



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”

June 2021

Commanders Corner: Greetings to all my Brothers and your families and friends and fellow brothers from our sister units! I hope everyone is in great health as our country is finally returning back to some form of normalcy. It's great to be able to finally go about our business without wearing a mask and keeping 6 feet intervals.



As I write these comments we are entering what is referred to as Memorial weekend culminating in Memorial Day on Monday May 31st. Unfortunately a large percentage of our citizenry view Memorial Day as just another Holiday and many don't even know what the day represents. I know that all of us that have served it's a day to pause and remember our Brothers and Sisters that gave all in service to our Great Country. I also take time to remember those that served and returned but who have since passed on. Originally known as Decoration Day after the Civil War in 1868, Memorial Day was established as a National Holiday in 1971, as a time for pausing to remember all of those who have died while serving in the American armed forces.

I have always tried to support some of our Veteran Organizations such as the VFW, the American Legion and DAV. I also have supported charitable organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project. I am sure many of you support these organizations and others that I have not mentioned and I encourage you that this Memorial Day you dedicate yourself to support any Veteran Organization in any way you can which may just be to volunteer your time. I know you will in return receive much satisfaction from your endeavors.

I encourage everyone that lives near a VA facility to check with them to see if they need any volunteers and I am sure they will appreciate it and you will get much satisfaction. Many of our veterans visiting these facilities are in poor health and can use assistance when they come to the facilities.

I ask all of you to take the time to contact Robert “Doc” Tatum by whatever means you choose and let him know that he is not forgotten; that we all are concerned for him. Please read the comments made by Jerry “Bo” Borysiak on page 2 of this N/L. Here is a genuine means of helping one of our heroes.

As I was preparing for an opportunity to speak to a group of veterans. I was interested in determining just how many veterans perished while defending the freedoms we all enjoy. My research was astounding; the number of service men and women who made the supreme sacrifice in all of the conflicts totaled 6,300,000

For all those who have protected our nation, for the men and women in uniform, together, we say “Thank You”. May God bless you and your Family.

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

Dwight Sypolt
Commander

From H Duckworth O'Brien's “A Grunt's Life”:
“SARGEANT”: Sargeant... is the backbone of the combat arms since the American Revolutionary War. A grunt sergeant in Vietnam is one of the most diverse roles of any combatant. He may lead a squad one day on patrol and take over Platoon Sargeant duties the next. Often, he found himself functioning as the platoon leader until another LT was assigned to the platoon. He did this while not getting promoted for the most part. For the men under his charge, he was mother, father, and therapist. Mind you, these grunts are anywhere from 19 to 25 years old. He did this while most of his generation back home was either getting high, going to school and/or protesting him as a “Baby Killer” back in the states.

2021 ADVA annual reunion Report, Indianapolis, September 8-12:

We have some great tours lined up and an excellent banquet dinner on Saturday evening. If you haven't checked out our web site <http://www.2-1-196th.com> or the ADVA web site <https://www.americal.org>; please do. All reunion, tour, hotel and RV camping information is there; with forms for your convenience. The chapter will have its own hospitality room available throughout the reunion. I hope we will have our best chapter turnout ever and give all of you a chance to see your buddies and meet some new ones. Also, our annual 2/1 Chapter meeting will be held on Saturday morning after the general ADVA meeting. I believe we have 2 At-large Officer Council seats up for nominations and votes this year and, we will discuss any other chapter business that may arise. Remember, a member has to be present at the annual meeting to cast a vote, so, don't miss your chance to actively participate in chapter matters this year. I'm personally looking forward to this one since we weren't able to have an annual meeting last year because of the COVID problem. The chapter lost some members this last year due to their passing and I will greatly miss seeing them. Please try to make this reunion if at all possible. We are losing our Vietnam comrades to the tune of 146,000 each year so we owe it to ourselves to keep in contact and not miss any opportunity to get with each other. If any of you have any questions on anything, please email me at indy2021reunion@gmail.com or choldaway@sbcglobal.net. Also, the chapter has a printable reunion flyer available and I would appreciate it if you would print it and post copies in your local VFW and/or American Legion posts (or several if possible).

Sincerely,
Chuck Holdaway
Reunion Chairman

Veterans are people who, at one point in their lives, wrote a blank check payable to the United States Of America, for an amount up to and including their lives. Remember ALL of our Vets..

