



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”

May 2021

Commanders Corner: “Hello”; to another month (May) to all my brothers, families, and friends and fellow brothers from our sister units! I hope everyone is in great health and managing your safety during these crazy times and hopefully we can all get back to enjoying time with our families and friends as we move into the summer months. Unfortunately we still have to cope with the totally incompetent Government agencies and I for one intend to make decisions for my family and myself and have turned off the so called experts that have no clue and change their messages almost daily. For those of you that have not been able to obtain a vaccination yet I would encourage you to do so but I would also suggest you discuss this with your family doctor. I had a very pleasant surprise this past week when I received a call from Ron Petitt who said he was coming to the Nashville area to visit an ill brother. We immediately made plans to get together and was able to do that last week. Ron brought his brother Glen who I had never met. Glenn served with the 9th Infantry Division during 1967 and 1968. It was great sharing stories with Ron and Glenn and I learned that Glen and his family are great musicians play country and blue grass music. Glenn has also written several songs. Unfortunately Ron had to confess that he did not inherit the musical gene that Glenn and other members of the family received. That’s not to diminish the life events and stories that Ron can always share. I always enjoy when I can get together with Ron and listen to his many stories. It had been three years plus since I had seen Ron so we had a lot of catching up. Ron’s visit also was a reminder that we are all getting a little older and we need to take every opportunity to see each other when we can. I hope we can have a great turnout in September in Indianapolis so that we can take advantage of spending time together again because none of us know how many opportunities we will have to see each other. If anyone has an opportunity to visit the Nashville area in the future I invite you for a visit and if you need a place to stay you are welcome to stay with us. With this in mind I would suggest if you are traveling anywhere where one of our brothers live than I encourage you to reach out to them and get together.



I feel obligated to remind everyone; to encourage you to make your reunion reservations at the reunion hotel. See Chuck’s Reunion Information Update; Next column for the latest scoop on what is going on with reunion plans and activities. Our objective is to have the largest representative group of attendees present at the reunion. Everyone who has attended a reunion in the past; prior to COVID-19, has remarked how much they enjoyed being part of our ADVA Chapter renewing friendships and meeting other members and their spouse.

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

Dwight Sybolt
Commander

From H Duckworth O’Brien’s “A Grunt’s Life”:
“PIGMAN” : The M-60 Machine Gunner. It’s a term of respect grunts use to describe the guy carrying the M-60 machine gun, known as the PIG. This monster could fire up to 550 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition a minute. Of course, at that rate the barrel would droop like a dog’s tongue on a hot day. The belted ammo came with tracers but a smart gunner replaced them with regular rounds because tracers work both ways. Regardless, this grunt was real popular in the firefight or when doing a “recon by fire” (preparing the wood line across an open rice paddy before crossing it).

A DVA 2021 ADVA Reunion Information Update: **2021 ADVA 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) 381-6168**
Email: adva2021@wyndhamindianapoliswest.com

Supporting Member’s Cause: An announcement has been brought to my attention for support of an organization that directly has impact upon the lives of many veterans who currently suffer the effects of veteran suicide and homelessness. Doug Greenlaw served with Delta Company 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Regiment 196th Light Infantry Brigade, first as a platoon leader then as company commander in 1968. Doug was medically evacuated from Vietnam after sustaining wounds in April 1968. Doug has received the Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars and 2 Purple Hearts. Doug is the past Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA. He has started a foundation to seek and assist veterans who are currently suffering from the effects of suicide and/or homelessness. He is asking us to support the Foundation bearing his name. Please consider his request and provide whatever you feel is appropriate. Whatever you do, rest assured this foundation will be managed by a veteran who has walked the walk.

Doug Greenlaw's Message:

I am reaching out, by blind copy, to a select group of friends to launch my recent Foundation. We are, urgently, funding the best Veteran programs in the Country that specialize in Vet Suicide Prevention and Veteran Homelessness. These two categories are of high interest because of their connection. A homeless Vet is 5X more likely to commit suicide than a non-Vet. Plus, the programs we fund are 'on the ground' face to face with the Vets, saving lives, at the grass roots level.

There are over 200,000 homeless Veterans in our Country. Between 20-25 Vets commit suicide every day.

Over the years, working with Vets, I have developed specific knowledge of this important outreach and a deep understanding of the psychology of our Veterans.

