



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



WEBSITE: www.2-1-196th.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/2-1-196th

Volume 11

“A Soldier Once And Always”

July 2021

Commanders Corner: Greetings to all my Brothers and your Families and Friends and fellow brothers from our sister units! I hope everyone is well and hopefully most if not all of you and your family members have had an opportunity to be vaccinated for the COVID Virus. For those that have chosen not to be vaccinated I appreciate your right to do so. That's the great thing about America we are free to choose although there are many challenges to maintain these rights these days.



We have entered into the summer now and many things are getting back to some degree of normalcy. I hope that everyone will be able to return to enjoying time with your families and friends and for those that enjoy travelling I hope you will be able to do this although everything I see and read travel by air has become very crowded so trying to find a flight might be hard. I hope everyone traveling to Indianapolis for our reunion have made your flight reservations if traveling by air and if not you might want to do this soon. I know Chuck Holdaway has planned many activities for everyone attending the union and it would be a shame if everyone does not take advantage of this. Also I hate to remind everyone that we are not getting any younger so we need to take every opportunity we can to get together and remember old times and catch up on everyone's new times and adventures.

I remind everyone to reach out to Robert “Doc” Tatum to let him know you are thinking of him and his wife Silvia. If you refer to the June Newsletter you will find an article written by Jerry “Bo” Borysaik that gives a nice Bio on Doc. If anyone knows of any of our brothers that may need our prayers and best wishes at any time please let Rich Heroux know and he can include information in the Newsletter.

We continue to search for new members so if anyone knows of people that served in 2/1 please reach out to them and try to get them to join our group. If you know anyone who served with 2/1 Infantry let us know and we will send them a “Welcome” package. We will urge them to sign up with our Chapter. By doing this we will do 2 things: 1. acknowledge their service to our country and help them work through the VA system; 2. We will become closer as a brother. We are working very hard to include all 2/1 service members in our Chapter.

Finally this coming weekend we will have the opportunity to celebrate our Independence Day on July 4th. Please fly your Flags and take time to remember this important Day and enjoy time with your Families and Friends. Just in case you plan any fireworks “Be Safe” Remember all our Veteran Men and Women and pray for all our Active Duty Men and Women that serve our great nation today! May God bless all our families and our Great Nation!

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

Dwight Sypolt
Commander

From H Duckworth O'Brien's “A Grunt's Life”: **“Grenadier”** The M79 Grenade Launcher, was fired by the soldier called a “Grenadier”. It is a single shot weapon firing a 40mm High Explosive or flechette round. The rotation of the projectile armed them; but the round had to travel at least 98 feet before it did. Not much of a direct fire, close-up defensive weapon unless you fire it nearly vertical. Because of its distinctive “Bloop” sound when fired, it was known as “The thumper” or “The Bloopster”. A good grenadier could drop a round in a bunker at over 400 yards. Real handy at keeping the Cong's head down when crossing an open area or rice paddy.

2021 ADVA annual reunion Report, Indianapolis, September 8-12: Fellow Members, the time for the annual Americal Division Veterans Association reunion in Indianapolis is fast approaching and I just want to urge any of you who haven't signed up yet to do so as soon as possible. We already have a lot of veterans, spouses and friends signed up but, there are still plenty of rooms, RV spots and tour spaces available. The sooner you sign up for the reunion, the easier it is for us to plan for everything involved with having an event of this size. This year's raffle should be especially nice as we have, not only, the usual weapon raffle, but, 4 hard to find Army issued poncho liners, an original NVA flag, and a few other items. My wife and I have a couple of these poncho liners each and they are great to use when the weather becomes colder while sitting around outside or inside. These generally cost anywhere between \$25 and \$60 on the internet depending on whether they are used (they call them pre-owned) or new. Heck of a deal for a raffle ticket. Also, since we didn't have a reunion last year, this is a chance to, once again, see your old friends and acquaintances. This year, aside from the general ADVA hospitality room, the 2/1 Chapter, the 23rd MPs, the 11th LIB and the 1/6th Infantry will have their own special hospitality rooms. If you have never been to a reunion, you don't know what you have missed. Information and forms are available on the ADVA web site <https://www.americal.org>, the 2/1 chapter web site <http://www.2-1-196th.com> and in the “Americal Journal” magazine. As always, if you have any questions, I can be contacted at 317-847-2756 or indy2021reunion@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Chuck Holdaway