Jerry "Bo" Borysaik writes: I received an email recently from one of our ADVA Chapter members informing me of the condition of "Grenadier" Robert (Doc) Tatum. I contacted Bob "Doc" Tatum's wife Silvia, who informed me Bob had a severe stroke 7 years ago & has been bedridden ever since. For those who may not be aware of Bob and his contribution to our Chapter; Bob got the name Doc because he was a licensed Chiropractor, fresh out of school when he was drafted! Bob lost the use of his right eye from a grenade wound. Which changed his life. He no longer wanted to be a Chiropractor, but worked 25 plus years for the US Postal service. He and Wife Sylvia Built a house on Just under 10 acres of Corn Country, Iowa; Later having a son Jonathan & Daughter Pamela. Bob was always quite handy, building his own 10-inch Single Reflective celestial telescope from a 10-inch glass blank. He hand-crafted the Bravo 2/1 ceremonial knife, from a truck leaf spring, which he had chrome plated, added an antler handle, and then had it engraved. And finally building the Display Case with Blue velvet background. This perfectly crafted and mounted replica of historically significant weapon is passed on to a deserving Chapter member from Bravo Co. to decorate their home for a year; from one reunion to the next. Contacting Robert, you will be manifesting your concern for his well being making evident your interest for him and his condition. It would be not only a humanitarian effort, but also a genuine endeavor to alleviate Bob's condition. I would ask you to send him a note, card or message that would cheer him up. It would also let him know that he is not forgotten; that we all are concerned for him, and care for his illness. Here is Robert & Sylvia Tatum's mailing Address Robert D. Tatum, 12577, 95th Ave. Blue Grass, IA 52726. Bob is one of a kind, just like the rest of Bravo 2/1 Grunts who served in the Vietnam War.; and we have a one of a kind knife to show for it!!

SECDEF Nearing Decision about taking Sexual Assault Cases out of Chain of Command: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has heard from his handpicked panel of experts, his top uniformed adviser and the senior leadership of each of the services. Now he must decide whether he will take the leap and create policy requiring sexual assaults to be prosecuted by independent judge advocates, rather than by commanders. The decision is years in the making in some respects, but only months for Austin, who began standing up a 90-day commission to review the department's sexual assault prevention and response policies and efforts in January. That group of 12 came back with their first recommendations in April, chief among them that prosecutions should be handled by trained attorneys. It also comes as lawmakers are stepping up pressure to take the decision out of the chain of command. "The secretary has not given himself a hard-and-fast deadline," Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said recently. "He has the inputs now from the military departments, and ... then they had a discussion yesterday," Kirby did not rule out that Austin might want to further consult with service leadership, or others, before announcing his final decision. Kirby confirmed. "I think we've done things a certain way for a while, and I think we really need to kind of broaden our horizons and kind of look at things differently, and be willing to take different paths to improve things," Austin told reporters in May, but did not elaborate.

In World War II, the youngest serviceman in the United States military was Calvin Graham - age 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy. His real age was not discovered until after he was wounded.

Remains of 2 Kentucky Sailors Returned for Burial 80 years after Pearl Harbor Attack: The remains of two Kentucky men who died 80 years ago during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor were returned to the commonwealth this week for burial. U.S. Navy Fireman 3rd Class Welborn L. Ashby's niece Paula Kern told The Courier Journal that her mother had always been haunted by the uncertainty surrounding Ashby's death. The family was told the 24-year-old was declared to have lost his life, but the Navy could not locate the body. Martha Christian was 13 at the time. In the 1990s she travelled to Hawaii, lowering her feet into the cold waters of Pearl Harbor and weeping for her lost brother. In 2011, she donated DNA to help with the identification of remains, but Christian died in 2017, two years before Ashby's remains were positively identified by the federal Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. A Memorial Day service was planned for Ashby in Beaver Dam, followed by a burial at Centertown Cemetery with full military honors, including a "Missing Man" flyover by vintage planes. Paula Kern said she'll be thinking about her mother and her long quest to have her brother returned home to Kentucky. "It's what she would have wanted. And we want that closure too," Kern said. "We can't forget all those we've lost. U.S. Navy Seaman 2nd Class Howard Scott Magers, killed at 18, was another. Magers' remains arrived in Barren County on Saturday after they were identified by the federal Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. He was laid to rest with full military honors. Magers' three brothers and one sister have all died, but sister-in-law Betty Magers, now 91, still lives in the Merry Oaks area and remembers a young Howard Magers.



