokesman Mark Toner said the Obama Administration condemned the destruction by IS. "They continue to carry out these kinds of depraved acts, and it really symbolizes or exemplifies their bankrupt ideology," he said.

**US General: Afghan Army Being 'Rebuilt' for Taliban Battle:** After months of ferocious fighting, Afghan army units battling the Taliban in southern Helmand province are facing major restructuring and leadership changes, with several key commanders being replaced, a U.S. military official said Monday. Helmand has been a fierce battleground since last fall, with fighting taking place in 10 districts. At times, the insurgents have laid siege on army bases and threatened to overrun large chunks of territory. Local officials have called for help from central authorities and complained publicly over corruption that includes siphoning off salaries, food, fuel and equipment. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Wilson Shoffner, the head of public affairs for the U.S.-NATO mission, told The Associated Press that the Afghan army corps in Helmand is now being "rebuilt" and that senior officers are being replaced. The reasons for the changes in the Afghan army's 215 Maiwand Corps "are a combination of incompetence, corruption and ineffectiveness," Shoffner said. The corps' commander has been replaced, along with "some brigade commanders and some key corps staff up to full colonel level," he said. Helmand is a strategic region for the Taliban, as it as it shares a border of more than 250 kilometers (155 miles) with Pakistan. It grows large quantities of opium, used to produce most of the world's heroin. The harvest is worth up to \$3 billion a year, and helps fund the insurgency. The Afghan Defense Ministry confirmed the changes in Helmand.

**Soldier's Journey to Heal Spotlights 'Moral Injuries' of War:** "It was just another day in Mosul," the soldier began, his voice shaking. Sgt. 1st Class Marshall Powell took a deep breath. He couldn't look at the other three servicemen seated around him in the therapy session. He'd rarely spoken about his secret, the story of the little girl who wound up in his hospital during the war in Iraq, where he served as an Army nurse. Her chest had been blown apart, and her brown eyes implored him for help. Whenever he'd thought of her since, "I killed the girl" echoed in his head. Powell kept his eyes glued to the pages he'd written and tried to steady his nerves. He cleared his throat. He recalled the chaos after a bombing that August day in 2007, the vehicles roaring up with Iraqi civilians covered in blood, the hospital hallways overflowing with wounded and dead. The air had smelled of burned flesh. Around midnight, Powell took charge of the area housing those with little chance of survival. There, amid the mangled bodies, he saw her. She was tiny, maybe 6 years old, lying on a blanket on the floor. Her angelic face reminded him of his niece back home in Oklahoma. Back in the therapy room, saying it all out loud, Powell's eyes began to fill just at the memory of her. "I couldn't let her lay there and suffer," he said. A doctor had filled a syringe with painkillers. Powell pushed dose after dose into the child's IV. "She smiled at me," he told the others in the room, "and I smiled back. Then she took her last gasp of air." Before the war, Sgt. Powell's very core was built on God and faith and saving lives, not doing anything that could end one. He lost his purpose when the girl died, and he found himself in a nondescript room on a naval base in San Diego trying desperately to save his own crumbling existence before it was too late. Surrounding him that day were other veterans who had suffered as he suffered: An Army staff sergeant who stood frozen in shock, unable to offer aid to a soldier whose legs were severed in an explosion in Afghanistan. A Marine whose junior comrade was fatally shot after he'd convinced him to switch posts in Iraq. A Navy man who beat an Iraqi citizen in anger after a boy who appeared to be the man's son opened fire on his squad. Like Powell, they'd spent years torturing themselves over acts that tortured their conscience. "Souls in anguish" is how some experts describe this psychological scar of war now being identified as "moral injury." Unlike post-traumatic stress disorder, which is based on fear from feeling one's life threatened, moral injury produces extreme guilt and shame from something done or witnessed that goes against one's values or may even be a crime. The term was introduced in the 1990s by a now-retired Department of Veterans Affairs psychiatrist, Dr. Jonathan Shay, who recognized the problem in Vietnam veterans he was treating. While the idea of warriors feeling remorse over battlefield horrors is not new, moral injury has gained more attention following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as mental health providers point to it as a reason why veterans aren't improving with PTSD treatments. More than 390,000 veterans of those conflicts have sought help through the VA for PTSD. The VA website includes a page dedicated to moral injury, and the Navy now runs one of the military's first residential treatment programs that addresses the problem -- the one that Powell found. Still, debate persists over whether moral injury is a part of PTSD or its own separate condition. There is no formal diagnosis for it by medical professionals, and no one knows how many veterans may suffer from it. Research into moral injury "is a work in progress," said Dr. Matthew Friedman, a senior adviser to the VA's National Center for PTSD. Some contend the military is reluctant to more formally recognize the concept because doing so could mean sweeping changes in training and culture.