Summer Training for Army ROTC Cadets Returns after Hiatus: Thousands of Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets are returning to Fort Knox for annual summer training this year — a culminating event before cadets become commissioned officers. Last summer, the corona virus pandemic forced the Army to cancel ROTC cadet summer training at the central Kentucky installation just days before the first students were expected to arrive. Instead, cadets were given training in rifle marksmanship, combat casualty care and tactics at college campuses and nearby military installations. This year, though, the annual event is largely back to normal. Cadet summer training is the single largest training event conducted throughout the Army, according to an Army Cadet Command news release announcing the return. During an average summer, roughly 10,000 cadets are trained over the course of about three months. “It provides a learning and training laboratory that enables cadets to take advantage of the tough, realistic, iterative, and dynamic training, equipping them for their roles as future Army leaders,” the news release reads. “The training this year is being conducted in a COVID-informed environment, ensuring our cadets meet all of the training requirements to receive their commissions while mitigating COVID-19 health risks.” ROTC commissions approximately 70 percent of new officers entering the Army each year into the active duty, reserve and National Guard components. Many ROTC cadets also attend college on scholarships provided by the program.

Homelessness Among Vets could Spike as Pandemic Protections Vanish, Advocates Warn: The end of pandemic financial protections coupled with the lingering housing challenges of recent years could lead to “an unprecedented wave of veterans homelessness” in coming months, advocates warned lawmakers recently. They’re pushing for more resources to help those vulnerable veterans but also intervention from federal and local officials to maintain those protections for a little longer, to prevent a potential tragedy. “We shouldn’t necessarily be ending these eviction moratoriums and foreclosure breaks,” said Kathryn Monet, chief executive officer for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. “I don’t think the economy has recovered to a point where people are able to cover all of these expenses. “We need to continue doing this, not forever, but until people can get back on their feet.” But that idea received pushback from some Republicans on the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee, who argued that as communities reopen after months of pandemic restrictions, business practices and regulations must return to normal. And Veterans Affairs officials said that despite the looming challenges, they are optimistic about the opportunities ahead to finally end veterans homelessness in America. “We have the expertise and experience that generated significant declines in veteran levels of homelessness in the past, we have leadership commitment and support, and we have unprecedented resources and statutory flexibility,” Keith Harris, director of clinical operations of VA’s Homeless Programs Office, told committee members.

Army’s Top Museum Reopens on the Service’s 246th Birthday: The National Museum of the United States Army reopened its doors to the public Monday June 14, 2021 to help the service celebrate its 246th birthday. The museum, located just outside Fort Belvoir, originally opened on Veterans Day 2020 after many years of anticipation. Only 32 days later, however, an uptick in the coronavirus pandemic resulted in its closing. Timed-entry tickets for the museum are available at <https://www.thenmusa.org/visit/#get-tickets>.

My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb

No Charges for Police Officer in Capitol Riot Shooting Death of Air Force Veteran: Authorities had considered for months whether criminal charges were appropriate for the Capitol Police officer who fatally shot Ashli Babbitt, a 35-year-old Air Force veteran from San Diego. The Justice Department’s decision, though expected, officially closes out the investigation. Prosecutors said they had reviewed video of the shooting, along with statements from the officer involved and other officers and witnesses, examined physical evidence from the scene and reviewed the autopsy results. “Based on that investigation, officials determined that there is insufficient evidence to support a criminal prosecution,” the department said in a statement. Video clips posted online depict Babbitt, wearing a stars and stripes backpack, stepping up and beginning to go through the waist-high opening of an area of the Capitol known as the Speaker’s Lobby when a gunshot is heard. She falls backward. Another video shows other unidentified people attempting to lift Babbitt up. She can be seen slumping back to the ground. Prosecutors said Babbitt was part of the mob that was trying to get into the House as Capitol Police officers were evacuating members of Congress from the chamber. The officers used furniture to try to barricade the glass doors separating the hallway from the Speaker’s Lobby to try to stave off the rioters, who kept trying to break through those doors, smashing the glass with flagpoles, helmets and other objects. At the same time, Babbitt tried climbing through one of the doors where the glass was broken out. A Capitol Police officer inside the Speaker’s Lobby then fired a single round from his service weapon, striking Babbitt in the shoulder, prosecutors said.