VA wants more Money to Expand Popular Tech Training Program for Job-Seeking Vets: VA officials are pushing Congress to lift the funding cap on a popular pilot program focused on technology training for transitioning veterans, saying they expect to use up all available funds by mid-summer. "This is an extremely important tool in our toolbox," Ronald Burke, deputy under secretary for policy at the Veterans Benefits Administration, told lawmakers recently. "If we are really serious about better employment [for veterans], this is one that needs to stay in that toolbox." The program, Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC), was launched in 2019 as a five-year pilot program. VA officials said interest in it has exceeded expectations, with more than 13,500 applications and 3,000 enrolled this year alone. The initiative links transitioning veterans and some still-serving troops with "industry-leading training providers" to learn in-demand technology skills. The VET TEC pilot was originally currently capped at \$15 million annually, but has already been boosted to \$45 million. Burke said he expects the fiscal 2021 money to run out in the next two months.

Connecticut Town Honors Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange: A Connecticut town has a new monument to veterans exposed to Agent Orange, a project spearheaded by a local veteran who says he was harmed by the Vietnam War-era defoliant. The new memorial is set to be dedicated Saturday in Andover Veterans Monument Park. Gerry Wright, 72, got the idea for the monument a few years ago, while traveling around the country to gather signatures on a petition to expand treatment for Agent Orange-related ailments, the Hartford Courant reported Monday. He saw an Agent Orange-related memorial in Texas and decided his Connecticut hometown should have one. Between 1962 and 1971, the U.S. military sprayed roughly 11 million gallons of Agent Orange across large swaths of southern Vietnam. It contains a dioxin, a type of chemical that stays in the environment for a long time, building up and becoming more dangerous while moving up the food chain. Vietnam says millions of its citizens, including children of people exposed during the war, have suffered illnesses from Agent Orange. The U.S. government has said the number of people affected is much lower. The U.S. military halted the use of Agent Orange in 1971. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has since recognized more than a dozen diseases it presumes to be connected with exposure to the chemical. As a combat engineer in a unit that built roads in Vietnam in 1969-70, Wright sprayed Agent Orange to kill off thick vegetation that could provide cover for the enemy, the Courant said.



VA Gets Another Massive Funding Increase in Biden's First Budget: The 2022 Budget has requested nearly \$270 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs budget for fiscal 2022, a 10% increase from 2021 that would fund priorities including the agency's caregiver programs, suicide prevention and GI Bill modernization. Under the fiscal 2022 budget proposal, the VA would receive \$113.1 billion in discretionary spending, an 8.2% increase from 2021, not including medical care collections. The dollar figure is the third largest among the Cabinet departments, behind Defense and Health and Human Services. VA officials noted, however, that the proposal follows an infusion of more than \$36 billion in the past year for COVID-19 relief and recovery. The VA budget also does not include \$18 billion in the American Jobs Plan for VA health care infrastructure or \$260 million in the American Families Plan for veterans who are parents. "You can't look at just the base funding," said VA Chief Financial Officer Jon Rychalski during a call with reporters Friday. "We're looking at a potential increase in demand for services, and this administration has risen to the occasion. They've supported our request for the resources necessary." The proposed budget includes significant increases in funding for mental health care and programs for homeless veterans, to include nearly doubling the budget for suicide prevention programs.

