



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



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

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

Volume 12

“A Soldier Once And Always”

April 2022

Commanders Corner: Hello to all my brothers, sisters, families and friends and brothers and families from our sister units! I hope everyone is well and hopefully able to return to some semblance of normal. We obviously are living in very challenging times with the war in Ukraine and the economic challenges in America. In these times we all need to not only manage our own needs but be prepared to help those in need as much as we can. From all indications we will be living in challenging times for an extended time regardless of what happens in Ukraine. We are nearing National Vietnam Veterans Day on March 29 that I mentioned in the last Newsletter. Hopefully everyone will take some time and remember all our brothers that we served with in Vietnam and especially those that made the ultimate sacrifice. We need to continue to remember and reach out to our brothers and offer support to anyone that needs it. With that said I want to let everyone that may not have heard that our Brother SSGT Bruce Nielsen has been dealing with medical issues beginning in February and was hospitalized for several weeks in February and March. The good news is that Bruce is now home but he will now need several weeks of extensive Rehab and Physical Therapy. Those of us who served with Bruce well know what a fighter he is and we know he will battle back to good health as soon as possible. I ask everyone to keep Bruce in your prayers and wish him a complete and quick recovery. Also while I am providing a medical report Tom Ellis Suffered a medical issue but I believe he is on the mend. Chuck Holdaway had cataract surgery; everything appears to have gone well and he is back to his ornery self! I imagine that we have many brothers dealing with some medical issues as we all get a little older so don't hesitate to reach out if you so choose to get support from all your brothers. Since we now are publishing bi-monthly Newsletters, We will be remembering all our Brothers and Sisters who have passed on this year's Memorial Day May 30. I encourage you to take time to remember and if possible participate in Memorial Day events. We know this day is a time to remember our fallen brothers and sisters and not just another holiday. I request that anyone that has some item that you would like to include in the Newsletter, please send it to Rich as he is always looking for content and sharing stories can be good therapy for yourself and all of us that will be able to relate. Also I want to encourage everyone that our 2022 reunion is in DC so hopefully we can have a great turnout and September is a great time to visit our Nation's Capital. If you are planning to attend make your reservations soon as we are about to enter April! I hope this Newsletter finds everyone doing well, I want to wish everyone good health and Happiness and May God Bless You!



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

Dwight Sybolt

Commander



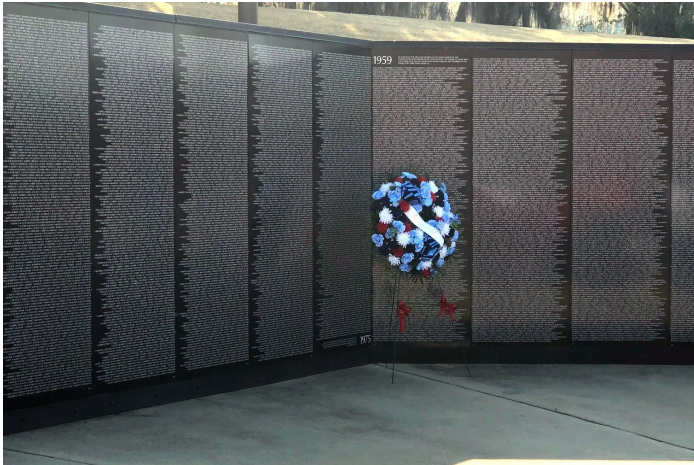
From H Duckworth O'Brien's "A Grunt's Life": :
C-Rats: No story of a grunt's life in the bush in Vietnam is complete without at least a passing comment on those tasty meals known as C-Rations. What a clever invention, compressed food products pressure packed in small OD cans with enough preservatives to afford a 50 year shelf life. You can imagine the health benefits and taste just reading the box labels: Pork, sliced and cooked; ham and eggs chopped; and on. Basically, this was food cooked down to the point of being unrecognizable. You ate it by the cans with a P-38 can opener. You ate them cold or heated. To heat, you fashioned a cook stove from an empty C Ration can and used either the included heat tab or sped things up using a pinch of C-4 explosive you lighted for a heat source. Word of warning though; never stomp out the burning C-4 with your foot. To do so will require you to get a new boot and sock at the minimum. You got an accessory pack with each meal that included: instant coffee packet, cream substitute, sugar, salt, chewing gum, matches, toilet paper and cigarettes. Yup, if the enemy didn't you maybe the smokes would.