Today with the Covid virus, the elections and peace, the critical programs, these life saving programs, are being defunded, pushed aside.

Your donation would be greatly appreciated. We can help these great programs fill their gap in funding. I'd consider it a personal favor if you would check out our website and see for yourself what we are doing.

If you would, please forward this message to the special people on your contact list. Together, we can actually save lives.

Yours in Patriotism, Doug

PS. We are a registered 501C3, non-profit and your donation is tax deductible. I will send updates showing the Service Orgs we fund as our mission progresses. Thank you so much.

Link to our website: www.thegreenlawfoundation.org

Douglas J. Greenlaw

Founder/CEO The Greenlaw Foundation, USA

Past National Commander

The Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA

Platoon Leader/Company Commander, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Vietnam Awarded the Silver Star, 2 Bronze Stars, 2 Purple Hearts

President Biden to order all US troops out of Afghanistan by Sept. 11:

President Joe Biden intends to withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan by Sept. 11, the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that started the decades-long conflict, congressional officials confirmed recently. News of the withdrawal deadline was first reported by the Washington Post. Biden had faced a deadline set by the previous administration of removing all U.S. military forces from the country by May 1, but publicly admitted meeting that deadline was unlikely. Still, White House officials have said Biden remained committed to ending the ongoing U.S. military presence there. In March, during a press conference, Biden said he did not see a scenario where U.S. troops were still in Afghanistan in 2022. Defense Department officials have said there are about 2,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan performing training and counterterrorism missions. Another 7,000 foreign forces are also in the country, helping to support the still-inexperienced Afghan security forces. In March, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction warned in congressional testimony that despite billions spent on fortifying local security forces in the war-torn Asian country, “Afghan security forces are nowhere near achieving self-sufficiency, as they cannot maintain their equipment, manage their supply chains or train new soldiers, pilots and policemen.”

AS WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO UTTER THE WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM. John F. Kennedy

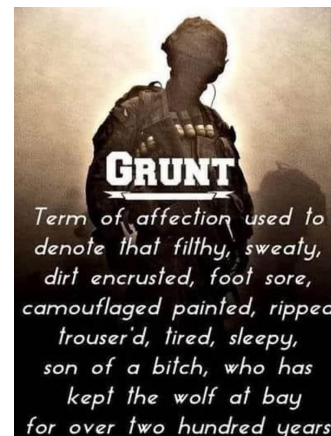
A DVA Reunion Information Update: This year, our annual reunion will be about a week before the Annual Kokomo Vietnam Veterans Reunion which will be held September 16 – 18. Actually, a lot of folks start showing up on Monday. If you have never attended the Kokomo Reunion, it is a great time and my old VN buddies and I have been going for about 35 years. Throughout the event, about 30,000 people flow through the site. People come from all parts of the country and you may run into someone you served with or was in your unit. There are good bands every evening, various food and vendor booths and a large circus-sized vendor tent. Camping and RV spaces are available and there are plenty of hotels about 15 minutes away. In the past, shuttles to the reunion have been available from the hotels. Kokomo, Indiana is located about an hour north of Indianapolis and the location is easy to find. Information is available on their web site at <https://hcvvo.net/contact> or email vveterans@aol.com or indy2021reunion@gmail.com While you're in the area you might as well give it a try. Also, I previously mentioned posting flyers at your local VFWs and American Legion Posts (or anywhere else you can think of). Printable posters are available on the 2/1 Chapter web site <http://www.2-1-196th.com>. Just click “here” on the main page in the 2021 Americal Reunion area. Already, quite a few people have signed up for the reunion; so you might want to do it early. As always, any questions may be directed to me via the indy2021reunion email above. All 2/1 Chapter members, this will be a great chance to meet your fellow chapter members and participate in our annual chapter meeting.

Thanks,

Chuck Holdaway

Support Our Troops' No Longer Automatic as Trust in Military Falls:

Criticism of the military on Capitol Hill has intensified. Democrats say the Pentagon must do more to stamp out extremist ideology in the ranks following Jan. 6. “The news is full of examples of service members who have extremist beliefs,” Representative Adam Smith, the Washington Democrat who leads the House Armed Services Committee, said at a March 24 hearing on the issue. “It is also obvious that our military leaders are untrained in the symbols and language of these hate groups.” Conservatives are lambasting military policies they regard as “woke.” Fox News host Tucker Carlson last month called maternity flight suits for women troops a “mockery” and a distraction from combating China and other threats. When military leaders rebuked Carlson, Senator Ted Cruz, the Texas Republican, took his side, claiming that the officers were stifling public dissent. He asked for a meeting with the commandant of the Marine Corps over the issue. Jim Golby, who studies civil-military relations at the Center for a New American Security, says he can't remember a time when perceptions of the military have been so polarized. “Different parts of the public are looking at the military and creating narratives that they don't like,” he says.