Remains of 3 Brothers Killed During Pearl Harbor Attack Identified: 22-year-old Navy Fireman 1st Class Malcolm J. Barber, 21-year-old Navy Fireman 1st Class LeRoy K. Barber and 18-year-old Navy Fireman 2nd Class Randolph H. Barber were assigned to the USS Oklahoma in World War II. They grew up in New London. The Oklahoma was moored at Ford Island when it was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. Officials say the ship sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize. It resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen. Long after they died, military sees surge in identifications of the fallen in past conflicts. Officials believe remains of nearly half of the 83,000 unidentified service members killed in World War II and more recent wars could be identified and returned to relatives. The military said the brothers were accounted for on June 10, 2020. The Navy ship USS Barber, launched in 1943, was named in their honor.

Marine Corps Shuts Down Southern Command Rotational Deployment: After five years the Marine Corps is shutting down its Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force–Southern Command as the Corps looks to save money to reshape itself. The SPMAGTF–Southern Command originally was stood up in 2014 and has spent most of its time headquartered on Soto Cano air base in Honduras. From its Honduran headquarters small groups of Marines would deploy South American nations to aid in disaster relief, train alongside allies and prepare local troops to take on drug cartels. The recently released Marine Corps budget request for fiscal year 2022 called for an end to the rotational deployment to save over \$3 million a year, according to the budget documents. “The realignment of resources and removal of a dedicated rotational force (SPMAGTF-SC) from USSOUTHCOM was based on national and service competing priorities,” Maj. J.A. Hernandez, a Marine Corps spokesman. The Corps is cutting costs from all over its budget in an attempt to rebuild the Corps for a fight with China. In 2021 the Corps scrapped its tank units and started reducing the number of infantry battalions it has in the ranks.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan Says Preventing Iran from Obtaining Nuclear Weapon is 'Paramount Priority' for United States:

National security adviser Jake Sullivan said recently that preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon remains a "paramount priority" for the United States, emphasizing that diplomacy "is the best way to achieve that." Sullivan weighed in on the issue during appearances on the Sunday morning news shows one day after the election of Iran's new president, Ebrahim Raisi, who was previously the country's ultraconservative judiciary chief. "Well, I think what we need to do in the United States is keep our eye on the ball," Sullivan said when asked about Iran on ABC News's "This Week." "And that is — our paramount priority right now is to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. We believe that diplomacy is the best way to achieve that, rather than military conflict. And so, we're going to negotiate in a clear-eyed, firm way with the Iranians to see if we can arrive at an outcome that puts their nuclear program in a box." Sullivan added that the United States believes the decision on whether to revive the 2015 nuclear deal lies not with Raisi but with Iran's 82-year-old supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "He was the same person before this election as he is after the election, so ultimately, it lies with him," Sullivan said. Raisi's win is not expected to derail negotiations that are underway in Vienna between Tehran and world powers on the possible revival of the nuclear deal. Khamenei has allowed Iran to reopen the dialogue and appears ready to keep it going in efforts to get international sanctions on Iran lifted. But the longer-term effect on Iran's relationships with Europe and the United States was far less clear.