Thank you note from Chuck Holdaway: Chapter members, I want to thank all of you who attended the annual ADVA reunion in Indianapolis last year. It was almost 2 years in the planning and re-planning due to all the COVID problems both real and manufactured., it was an arduous task getting everything in place but, considering the circumstances, it turned out better than we could foresee. My most disappointing part of the reunion was the cancellation of almost 200 room reservations the last 2 weeks before the reunion date. We took a really large hit on our reunion income on that. I want to especially thank my wife, Sam, Juliana "Mrs. Foxhole" Abney, Jesse and Eileen Mendoza and Jack Head (11th LIB) for all their assistance before, during and after the reunion. It is almost time for the biennial Americal Division Veterans Association to be held this spring and we have 2 members running for the ADVA Executive Committee in the future elections. We can become a strong voice in the future direction of the ADVA if we want to be. Thanks again.

Veterans Unemployment Matched its Lowest Levels of the Pandemic: Veterans unemployment levels matched their lowest mark of the pandemic in February as the U.S. economy added more jobs than expected . According to estimates from the Bureau of Labor Statistics released, the overall veterans unemployment rate was 3.2%, down from 3.8% in January and matching the rate posted in December. The veterans estimate has not been below that level since December 2019 when the unemployment rate was at 2.8%.

I hate sex in the movies. Tried it once. The seat folded up, the drink spilled and that ice ... well ... it really chilled the mood.

Vietnam Veteran's Day Celebrated: March 29 is designated Vietnam Veterans Day by Congress and signed into law by the signature of President Donald Trump in 2017. National Vietnam War Veterans Day is acknowledged on March 29 every year, honoring anyone who served during its 20-year duration. Since respect and combat support wasn't immediately given to those who served after the war ended because of the number of deaths. Vietnam Veteran's Day was founded in 2017 to finally offer that respect to everyone involved. Understanding that it wasn't the soldiers' choices to go to war, U.S. Senators Pat Toomey, R-Pa., and Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., introduced the legislation proposing the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam as the official date. President Donald Trump signed the Act on March 29, calling for U.S. flags to be flown on this day to honor everyone who served during this time, whether they were in Vietnam or not. Veterans gathered at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia, just outside Columbus to honor those who served the nation and those 58,272 service men and women that are engraved on the replica of the "Vietnam Wall" Memorial located on the Mall in Washington, D.C.



VFW Day of Service: Veterans have long had a penchant for volunteerism and community service. There are many stories of veterans serving in a variety of duties to further the Community, state and nation. As an adjunct for this type of volunteerism the VFW National Commander-in-Chief has encouraged all VFW Posts to initiate a VFW Day of Service. It is hoped that VFW Posts partner with other organizations and civic groups to achieve great things within their community. While the official VFW Day of Service is scheduled for the first Saturday in May, many Posts are encouraged to select any day throughout the month to complete its service work. While anyone can participate in the VFW Day of Service, members looking to volunteer are asked to work with a VFW Post. VFW Day of Service will increase ties between veterans and their communities. It will also bring veterans of all generations together. It is believed there are a lot of younger veterans looking to be leaders in their communities and this can be a way to get started. The possibilities for performing a civic duty are endless. The events are endless. How about sprucing up a community center or assisting an elderly resident who could use assistance sprucing up their yard before summer? Or helping out in a local food bank. The VFW Day of Service is a wonderful opportunity to foster camaraderie, which is important now more than ever. And it is about taking all the great things VFW is already doing and letting the world know. If you know of a meaningful project that fits into a Day of Service possibility, let the Post know what you thoughts are and maybe it will be a task for our illustrious Post to accomplish.