For Afghanistan veterans, old feelings of frustration and loss surface as the U.S. prepares to end its longest war: As the U.S. military shut down scores of remote outposts and patrol bases across southern Afghanistan 10 years ago, the Taliban planted a white flag on a former U.S. position that had been bulldozed, claiming the turf as its own and taunting the withdrawing Americans. Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Kaipat removed the flag and was killed instantly when an improvised bomb hidden beneath it exploded, said Peter Lucier, another Marine in Kaipat's unit. For Lucier, the incident, more than any other event in his seven-month tour, captured the bloody futility of the war. Kaipat, 22, died on April 11, 2012, standing on ground that U.S. commanders were no longer interested in holding. Lucier recalled Kaipat's death as he heard the news that President Biden intends to remove all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of terrorist attacks that launched the United States into combat in that country. Lucier, now a law student in St. Louis, has long advocated for withdrawal, but the decision left him with no sense of satisfaction. As the U.S. military shut down scores of remote outposts and patrol bases across southern Afghanistan 10 years ago, the Taliban planted a white flag on a former U.S. position that had been bulldozed, claiming the turf as its own and taunting the withdrawing Americans. Marine Lance Cpl. Ramon Kaipat removed the flag and was killed instantly when an improvised bomb hidden beneath it exploded, said Peter Lucier, another Marine in Kaipat's unit. For Lucier, the incident, more than any other event in his seven-month tour, captured the bloody futility of the war. Kaipat, 22, died on April 11, 2012, standing on ground that U.S. commanders were no longer interested in holding. Lucier recalled Kaipat's death as he heard the news that President Biden intends to remove all U.S. troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of terrorist attacks that launched the United States into combat in that country. Lucier, now a law student in St. Louis, has long advocated for withdrawal, but the decision left him with no sense of satisfaction.

Troops exposed to Agent Orange outside of Vietnam could be in line for presumptive benefits:

Congress in recent years has expanded disability benefits for veterans exposed to toxic chemicals during fighting in Vietnam, but a pair of lawmakers is pushing now to make sure U.S. troops who faced the same poisons while deployed to nearby countries receive similar help. Recently Pennsylvania Reps. Matt Cartwright (D) and Brian Fitzpatrick (R) introduced new legislation to expand the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange for disability benefits to veterans who served in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia during the conflict. "Many of those who have been exposed are living with cancers, heart disease or Parkinson's disease," Cartwright said in a statement. "They deserve relief for the pain and hardship this has caused for them and their families." Staff could not say exactly how many veterans may be affected by the change. More than 50,000 U.S. troops were deployed to Thailand alone at the height of operations there, but it is unknown how many of those individuals later deployed to Vietnam and are already eligible for presumptive benefits status. But veterans advocates for years have pushed for Congress to close the gap in Agent Orange benefits for individuals exposed to the chemicals in the 1960s and 1970s but never set foot on Vietnamese soil.

Justice Department Indicts Six in Alleged Afghanistan Translator Scam:

The federal government recently indicted six former government contractor employees for allegedly recruiting unqualified linguists to deploy with U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The six defendants are accused of taking part in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud by recruiting the unqualified linguists, the Justice Department said. The linguists were supposed to be able to speak Dari and Pashto for the U.S. military. "The defendants in this case allegedly engaged in an expansive conspiracy to enrich themselves at the expense of American soldiers and military operations in Afghanistan," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Nicholas McQuaid of the Justice Department's criminal division.

There Arizona governor sending National Guard troops to southern border: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Tuesday he is sending 250 National Guard troops to the state's southern border with Mexico amid the increased arrivals of migrants. The announcement came the day Customs and Border Protection held an open house at a new tent-like migrant processing center in the border community of Yuma. It is the first of two planned in Arizona to help agents process and temporarily shelter a growing number of asylum seekers arriving at the border. A similar structure is opening later this month in Tucson. The Republican governor has quarreled with the administration of President Joe Biden over immigration policies, and he calls the situation on the border a "crisis." "If this administration isn't going to do anything, then we will," Ducey said. The governor's office said \$25 million will initially be set aside to help local and state law enforcement officers such as state troopers. Guard members could help with medical operations at detention centers, install and maintain border cameras, collect data from public safety cameras and analyze satellite imagery for current smuggling trends, the announcement said. There was no immediate response from Customs and Border Protection officials. The American Civil Liberties Union in Arizona said Ducey's actions "do nothing more than further militarize our border communities and stoke unnecessary and unjustified fear." U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat whose district includes Arizona's southern border, said the deployment was purely political and will do nothing to resolve backlogs, improve care of unaccompanied minors, or help border communities.