**A Nation of Sheep - Breeds a Government of Wolves!**

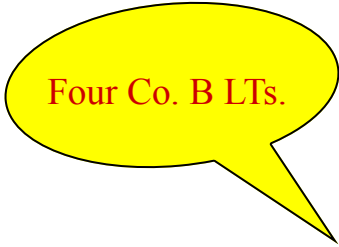
**North Korea Says Nuclear Test Shows It Could Wipe Out' US:** North Korea's U.N. mission claimed that its successful nuclear bomb test showed that it could now "wipe out" the United States, as the U.N. Security Council grappled with a response to the underground blast. North Korea called it a hydrogen bomb and said the test "scientifically proved the power of the smaller H-bomb," though the United States and others expressed skepticism that Pyongyang actually tested a hydrogen bomb for the first time. Nonetheless, whatever the North detonated underground will likely push the country closer toward a fully functional nuclear arsenal, which it still is not thought to have. A Security Council diplomat said that the U.N.'s most powerful body is working on a resolution that imposes tougher sanctions on North Korea to reflect the claim that it tested a more powerful hydrogen bomb, which is "a step change" from its three previous atomic test. The diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity because consultations have been private, said all 15 council members agree that North Korea should be denuclearized, and this will be reflected in a new resolution. North Korea's U.N. mission circulated a report from the country's news agency saying the Jan. 6 test wasn't to "threaten" or "provoke" anyone but was indispensable to build a nuclear force "to cope with the U.S. ever-more undisguised hostile policy" toward the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the country's official name. It said North Korean scientists and technicians "are in high spirit to detonate H-bombs ... capable of wiping out the whole territory of the U.S. all at once as it persistently moves to stifle the DPRK." Former Los Alamos National Laboratory director Siegfried Hecker, one of the world's top experts on North Korea's nuclear program, said he did not believe it tested "a real hydrogen bomb," and that "North Korea is still a long way off from being able to strike the U.S. mainland." But Hecker, who has visited the North seven times since 2004, said in an interview with Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation, that the most worrisome result of the test is that North Korea "will have achieved greater sophistication in their bomb design." He added that "at this point, what makes their nuclear arsenal more dangerous is not so much explosive power of the bomb, but its size, weight and the ability to deliver it with missiles." There was no immediate response to a request for comment from the U.S. mission to the United Nations. The Security Council last approved sanctions against North Korea three weeks after its third nuclear test on Feb. 12, 2013. That resolution was largely negotiated by the United States and China, North Korea's traditional ally. South Korea's President Park Geun-hye called for Chinese help to launch what she calls the "strongest" international sanctions on North Korea over the nuclear test. The council diplomat said the United States, which is leading the current negotiations, is consulting closely with China but also with other council members, including Japan. The diplomat said a new resolution isn't expected immediately.

**Marines Bid Farewell to Fallen Helicopter Crews in Moving Service:** A memorial service for 12 Marines killed when their CH-53E Super Stallion Helicopters collided during a night flight over the Hawaiian coast was largely spent in reminiscences and fond memories about each of the fallen Marines. Held at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Marines from HMH-463 paid tribute to their brothers against a backdrop of 12 battlefield crosses with portraits of the men, along with their dog tags, vests, flight helmets and boots. The impact the tragedy had on the Marine Corps community and the nation was underscored when President Barack Obama released a statement conveying his sympathies to family of the fallen. "As we mourn this loss, we are reminded of the sacrifice men and women of our Armed Forces make each day for the freedom and security of their fellow Americans,"





Items from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade  
Americal Division Reunion  
Daytona Beach Florida



Lee Klein Joe Genereux Jerry Hughes John Shoemaker