Be Bold, Be Brief.—Be Gone! The enduring legacy of the first Marine female officer killed in Iraq War: Maj. Megan McClung was a standout Marine in every way and a legendary military spokeswoman who continues to inspire public affairs officers long after her death. McClung was killed on Dec. 6, 2006, in Ramadi, Iraq, when a roadside bomb destroyed the Humvee she was traveling in. She was the first female Marine officer to be killed in the Iraq war and the first woman who graduated the U.S. Naval Academy to die in combat. A gifted communicator, her advice to troops and senior military leaders about how to engage with reporters was succinct: "Be Bold. Be Brief. Be Gone." Those words are now engraved on her headstone. She was committed to allowing journalists to tell the stories of soldiers and Marines in western Iraq, which was one of the deadliest places for U.S. troops in 2006. On the day she was killed, McClung was escorting a Fox News crew and a Newsweek reporter. Retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, a Fox host at the time, recalled his last interaction with McClung in a Dec. 8, 2006 column. North did not include her name because she had not been publicly identified.

U.S. Soldiers are not Training Ukrainians in Poland. Army Chief says: The Army's top general emphasized recently that no U.S. soldiers in Poland were training Ukrainian forces, contrary to reports this week and a statement from the president which seemed to suggest otherwise. "The United States Army is not training Ukrainian soldiers or units right now," Gen. James McConville, the Army Chief of Staff, told reporters at a Defense Writers Group breakfast in Washington, D.C. "There are materials being provided to Ukrainians, but that's just a ship — it comes in and it moves out. We are not training Ukrainians right now." Thousands of U.S. troops have been deployed to or repositioned in Europe, both before Russia's invasion of Ukraine began in February and since it started, with the intent of deterring Russia from pushing its invasion into NATO territory. The forces have primarily been in Poland — where the 82nd Airborne Division was sent — and Romania, with some support elements in Germany. But since those deployments were announced, there has been relatively little information available about what troops are actually doing aside from training with NATO allies.

Army Offers Recruits Guaranteed First Assignments at Select Bases: Potential U.S. Army enlistees will find a new deal on the table at recruiting offices nationwide. New active-duty recruits now have the option of selecting their first duty assignment following basic training, U.S. Army Recruiting Command announced in a recent statement. The duty station of choice enlisted program is available at select bases in eight states and features 5,600 vacancies in 17 different career fields including infantry, cavalry, aviation and information technology. The program allows new soldiers to choose a station depending on personal preference, job compatibility and needs of the Army. "The Army understands that having the option to stay closer to home and loved ones is a big deal, and it's taking steps to make the decision easier on applicants," said Brig. Gen. John Cushing, the deputy commanding general for operations at U.S. Army Recruiting Command, in the statement.

Veteran Memorial Benefits: Preparing for a funeral can be a difficult and confusing process. VA's memorial and burial services can help ease families through loss and save them thousands of dollars. If you are a Veteran, service member, spouse, or dependent, you may be eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery and other benefits.

"Both politicians and diapers need to be changed often and for the same reason." Pres. Ronald Reagan

POW/MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced three burial updates and two new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- **Navy Chief Water Tender White, 40**, of Yorkville, Tennessee, was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which was moored at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, when the ship was attacked by Japanese aircraft on Dec. 7, 1941. The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsiz. The attack on the ship resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including White. He will be buried on April 19, 2022, in Dyer, Tennessee.

-- **Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Eugene P. Shauvin, 25**, was assigned to the 95th Troop Carrier Squadron, 440th Troop Carrier Group. On Sep. 17, 1944, the C-47 Skytrain aircraft he was piloting was shot down over Belgium. The four-person crew, including Shauvin, and five paratroopers died in the crash. Following the war, his remains could not be identified. Interment services are pending.



Here's What the Army's Doing with Urban Combat Preparations: Recent intense fighting following the Russian invasion of Ukraine is showcasing challenges, even for peer militaries, operating effectively in urban terrain. Back in 2016 then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley often reminded his service that future battles will likely take place in cities swelling with growing populations. While Army units continue basic room-clearing types of training, operational and strategic-level thinking about cities hasn't necessarily found a home yet. But the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division has picked up the guidon in that effort, holding its own "urban planner's conference" in fall 2021 with another scheduled for July. They've partnered with the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, to further analyze up-to-date urban offensive and defensive training. Some of that is playing itself out on social media posts from Ukraine. Recent intense fighting following the Russian invasion of Ukraine is showcasing challenges, even for peer militaries, operating effectively in urban terrain. Back in 2016 then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley often reminded his service that future battles will likely take place in cities swelling with growing populations. While Army units continue basic room-clearing types of training, operational and strategic-level thinking about cities hasn't necessarily found a home yet. But the California Army National Guard's 40th Infantry Division has picked up the guidon in that effort, holding its own "urban planner's conference" in fall 2021 with another scheduled for July. They've partnered with the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, to further analyze up-to-date urban offensive and defensive training.