Veterans Affairs - Largest Health Care: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest health care system in the country, with over 1,400 sites of care nationwide. When you become enrolled in the VA health care system, it's for a lifetime. You are instantly and automatically entitled to receive care at any VA location without ever having to register for VA health care benefits again. Learn more at: http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_fish.asp?dnum=1

After you enroll, you can immediately start receiving your health care at a VA facility, or at a later date - the choice is yours. Enrolling in the VA health care system is quick and easy - just complete an online Application for Health Benefits online at: <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/> Need help enrolling? Contact the VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

VA to Offer Gender Surgery to Transgender Vets for the First Time:

Veterans Affairs officials for the first time will offer surgeries for transgender veterans seeking to alter their physical attributes, Secretary Denis McDonough announced. The move follows repeated promises by VA officials to make the department "more welcoming" to all veterans and was accompanied by an announcement that the Veterans Health Administration will rename its LGBT health program to the LGBTQ+ program to "reflect new community standards of inclusiveness and anticipate future changes in terms." "[This is] allowing transgender vets to go through the full gender confirmation process with VA by their side," McDonough said prepared remarks for an event at the Orlando VA Healthcare System in Florida. "We're making these changes not only because they are the right thing to do, but because they can save lives." The National Center for Transgender Equality estimates there are more than 134,000 transgender veterans in America today, and another 15,000 transgender individuals serving in the armed forces.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every morning'.

Frustration Growing as Time Runs Short to Evacuate Afghan allies Ahead of US Withdrawal:

Time is running out to find a solution for Afghan nationals looking to emigrate to the United States before American military forces leave the country. Senate Armed Services Committee member Angus King, I Maine, held a news conference calling for military officials to lend personnel to the State Department to speed up processing of Afghan visa applications. He also suggested that NATO officials should make the issue a top priority. "This is an emergency, and it needs to be treated as such," the senator said. "If there are places that we or NATO control that could be used as an immediate waystation to bring these people to safety, I think we should do it. "I want the White House's hair on fire. I want them to do everything within their power to solve this problem." The bipartisan group wants the immediate evacuation of thousands of translators and aides from the country to ensure their safety. King's comments came just 88 days before the official end date to the U.S. military presence in Afghanistan, though he noted that U.S. forces may be withdrawn sooner. Later in the day, defense officials announced they have taken more than 600 plane loads of equipment out of the country, and completed more than half of the withdrawal in the two months since President Joe Biden announced a goal of pulling all U.S. military forces out by Sept. 11. At the current pace, the job may be done a month early. White House officials have repeatedly vowed to find ways to help the nearly 18,000 Afghan translators and contractors who have applied to emigrate to America through the Special Immigrant Visa program. Thousands more spouses and children could be eligible to leave along with them, but processing those applications takes years.

Senator demands Army accountability after report finds nearly 2,000 missing military weapons:

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., on Tuesday called on Army leaders to investigate a "blood curdling" news report that found nearly 2,000 military firearms went missing during the 2010s and demanded greater accountability for lost or stolen weapons. "This report is absolutely blood curdling. The idea that pistols, assault weapons, grenade launchers are missing from armories of the United States military, because they have been lost or stolen without any apparent accounting, without any reporting to Congress ... is just incredibly alarming and astonishing," Blumenthal said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the Army's budget. The Associated Press released the results of a years long investigation Tuesday that found at least 1,900 military firearms were lost or stolen during the 2010s, some of which turned up at the scene of violent crimes. Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force government records revealed pistols, machine guns, shotguns and automatic assault rifles have disappeared from armories, supply warehouses and other places where they were used, stored or transported, according to the AP report. Blumenthal asked newly appointed Army Secretary Christine Wormuth and Gen. James McConville, the Army chief of staff, whether they would commit to investigating the issue. "My understanding is that the cases of weapons from any branch of the services being unaccounted for and getting into the hands of civilians is likely to be a small number, but particularly given these reports, I commit to you that this is something that we will look into," Wormuth said. Blumenthal responded 1,900 firearms is "not exactly a small number." The senator also pressed whether the Army would commit to regularly reporting annual updates to Congress about missing weapons, as the Pentagon used to do. However, the requirement to do so ended years ago, according to the AP.

Soldiers do not march in step when going across bridges because they could set up a vibration which could be sufficient to knock the bridge down.