US adds 500 troops in Germany, Ends Large-scale Troop Cut Plans Despite Trump Pledge:

SECDEF: Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced on recently that he is expanding the U.S. military presence in Germany by 500 troops and has stopped planning for large-scale troop cuts ordered by the Trump administration. “This planned increase in U.S. personnel underscores our commitment to Germany and the entire NATO alliance,” Austin said in a notable counterpoint to the Trump administration’s repeated complaints that Germany is a weak partner on defense and security. Austin made the announcement after talks with German Defense Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer on his first tour of Europe since becoming Pentagon chief in January. The decision comes as Russia has amassed troops on its border with Ukraine. “Russia’s actions in Georgia, its illegal annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, the continued harassment of Ukraine and other bordering nations, its military build-up, and its increasing use of cyber attacks are concerns in Europe,” according to a Pentagon media release. “Germany is no exception; as the economic powerhouse of the continent, Germany is key to responding to these provocations.”

Thousands of American Troops who passed away in WW I Return Home for Burial:

One hundred years ago, tens of thousands of American troops who made the ultimate sacrifice in the Great War returned home. In all more than 40,000 of the fallen arrived by ship in New York harbor and were then transferred to burial sites of their families choosing. During the month of May, a special event called Homecoming 21 will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the return of the nation’s World War I fallen. The war dead came from each of the 48 states, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They represented almost every unit in the American Expeditionary Forces, and included women, minorities and immigrants. The goal of this commemoration is not only to remember the sacrifice of the World War I generation and their families, but to remind Americans of our shared history of service and loss.

The Mysterious Doolittle Raid on Japan: April 18, 1942, will forever live in American military glory as the date of the Jimmy Doolittle Raid on Tokyo—a gutsy, never-before-attempted combat mission to fly North American B-25 Mitchell bombers off the deck of an aircraft carrier and attack an enemy capital. Although the damage from the bombing of Japanese targets was a blip on the screen compared to the devastation that Japan delivered to Pearl Harbor, this American retaliatory action shattered the island nation’s inscrutable veneer and reminded the Japanese that they, too, were vulnerable. Although it came so early in the war, the raid launched the beginning of the Land of the Rising Sun’s downward spiral and eventual defeat in World War II. The Doolittle Raid on Tokyo was America’s first joint action with the Army Air Forces and the U.S. Navy. This groundbreaking mission shipped 16 B-25B Mitchell land-based bombers and their five-man crews aboard the aircraft carrier USS Hornet. The mission climaxed with the planes bombing Tokyo and other industrial centers. The leader of the improbable raid was the legendary aviator and World War I pilot Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle. Because the success of the raid depended entirely on the element of surprise, there was a code of silence so widespread that paper trails were often nonexistent and information cryptic. Two days after the raid, the U.S. War Department reported the mission to America but not its staging point. The raid began and ended in secrecy and, some 70 years later, the secrecy still flies high—the mysteries of the Jimmy Doolittle Raid remain.

Don’t bother walking a mile in my shoes, that would be boring. Try spending 30 seconds in my head; that will freak you right out.

Soldiers From the 75th Ranger Regiment wins 2021 Best Ranger Competition:

The 2021 David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition is over, with the title of “Best Ranger” coming back home to the 75th Ranger Regiment. Team composed of 1st Lt. Vince Paikowski and 1st Lt. Alastair Keys were announced the victors shortly after completing the final buddy run to the finish line at Fort Benning, Georgia. They never gave up the top spot since taking it at the end of the first day of competition. On Friday, the 37th annual event kicked off after a one-year hiatus due to COVID-19, with 51 two-man teams vying for the title. 2020 was the first year since 2003 that the event was canceled. The Best Ranger Competition is a US Army event supported by The National Ranger Association Inc. The competition is held annually and is considered one of the most physically rigorous endurance events in the military. Competitors are tested in a nonstop series of events that are meant to push them both physically and mentally.