Marine Veteran Sentenced to 6 years in Prison: In order to convince the wealthy Whitefish, Montana, philanthropist Michael Goguen to fund bogus covert military operations across the globe, Matthew A. Marshall spun one elaborate deception after another while portraying himself as a high-ranking intelligence official on a hero's crusade to quash terrorism, according to federal prosecutors. None of it was true, but the 51-year-old Marshall grew more duplicitous as his fictions unraveled, contriving a system in which he used a smartphone app called "Burner" to send himself emails and text messages purportedly from the famed counterterrorism official Cofer Black, an effort to prop up his fictions and keep the money flowing into his personal bank account. That money arrived in the form of wire transfers from Goguen, whose payments to Marshall and his securities firm Amyntor Group totaled \$2.35 million. Marshall was sentenced to six years in federal prison and three years of supervised release. Molloy also ordered Marshall to pay restitution in the amount of \$3,254,327, including the \$2.35 million to Goguen as well as nearly \$900,000 to the Internal Revenue Service for tax evasion.

Dedication of the Memorial to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade: March 29th 2022 (Vietnam Veteran's Day) at 1100 a.m. on the grounds of the National Infantry Museum's Walk of Honor, Fort Benning Georgia the unveiling of the long awaiting memorial to the service and sacrifice of one of the largest Infantry units ever assembled during an active campaign. The 196th Infantry Regiment was formed over 100 years ago (1921) following the First World War. It has remained active to this day serving proudly over the years performing missions in combat and as well as in peacetime. The surviving members who served as part of this valiant Army unit organized early on following WW I an organization dedicated to preserve the history and heritage of this heroic combat organization. Over the years following the Vietnam conflict the leadership of the 196th Brigade Veterans Association desired to create a lasting reminder for all to envision the dedication and resourcefulness associated with this amazing unit. It was at the bi-annual reunion in Chicago 2018 that the concept of the memorial took root. Funds came from the generous donations of association members and friends, and former soldiers. The Americal Legacy Foundation, a part of the Brigade's larger association kicked in \$10,000. The remaining funds came from the association's treasury. Total cost for the memorial was over \$90,000. The cost of the bronze statue was \$86,000. The larger than-life statue depicts two 196th LIB soldiers on the battlefield in Vietnam. The battle has been won and a weary soldier helps a wounded brother to medical care. The theme of the statue is, "We take care of our own." The statue was created by Sarah E. Hahn of Columbus Ohio. She also coordinated the casting of the statue at a foundry and its transportation and installation at the Fort Benning Walk of Honor. Members that served as part of this historic Army unit attended the dedication ceremony. A bronze plaque identifies the Statue and placed on a granite headstone in front of the statue. The headstone marks the bronze statue as belonging to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and proudly displays the most important combat battles engaging the unit's soldiers. It further identifies the casualties as; 1188 killed in battle and 5591 wounded in action. The 196th LIB is currently stationed at Fort Shafter, Hawaii and serves as a training brigade for organizations located in the Pacific region. Soldiers from the unit travel all over the Pacific Rim training reserve and other organizations seeking assistance. Attending the dedication ceremony was the current Commander and the Command Sergeant Major.



If you ever feel useless, remember it took twenty years, trillions of dollars, four U. S. Presidents to replace the Taliban with the Taliban.