Budget Funds Arlington Cemetery Expansion, Won't Fix Eligibility Concerns:

The \$715 billion DoD budget released by the White House last month includes \$228 million for Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), a \$146 million year-over-year increase thanks in large part to \$141 million in support of ANC's southern expansion. MOAA and its colleagues in The Military Coalition (TMC) – a group of military and veterans service organizations representing a combined 5.5 million-plus membership – support this expansion and appreciate the ongoing capacity concerns of ANC officials. However, this project (and the funds behind it) do not represent a permanent fix, and plans to address these concerns still call for unfair, unjust rule changes that could affect the end-of-life plans for now-eligible 20-year retirees. MOAA and TMC have called on DoD leadership to reassess these plans, which would prevent most military retirees from receiving an in-ground burial at ANC and the unique honors that go with it. MOAA members and others have registered their concerns in large numbers, with nearly 2,000 people taking part in an online comment period that ended in November. The planned expansion will add 60,000 burial sites to ANC – enough to extend the availability of in-ground burial for several decades, but far from a permanent solution. MOAA and TMC have stressed three key points throughout this process – points you can make clear to your lawmaker:

Fix the rules. The proposed eligibility changes discriminate against many of those who spent decades in dedicated service. Members of bomber or submarine crews, for example, may not have had the ability to attain the service awards required under the new criteria, nor would women who served prior to many specialties being open to all in uniform.

Grandfather those eligible. Twenty-year retirees and others who are now eligible should retain that eligibility regardless of the final shape of any new criteria. This would allow them to keep existing end-of-life plans and avoid painful decisions for family members.

Designate the next national cemetery. ANC will run out of space regardless of eligibility criteria. The proposed changes came as a result of a process that prioritized eligibility changes over plans for noncontiguous expansion. Instead of focusing on limiting the number of eligible retirees and veterans, officials must begin in earnest efforts to establish a location for the next national cemetery.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) gives lawmakers the ideal platform to act on these priorities. Write to your representatives today and make your voice heard; MOAA will continue its efforts on this issue throughout the NDAA process.

Study of 400,000 Female Vets Links PTSD to Heart Disease:

The American Medical Association study finds that female veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) are more than twice as likely as male veterans to suffer from ischemic heart disease than those without PTSD. The study examined nearly 400,000 female veterans, of which nearly one-third suffered from PTSD. The results of that study reflected that female veterans suffering from PTSD were 44% more likely to have the debilitating heart disease than their fellow veterans who did not have PTSD. PTSD can affect women and men in different ways. Women with PTSD are more likely to feel depressed and anxious, while men with PTSD are more likely to have problems with alcohol or drugs. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, between 11% and 20% of modern-day veterans suffer from PTSD. According to the American Heart Association, ischemic heart disease refers to problems caused by narrowing of the arteries. That results in less blood and oxygen reaching the heart muscle and ultimately can lead to a heart attack. Ischemic heart disease is also known as coronary artery disease or coronary heart disease.

Last Air Force POW officially Retires: Lt. Col. Rob Sweet, the Air Force's last-serving prisoner of war, retired June 6 after 33 years of service. On Feb. 15, 1991, Sweet and his flight commander, Capt. Stephen R. Phillis, crossed the northern border of Kuwait, further into Iraq than any A-10 pilot had gone before. Their mission was to eliminate Iraqi Republican Guard tanks about 80 miles past the border of Kuwait. “We left and found a pristine array of tanks that had not been hit, which shocked us because by that point everything had been bombed for the past 30 days,” Sweet said in an interview with Air Force Public Affairs. The duo closed in. After dropping their bombs, however, a surface-to-air missile was released from an enemy launch site. As Sweet moved in to attack it, he felt a bump. Looking back, he saw the rear end of his right wing in flames. In an interview with People Magazine, Sweet said his first thought was “oh, man, I'm hit” before racing to the border. It was too late. Within minutes, he was forced to eject and landed 50 feet from the same tanks that shot him down. After crashing, 200 Iraqi soldiers ran towards him, shooting and yelling. They beat him, leaving him with a black eye among other injuries before taking him captive. For 19 days, Sweet experienced brutality as a prisoner of war. The constant beatings, starvation, disease and boredom in his 8-by-15-foot cell took a physical, mental and emotional toll. Despite his suffering, Sweet endured. He was returned home in a prisoner exchange along with 15 other POWs on March 6, 1991. He credits his military training, specifically his Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) school, with his survival. “There were very few surprises in the jailhouse,” he said. “I knew what to expect.” Not everyone made it back. Phillips was killed while trying to draw fire away from Sweet and coordinate a search and rescue.