First Coast Guardsman to Make an Olympic Team will Sail for the Gold South of Tokyo:

A member of the Coast Guard is chasing Olympic sailing glory in Japan, 230 years after the U.S. Revenue Marine began hunting smugglers in wind-powered, wooden cutters. Lt. j.g. Nikki Barnes, 27, of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands, became the first Coast Guardsman to make an Olympic team in any sport when she and crewmate Lara Dallman-Weiss, 32, of Shoreview, Minn., qualified last month at the World Championship Regatta in Portugal. The Coast Guard cutter Eagle, a training vessel for future officers, is one of only two active commissioned sailing vessels in the U.S. military today, along with the world’s oldest commissioned naval vessel, the frigate USS Constitution. “Sailing has helped my Coast Guard career and serving in the Coast Guard has helped my sailing,” Barnes said during a telephone interview Monday that included Dallman-Weiss from Portugal, where they’re preparing for the 470 Open European Championship, April 30-May 7. Stationed in Miami, Barnes’ job involves coordinating responses to oil spills, she said. Coast Guard service and sailing require determination when the going gets tough, problem-solving skills and the ability to adjust to changing conditions, she said.



There may not have been Russian Bounties on US Troops in Afghanistan after all: U.S. intelligence agencies aren't particularly confident that Russia offered money to the Taliban for the killing of U.S. troops deployed to Afghanistan, a story that rocked the military and intelligence communities last summer. The Trump administration consistently downplayed the issue, based on a June report from the New York Times. Then-Defense Secretary Mark Esper told lawmakers during a hearing in July that those reporters were not corroborated. "The United States intelligence community assesses with low to moderate confidence that Russian intelligence officers sought to encourage Taliban attacks against U.S. coalition personnel in Afghanistan in 2019, including through financial incentives and compensation," a senior administration official told reporters recently. Officials in President Donald Trump's administration reportedly had heard of the possibility of the bounties since at least early 2019. In June, they told the Associated Press that the president hadn't been briefed on the matter because it hadn't been confirmed. In addition to Esper, U.S. Central Command boss Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie also shared doubts at the time that the intelligence reports were accurate.

President Biden Selects First Woman Four-Star Admiral for the Coast Guard: President Joe Biden has nominated Coast Guard Vice Adm. Linda Fagan to the role of vice commandant, making her the first woman to achieve a fourth-star in the service. Fagan, the head of the Coast Guard's Pacific area of operations, would replace Adm. Charles Ray, who has been the Coast Guard's No. 2 officer since May 2018. Defense News first reported the nomination. According to her biography, Fagan has served on all seven continents. She previously held command roles along the east coast, and also served as deputy director of operations for Headquarters at U.S. Northern Command. "I am pleased that President Biden has nominated Vice Admiral Linda Fagan to be the Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard," Homeland Security secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a statement. "She is a superb leader who, as the 32nd Vice Commandant, will guide the Coast Guard at a time when its mission of securing our maritime borders, ports, and waterways has never been more important. "If confirmed, Vice Admiral Fagan would serve as the first woman to be promoted to a 4-star rank in the Coast Guard. We are grateful to Vice Admiral Fagan for continuing her service to country, for the trail she has blazed, and for inspiring us all." During the presidential election, the Biden team pledged to increase the number of women serving in top national security roles.

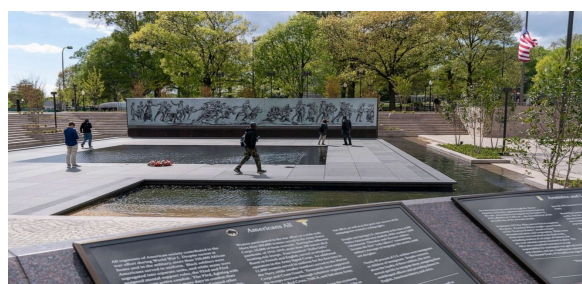


If you are sitting in public and a stranger sits next to you, stare straight ahead and say "Did you bring the money?"