The Javelin: How the Anti-Tank Weapon Works:

FGM-148 Javelin portable fire-and-forget anti-tank missile. Since the start of Putin's dastardly invasion of Ukraine, Ukrainian freedom fighters have extensively utilized the American-made weapon system – co-produced by Lockheed Martin and Raytheon – to rain destruction down upon the Russian military's armored vehicles. Ukraine's Defense Ministry estimates that 102 tanks and 536 armored vehicles had been destroyed as of February 26th. The Javelin likely factored heavily into that rousing combat success. "This weapon allows a single soldier to target and destroy even the most heavily armored main battle tank with an almost guaranteed kill rate, at great range and with minimal risk." So how does this 'holy' piece of military machinery work? Laypersons might be envisioning a bazooka-like operation, but anti-tank weapons have evolved considerably since that quintessential rocket launcher was deployed in World War II. With the Javelin, a soldier using the portable, reusable Command Launch Unit (CLU) looks through an infrared sight to locate a target up to an incredible 2.5 miles away. When the user spots a target, he operates a cursor to set a square around it, almost like cropping an image. This is then sent to the onboard guidance computer on the missile itself, which has a sophisticated algorithmic tracking system coupled with an infrared imaging device. When the missile locks on to the target, the operator can launch the self-guided weapon and quickly relocate or reload to fire another missile at a different target. The Javelin originally debuted in 1996, bearing a couple remarkable innovations. For one, it offers a "soft launch."



More Javelins for Ukraine: The U.S. has approved another \$100 million in Javelin anti-tank weapons for Ukraine from U.S. military stocks, for a total of \$1.7 billion in U.S. aid committed since Russia's invasion. "I have authorized, pursuant to a delegation from the President earlier today, the immediate drawdown of security assistance valued at up to \$100 million to meet Ukraine's urgent need for additional anti-armor systems," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a recent statement. Ukraine's use of Javelins and anti-aircraft Stinger missiles supplied by the U.S. and its allies has taken center stage in Ukraine's fight to repel Russia. U.S. defense officials credit Javelins with blunting Russia's armored forces and Stingers with denying Russia air superiority — all while Russia's forces are stumbling logistically and cannot link their air and ground power. "The Javelin, the Stingers have proven to be very, very effective in this fight. We've also learned that just because you have the capability, it doesn't mean that you're going to overwhelm another force easily," Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said of Russia during a House Armed Services Committee. The Russians ... have significant mechanized capability, but they were not very effective," Austin said.

The Army Responds to 2021's Historically High Active Duty Suicides: In the wake of a Defense Suicide Prevention Office report that showed active duty Army suicides slightly increased in 2021, reaching a historic high, Army officials have provided more detail on the service's suicide prevention efforts. The active duty force experienced 176 suicides in 2021, the report revealed, two more than in 2020. Both years represented the highest number of active duty deaths since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that launched the Global War on Terrorism era, raising concerns that the pattern of increased deaths has not receded. The Army was the only service whose active duty troops saw an increase in suicides from 2020 to 2021, and its rate of deaths — 36.18 deaths per 100,000 troops — is its highest since 1938 and higher than any other active duty branch. The Army's suicide intervention training curriculum — Ask, Care, Escort — also was recently updated, Ramirez added. The material was developed in coordination between the Army G-1, the Army Public Health Center and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. The service has also recently introduced new guides and toolkits for leaders to monitor and respond to potential behavioral health issues in their formations, such as data dashboards that allow commanders to survey mental health in their units and then evaluate risk for individual soldiers. New Army medicine guidance also directs healthcare providers to alert commanders when a soldier is deemed to be at "high risk."

Army Vet, Ex-Cop Faces Jury Trial on Capitol Riot Charges:

Over a year ago, two off-duty police officers from a small town in Virginia were charged with storming the U.S. Capitol together. One of them is heading to trial and faced a courtroom full of potential jurors. The other could be a key prosecution witness. The federal trial of former Rocky Mount police officer Thomas Robertson will be the third among hundreds of people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. The first two trials both ended with convictions, although one of those defendants was acquitted of a disorderly conduct charge. Robertson is charged with six counts, including obstruction of an official proceeding, civil disorder, entering and remaining in a restricted building and disorderly conduct in a Capitol building. Tam Dinh Pham, an off-duty Houston police officer on Jan. 6, was sentenced in December to 45 days imprisonment after pleading guilty to a riot-related misdemeanor. A trial is scheduled to start on April 25 for Thomas Webster, a retired New York City police officer charged with assaulting an officer at the Capitol. Former North Miami Beach police officer Nicholes Lentz, who also pleaded guilty to a riot-related misdemeanor, is scheduled to be sentenced May 10. A Capitol police officer told Robertson he could enter the building but shouldn't go into any "restrictive areas," defense attorney Mark Rollins said in a court filing last year. Robertson was inside the Capitol for only 10 minutes and didn't assault anybody or break anything, Rollins said.