President Budget Request for Arlington Cemetery Nearly Triples Amid Plans for Major Expansion: Arlington National Cemetery would see its budget nearly triple in fiscal 2022 for a planned expansion that would connect it to the Air Force Memorial. The Army's budget proposal calls for Arlington to receive \$228 million, up from \$81.8 million last year, for its southern expansion project -- an effort that would add 80,000 burial and inurnment sites to the historic cemetery. The project has been in the works for nearly a decade. In 2012, the original plan proposed a land swap between Arlington County and the federal government for a road that runs between the cemetery and the memorial, as well as surrounding acreage needed for the realignment of a major county thoroughfare. The area involved is near the Air Force Memorial, including the former site of the Naval Annex, between the Pentagon and Gate 1 of Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Instead they decided to acquire the county- and locally owned property through eminent domain. With the land acquisition and the budget boost, the cemetery finally would be able to start the project.

Measure Would Allow VA to Give Corona Virus Vaccine to any Veteran and most Caregivers: Any veteran or their caregiver would be eligible to receive a corona virus vaccine at Veterans Affairs medical centers under a new bipartisan proposal unveiled recently. But the plan doesn't guarantee enough vaccines will be available at VA facilities for every veteran in America, which may limit its effectiveness. The legislation, The department has already distributed about 2 million vaccines doses in the last two months. Takano said in a statement. "VA is already well on its way to fully vaccinate more than one million veterans, but under its current authorities, millions more are still unable to receive life saving vaccines from VA. VA should not have to turn away any veteran who walks through its doors to get a vaccine, regardless of whether they're enrolled in or eligible for other VA healthcare services."

You know you are getting old when "Friends with Benefits" means having someone who can drive at night.

Afghanistan war cost more than \$2T and 240,000 lives, report finds: When you add up the cost of Defense and State Department funds sunk into Operations Enduring Freedom and Resolute Support, then throw in the cost of caring for the conflicts' veterans and the interest on the money borrowed to cover it all, you're looking at over \$2 trillion, according to a report recently released. The Costs of War Project detailed its most recent estimates, finding that most of the money came out of \$933 billion in DoD overseas contingency funding. The rest includes: \$443 billion in DoD base budget increases to support the war; \$296 billion to care for veterans; \$59 billion in State overseas contingency funds; and \$530 to cover the interest on the money borrowed to fund 20 years of deployments. Those funds do not, however, include the amount the United States government is obligated to spend on lifetime care for American veterans of this war, nor does it include future interest payments on money borrowed to fund the war. "The DoD spending, at over \$900 billion in Afghanistan, is the tip of the iceberg," Neta Crawford, the project's lead researcher, said in the release. "The costs of the Afghanistan war include its escalation into Pakistan, millions of refugees and displaced persons, the toll in lives of combatants and non-combatants, and the need to care for America's veterans." President Joe Biden announced on Wednesday that the U.S. would begin drawing down its remaining 2,500 troops from Afghanistan on May 1, with a Sept. 11 deadline for full withdrawal. The Costs of War Project also estimates that 241,000 people have died because of the war in Afghanistan, which includes more than 2,400 American service members and least 71,344 civilians; 78,314 Afghan military and police; and 84,191 opposition fighters. These figures do not include deaths caused by disease, loss of access to food, water, infrastructure, and/or other indirect consequences of the war.

Arizona Governor sending National Guard troops to Southern Border: Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said Tuesday he is sending 250 National Guard troops to the state's southern border with Mexico amid the increased arrivals of migrants. The announcement came the day Customs and Border Protection held an open house at a new tent-like migrant processing center in the border community of Yuma. It is the first of two planned in Arizona to help agents process and temporarily shelter a growing number of asylum seekers arriving at the border. A similar structure is opening later this month in Tucson. The Republican governor has quarreled with the administration of President Joe Biden over immigration policies, and he calls the situation on the border a "crisis." "If this administration isn't going to do anything, then we will," Ducey said. The governor's office said \$25 million will initially be set aside to help local and state law enforcement officers such as state troopers. Guard members could help with medical operations at detention centers, install and maintain border cameras, collect data from public safety cameras and analyze satellite imagery for current smuggling trends, the announcement said. There was no immediate response from Customs and Border Protection officials. The American Civil Liberties Union in Arizona said Ducey's actions "do nothing more than further militarize our border communities and stoke unnecessary and unjustified fear." U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva, a Democrat whose district includes Arizona's southern border, said the deployment was purely political and will do nothing to resolve backlogs, improve care of unaccompanied minors, or help border communities.

A married man's honest confession "I always read my wife's horoscope to determine what kind of day I will have.

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.