Pentagon Investigated Suspected Russian Directed -Energy Attacks on U.S. Troops: The Pentagon has briefed top lawmakers on intelligence surrounding suspected directed-energy attacks against U.S. troops, and officials identified Russia as a likely culprit, according to two people with direct knowledge of the matter. The Defense Department had been investigating the incidents, including those targeting its personnel around the world, since last year, according to four former national security officials directly involved in the probe. Pentagon officials informed at least two key groups of lawmakers earlier this year, in written form and in-person, about the investigation. POLITICO spoke with congressional officials who were briefed on the suspected attacks as part of their oversight duties of the Pentagon. The briefings included information about injuries sustained by U.S. troops in Syria, the people said. The investigation includes one incident in Syria in the fall of 2020 in which several troops developed flu-like symptoms, two people familiar with the Pentagon probe said. After this article was published, Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, told lawmakers during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing that he has seen "no evidence" of such attacks against U.S. troops in the Middle East. A Pentagon spokesperson declined further comment on the Pentagon's interactions with Capitol Hill or any internal investigation. The incidents of suspected directed-energy attacks by Russia on Americans abroad became so concerning that the Pentagon's office of special operations and low-intensity conflict began investigating last year, according to two former national security officials involved in the effort. It's unclear exactly how many troops were injured, or the extent of their injuries.

Biden Admin Blocking Veterans' Annual Memorial Day Motorcycle Rally, Rep. Mast says: Rep. Brian Mast, R-Fla., accused the Biden administration of blocking the annual Rolling to Remember motorcycle rally, a 30-year-plus Memorial Day tradition for veterans that has always been staged in the Pentagon parking lot. "We are blessed beyond words to be citizens of the greatest country on Earth, and only live free thanks to the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice," Mast said in a statement. "But the Biden Administration seems intent on restricting that freedom, and now, even restricting Memorial Day ceremonies. Preventing a tradition like Rolling to Remember flies in the face of the freedoms that so many have died to protect." In a letter, Mast urged Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to "promptly approve" the permit being sought by AMVETS, the organization that now runs Rolling to Remember (formerly known as Rolling Thunder).

Ceremony Heralds Opening of WWI Memorial in Washington: The World War I Memorial in Washington, D.C., opened to the public April 17, 2021 and its launch was marked by a ceremony and flag-raising in honor the veterans who served in what's known as America's Great War. In remarks during the ceremony, President Joe Biden paid tribute to the 4.7 million who served in the war, and the 116,516 Americans who lost their lives. "Let us remember all that was sacrificed, all that was sanctified by the proud brave Americans who served in World War 1," said Biden. The ceremony also included a flyover by two F-22 fighter jets.



Marines Navy, Marines Push Plans To Transform How They Fight: Putting a variety of unmanned capabilities through their paces “in a Pacific war fighting scenario,” Rear Adm. Robert Gaucher, Pacific Fleet’s director of maritime headquarters, said in a statement, the exercise “will include maneuvering in contested space across all domains, targeting and fires, and intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance.” The Navy and Marine Corps are testing radically new ways of operating in the Pacific by sending experimental unmanned ships into an ambitious exercise next week. Underpinning that exercise is an ambitious new plan for island-hopping that demands a fast implementation timeline. Recently, the Navy’s 3rd Fleet kicks off its first Unmanned Integrated Battle Problem 21 off the coast of California; a Zumwalt destroyer will command and control a variety of unmanned ships and aircraft. Putting a variety of unmanned capabilities through their paces, “in a Pacific war fighting scenario,” Rear Adm. Robert Gaucher, Pacific Fleet’s director of maritime headquarters, said in a statement, the exercise “will include maneuvering in contested space across all domains, targeting and fires, and intelligence, reconnaissance and surveillance.” The exercise will include the Super Swarm project, a secretive Office of Naval Research effort to operate swarms of small drones, and will see the MQ-8B Fire Scout UAV launched from a Littoral Combat Ship, as well as the MQ-9 Sea Guardian UAV. The Fire Scout and Sea Guardian will integrate with both Navy and Marine Corps units. The exercise presages the standup of the Navy’s first-of-its-kind operational command to test and develop concepts for its new generation of unmanned surface vessels in 2022, a major step in getting autonomous ships into the fleet. Breaking Defense first reported the existence of the new command last month.