What to know about Putin's Nuclear Order: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered nuclear forces on alert adding a complicated and concerning dimension to the widening conflict in Ukraine. Experts said it was the first time the Kremlin, which has the world's biggest nuclear stockpile, had made such an announcement since 1991. U.S. officials have refused to say whether the Pentagon's posture has changed in response to Putin's announcement. White House press secretary Jen Psaki, speaking on MSNBC, said soon after that the United States has "the ability, of course, to defend ourselves, as does NATO". Experts said they did not expect Putin to attempt any sort of nuclear strike on the West or a smaller-scale nuclear attack within Ukraine. Russia has nearly 6,000 warheads, slightly more than the United States' approximately 5,400, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

Army Expands Two-Year Enlistment Options as New Screenings Kick In: Army Recruiting Command officials announced that the service is expanding its short-term career offerings, though the move comes amid recruiting turmoil caused by a new prescription drug screening system. A press release said that two-year active duty enlistments are now available for 84 jobs across the force, "ranging from infantry and combat engineers to paralegals and aviation operations specialists." Applicants who select the short-term option will also be eligible for bonuses, though they will also have a two-year drilling commitment in the Army Reserve after leaving active duty, the release said. Certain career fields are offering \$50,000 bonuses currently for longer contracts. "Many people are apprehensive about long-term commitments right now, so we think having a shorter option will help give them some time to see if the Army fits their life and goals," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, USAREC's top general. The Army has periodically offered short-term enlistments, but they're usually fairly restrictive since the service wants to see return on its training investments.

U.S. NATO Consider Bolstering Troop Presence in Eastern Europe: Months of uncertainty over whether Russian President Vladimir Putin would send his forces into Ukraine were laid to rest February 24, 2022 as the Russian military launched a wide-ranging attack, casting aside international condemnation and sanctions while warning other countries that attempts to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen." A fog of war remained over the country as the American East Coast awoke Thursday morning, and conflicting reports sprouted on social media regarding fighting at various locations. Ukraine's leadership said at least 40 people have been killed so far in what it called a "full-scale war" targeting the country from the east, north and south. But as morning broke in Ukraine, big explosions were heard in the capital Kyiv, as well as Kharkiv and Odesa as world leaders decried the start of an invasion that could lead to massive deaths, a toppling of Ukraine's democratically elected government and a threat to Europe's post-Cold War balance. A Ukrainian presidential adviser said that Russian forces have launched an attack on Ukraine from the north, east and south. The adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, said "the Ukrainian military is fighting hard." Podolyak said Thursday that "our army is fighting back inflicting significant losses to the enemy." He said that there have been civilian casualties, but didn't give details. NATO member countries on Wednesday examined new ways to bolster the defenses of nations on the organization's eastern flank as Russia's military buildup around Ukraine fuels one of Europe's biggest security crises in decades. Over two days at NATO headquarters in Brussels, defense ministers were to discuss how and when to rapidly dispatch troops and equipment to countries closest to Russia and the Black Sea region should Moscow order an invasion of Ukraine. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and his counterparts also plan to weigh the possibility of stationing troops longer-term in southeast Europe, possibly starting later this year. The troops would mirror the presence of some 5,000 service members that have been stationed in allies Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland on a rotating basis in recent years. Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon deferred questions about discussions taking place during the ongoing NATO Defense Ministerial to the Alliance, and declined to comment on possible future troop movements.