Four times as many troops and vets have died by suicide as in combat, study finds:

The suicide rate among active-duty troops and veterans has outpaced the also-rising rate in the general population in recent years, but with so many risk factors inherent to military life, it's difficult to pin down why. There's no one reason for it, according to a study released by the Costs of War Project, and the way the Defense Department and VA track suicides might mean even their growing numbers are incomplete. “The report notes that the increasing rates of suicide for both veterans and active duty personnel are outpacing those of the general population — an alarming shift, as suicide rates among service members have historically been lower than suicide rates among the general population,” according to a news release. Per researchers' estimates, 30,177 Global War on Terror veterans have died by suicide, compared to 7,057 who have died while deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. There are myriad stressors endemic not only to combat deployments, but also to military service, that may contribute to the rising suicide rate.

2021 Americal Division National Reunion September 8-11, 2021 Indianapolis, Indiana

LOCATION: Wyndham Indianapolis West, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

HOTEL RESERVATION PROCEDURE: The reunion room rate is \$115, plus tax, per night, with free daily breakfast. The Group rate is offered 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates, based on hotel's availability. Various reservation options are listed below. Rates cannot be adjusted at check-in or check-out for guests who fail to identify their affiliation with the **Americal Division Veterans Association** when making reservations. **Note: In accordance with proposed hotel reservation changes for 2021, all reservations will be charged a non-refundable deposit of one night's room rate and tax when the reservation is made.**
Reservation Phone Numbers: When calling in room reservations, **ALWAYS indicate you are with the Americal Division Veterans Association** and use the code **90621ADVA** to avoid any possible complications. Wyndham West Direct: **(317) 381-6123**
Email: adva2021@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com

Wyndham Reservation Web Site Link: A link has been set up by the Wyndham Hotels to allow online reservations to be made. This can be found on both the Americal and 2/1 chapter web sites.
<https://americal.org/cmsaml/index.php/reunions.html> and <http://www.2-1-196th.com/>
Event/Dinner Registration Forms will be available in publications of the "Americal Journal" and on the web sites.
Reunion Questions Contact: Reunion Chairman, **Chuck Holdaway**, at **1-317-847-2756** or email at indy2021reunion@gmail.com.

Tours and Amenities:

Indianapolis 500 Race Track and Museum Tour (Thursday morning Sept. 9th)

Indianapolis War Memorials and Museum Tour (Friday morning Sept. 10th)

(Indianapolis is second only to Washington, DC in the number of monuments and museums which are armed services related. Almost all are within walking distance of each other and near the National Headquarters of the American Legion.)

Dallara Indycar Factory and interactive facility (Saturday afternoon Sept. 11th)

RV parking with hook-ups will be available at American Legion Post 500.

RV parking without hook ups will be available at the Wyndham Hotel at reunion room rate.

Free airport shuttle to and from the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel

Free breakfast, Wi-Fi and parking are available at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Individual ADVA chapters contact your membership and urge attendance.

Place a notice or poster at your local VFW, American Legion, etc.

Email your buddies to let them know.

Make your hotel reservations early; we expect a big turnout since 2021 was cancelled.

If you are planning on getting a space at the RV area, please send an email to the 2021 reunion email address above. It will help in our planning at the Legion Post as spaces may be limited. RV reservation information will be posted on both the ADVA and 2/1 chapter web sites as soon as available.