Biden wants Congress, not Courts, to Decide on Adding Women to Military Draft: President Joe Biden’s Acting Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar filed a legal brief recently in a case that is challenging whether the current male-only Selective Service System, which requires only that men ages 18 to 25 register for a potential military draft, is unconstitutional. In the brief, Prelogar said that since Congress is considering requiring women to sign up as well, the high court should let the legislative branch resolve the question. “Congress’s attention to the question may soon eliminate any need for the court to grapple with that constitutional question,” she wrote. The American Civil Liberties Union, representing the National Coalition for Men, filed the current petition on Jan. 8, after a lower court previously ruled to declare the draft unconstitutional for not including women. Prelogar’s brief does not argue that the draft should include women. ACLU Women’s Rights Project Director Ria Tabacco Mar told the Washington Post that the brief revealed some of the Biden Administration’s thinking on the issue. “Noticeably absent from the government’s brief is any argument that men-only registration is constitutional,” Mar told the Post. “That is not surprising given that men-only registration is outdated, based on gender stereotypes, and no longer recommended by the military itself.” In February former National Security Agency Director Michael Hayden, retired Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal and eight other prominent retired general and flag officers signed on in support of the ACLU’s petition. The ACLU argues that the high court should overturn a 1981 ruling when the same challenge was made. In that case, *Rostker v Goldberg*, the justices ruled that the draft was constitutional because its main function was to ensure combat-ready forces for the defense of the nation. Women were excluded from combat roles at that time. The combat ban was officially lifted in 2013. Congress would still likely have the final say in how to change the Selective Service System.

Rigorous Minuteman III Testing part of Minot Air Force Base Missile Force: Members of the 576th Flight Test Squadron continuously test the Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile system to make sure it does what it’s supposed to do. “We perform a fundamentally unique mission. We do a full on full, end to end testing of the Minuteman III weapon system,” said Capt. Kirsten McKenzie, an ICBM test operator with the 576th at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. McKenzie, Capt. Cole Evans, also an ICBM test operator, and Master Sgt. Matthew Ricker, noncommissioned officer in charge ICBM field test, all with the 576th, have spent a month at Minot AFB preparing for a Simulated Electronics Launch Missile (SELM). SELM is a simulation of everything that leads up to an actual launch of a Minuteman III and culminates in the Launch Facility door blast, according to Minot AFB information. SELM tests the critical functions of the operational weapon system in its field environment, providing important data to the Joint Staff, U.S. Strategic Command and Air Force Global Strike Command, according to 576th information, the Minot Daily News reported. McKenzie, Evans and Ricker spoke about the 576th and its mission to members of the Minot Area Chamber EDC’s Military Affairs Committee at its April 1 meeting in the Grand Hotel, Minot. “We don’t just launch missiles. The mid-entry weapon system can do what it does because it’s an extremely robust weapon system. There are various parts that allow us to do and perform end to end testing so not just the missile but the software programs that allow to interface with the weapon system in addition to why we are here today for this mission,” McKenzie said. The 91st Missile Wing at Minot AFB is one of three ICBM wings that operate, maintain and secure a fleet of Minuteman III missiles located in underground launch facilities in the Minot missile field. The other two Minuteman III ICBM missile wings are at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, and Malmstrom AFB, Montana.

Multiple VA Medical Centers may be Rebuilt under Biden’s Infrastructure Plan: White House officials say the president’s new infrastructure plan includes enough funding to replace “10 to 15” aging Veterans Affairs hospitals across the country with new medical centers, but department officials haven’t determined yet which communities might benefit from the money. Administration staff have been touting the \$2 trillion infrastructure improvement plan in recent days as they try to build support among skeptical members of Congress — largely Republicans — and the public for the massive spending package. Included in the total is about \$18 billion for Veterans Affairs projects, with most of that total going to upgrading current department facilities and replacing others. “This funding will also help accelerate ongoing major construction projects to ... replace outdated medical centers with state-of-the-art facilities to provide our veterans the care they deserve,” said Terri Tanielian, special assistant to President Joe Biden for Veterans Affairs. VA Secretary Denis McDonough called the money a “down payment” on plans to modernize the department’s medical facilities, saying as many as 30 may need to be replaced in coming years. “The median age of a private hospital in the U.S. on a national basis is roughly 11 years old,” he said. “The VA portfolio has a median age of 58 years old, and 69 percent of VA facilities are older than 50 years. “So when you think about all the technology and everything else that we’re moving into modern hospitals, you can see why we’re so concerned about this footprint. A lack of modern infrastructure actually limits our ability to meet the evolving health-care needs of veterans.”

My town is so dull that the Post Office has “Wanted” posters of people who have overdue library books.

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.**
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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.