Did you know: By replacing your potato chips with a grapefruit as a snack, you will lose up to 90% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

Vietnam Vets at Army Museum Share Personal Stories, Artifacts: One young woman, inspired by her father's service in World War II, joined the Army to be a nurse. Another young man, motivated by stories of history and the Army's place in it while in grade school set his sights on a career in the military. Both wound up in the Vietnam War and decades later shared their stories and tangible pieces of that personal history here, at the National Museum of the U.S. Army on March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Retired Lt. Col. Marcia L. Kidd heard her father, a Battle of the Bulge veteran, tell how he frostbite crept into his legs and an Army nurse massaged them warm through the night. He told her he had to go home and dance with his wife. That inspired a teenage Kidd to look to become an Army nurse herself. Graduating basic training in 1969 she did follow-on training at Fort Gordon, Georgia where the young Army captain met her "soulmate" 2nd Lt. Richard Goodwin Kidd Jr. She followed him to Vietnam, where he served in the signal corps. The pair managed to link up a few times, getting rest and relaxation in Hong Kong where they were engaged. After more than 23 years she retired and he followed, giving nearly 30 years and earning the rank of colonel. 1,400 artifacts trace Army lineage back to 1600s at new national museum, opening Vet's Day. "Those artifacts that have those personal connections to that soldier and tell that story, that's what gives me chills when I walk through," said the museum's director

Veterans 82nd Airborne Troops Poised to help Evacuees from Ukraine, but few Americans have crossed the Border as Russian Invasion Begins: Some of the 4,700 troops deployed from the U.S. to Poland are poised to help evacuees from Ukraine, though few Americans have crossed the border as the Russian invasion begins, a senior defense official said. President Joe Biden in the past three weeks has sent roughly 4,700 troops from the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., and the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Ky., to Poland. Those forces joined about 4,000 troops already stationed there on a rotational basis. Some of those troops are positioned at several points near the Polish border with Ukraine "working in lockstep with Polish authorities and the State Department," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. However, they have not yet seen many Americans come through those checkpoints. "We have not seen significant numbers of American citizens crossing that border to date," the official said. "Now that could change. Hopefully, they'll abide the advice of the State Department and the president and leave Ukraine." However, the official noted Americans in Ukraine might have found alternate ways to leave the country, such as by air or train. Biden and the State Department for weeks have been urging Americans in Ukraine to leave the country as Russian President Vladimir Putin stacked more than 150,000 troops along Ukraine's borders with Belarus and Russia. The U.S. assessed Wednesday that Putin has "near 100% of all the forces that we anticipated he would move in [to invade Ukraine]," the official said, adding about 80% of those forces are now in a "ready position" to attack. "[Putin] has a cruise-missile capability, he's got ballistic-missile capability arrayed, he's got armor artillery [and] certainly infantry [and] special forces," the official said. While the Pentagon has not independently verified recent reports of Russian troops arriving in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas, the official said, the U.S. does not deny that it has happened. Russian parliament approved Putin's request to deploy its forces abroad.

Being a Cop is essentially dealing with people being mad at you for decisions they made.

Texas Governor Orders National Guard to Expand Border Protections for Fear of Mass Migration Next Month: Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday ordered the state’s National Guard to begin building mass detention areas along the border with Mexico and form boat blockades in the Rio Grande out of concern that changing federal policies will increase illegal crossings into Texas. “Texas will be taking its own unprecedented actions this month to do what no state in the America has ever done in the history of this country to better secure our state, as well as our nation,” Abbott said during a news conference from the border town Weslaco. The new measures are part of several additions that Abbott announced for his border security mission, known as Operation Lone Star, that will also order other state agencies to search commercial vehicles crossing into Texas from Mexico and charter buses to deliver legally processed migrants who volunteer for the trip to the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Abbott said the actions are in response to President Joe Biden’s decision to end a pandemic-driven border policy known as Title 42. The public health policy allowed federal Border Patrol agents to send migrants back across the border quickly because of concerns they would spread corona virus. The policy is scheduled to end May 23, and Abbott said the federal government is preparing for up to 18,000 illegal immigrants crossing per day.

Spike in veteran calls expected with launch of new three-digit suicide prevention line this summer: Veterans Affairs officials expect calls to the Veterans Crisis Line to increase by as much as 150% after a new three-digit dialing code for suicide prevention services starts operating this July. That would mean hundreds of thousands more veterans getting emergency help during mental health crises, provided department officials can keep up with the demand. On Wednesday, VA Secretary Denis McDonough said department leaders have been increasing staff and prepping for increased caseloads in anticipation of the new 988 dialing code. Individuals in some areas can already use the service, but it is set to go into effect nationwide by July 16.



Lawsuit over Granting Disability Benefits to be Heard this Summer: The Supreme Court will decide whether veterans who missed filing deadlines for disability benefits because of injury or incapacitation should be able to ask for back pay dating to their separation from the military. The decision could potentially give some veterans hundreds of thousands of dollars in retroactive disability payments. The high court agreed to hear the case — Arellano v. McDonough — but oral arguments before the nine justices and a timeline for a final decision have not yet been scheduled. The case, which has been debated in the federal court system for years, centers on Navy veteran Adolfo Arellano, who left the service in 1980 after being injured in an accident aboard an aircraft carrier. Arellano suffered from bipolar schizoaffective disorder as a result of the accident, and spent years either living on the street or under the care of family members. When his father died in 2011, he applied for disability benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs and was granted a monthly support stipend because of his service-connected injuries. However, because Arellano had not applied for benefits within a year of leaving the service, he was not eligible to receive retroactive benefits dating back to the end of his time in the military. Current law states that veterans must file paperwork in that one-year window to back date payouts to that military separation date.

Russian Forces Grow ‘More Desperate’ as Offensive Stalls, ‘Double Down on Brutality’: British and American military officials said that as Russia’s offensive in Ukraine has faced setbacks, Russian forces have ramped up the use of rocket attacks and other long-range fires, increasingly striking civilian infrastructure, leading to more civilian casualties. British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace told the BBC recently that Russian forces were becoming frustrated by the lack of progress in parts of Ukraine and were increasingly resorting to what he described as brutal tactics. Wallace told the “BBC Breakfast” program that Russian forces were “getting more desperate” and “we are seeing the Russians just double down on brutality.” Russian troops have made significant advances in southern Ukraine but stalled in some other areas. The British defense chief said Russian troops are behind schedule in their offensive, in particular in the north, near the capital Kyiv, where a miles-long convoy has made little progress after its initial thunder run in the early days of the invasion fizzled. “Russia has still not been making its advances, it’s day 13. That northern column that we have often talked about is still pretty much stuck, I mean really stuck, so that’s not advancing,” he said. As Russian ground forces have met what many analysts describe as unexpectedly strong resistance from Ukrainian troops, they have increasingly relied on long-range fires, including shelling and bombardment, which has hit civilian infrastructure, according to the Pentagon. “We absolutely assess that the reliance on long-range fires—and I know that’s a very wonky term—but artillery missile strikes ... rocket attacks, are having an increased effect on civilian casualties, and the damage and destruction of civilian infrastructure, be it homes, churches, hospitals, schools, we see that increasing for sure,” Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby told a Monday briefing.

Widening Ukraine Conflict Risks Deadly Toll on Civilians: With the world absorbed by months of geopolitical brinkmanship, high-stakes diplomacy and scrutiny of Russia’s military encirclement of Ukraine, lost in the din has been this sobering fact: If President Vladimir Putin proceeds with a large-scale invasion, thousands will probably die. U.S. officials estimate a major assault could leave as many as 50,000 civilians dead or wounded, as Western nations warn of Putin’s intent to drive deeper into the former Soviet state. Experts and humanitarian groups have assessed the conflict could take a particularly devastating toll on noncombatants due to Moscow’s massive arsenal, its record of targeting civilians and the wider potential for punishing urban battles. Such a state-to-state showdown would represent a break from the insurgencies of recent decades, one that could usher in a new era of deadly modern warfare. “It’s going to be a conflict between two institutional militaries and two sizable conventional forces,” said Michael Kofman, a Russia scholar at the research firm CNA. “One has clear qualitative and quantitative superiority over the other, but both forces have significant firepower and staying power.” American officials have said Putin’s recognition this week of two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine has not yet brought about their most feared scenario, which would involve assaults on Ukrainian cities, the crippling of key infrastructure and an attempt to take most or all of the country by force. But they are bracing for the worst and say Russia has positioned its military to do so. Ukrainian leaders have vowed to repel such an assault, conscripting reservists and training volunteers who could take up arms in the event that Russian troops advance deep into Ukraine. This week, Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov warned Ukrainians to prepare themselves for losses as Putin, in Reznikov’s words, attempts to resurrect the Soviet Union.

If you get lost in the woods. start talking about politics and someone will show up to argue with you.