



# The MCMOAA'n

2010, 2011 & 2012 5-Star Level of Excellence Award Winning Chapter



The e-Newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America  
One Association. One Voice. Yours.

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289

Minnesota Chapter

1,276 strong

January 2014



## The President's Pen

CW2 Rita Cox, ritacox@gmail.com



I recently returned from Colorado Springs and the MOAA annual meeting where I accepted the 5-Star Level of Excellence Award on behalf of the Minnesota Chapter. It is truly an honor to accept the award on behalf of all Chapter members. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard over the past year – teamwork does pay off. It was a great annual meeting. Please check out the MOAA website and listen to VADM Ryan's remarks – well worth your time.

In a recent Legislative Update, COL Michael Hayden, USAF (Ret), discussed the six budget priorities of the Secretary of Defense which are: Focus on eliminating middle management/"back-office" staff; Reevaluate how the military should organize, train and equip; Prepare for prolonged readiness challenges; Protect investments in acquisition and procurement; Reconsider the appropriate force mix across the services; and Slow the growth of pay and benefits.

I find the last one most interesting and COL Hayden aimed his update remarks at this area. Take the time to read this article if you haven't already – it really defines the fight we are facing in the budget arena.

MCMOAA renewal dues for 2014 were mailed in OCT. If you haven't already done so, please send your renewal in now. Our strength is in our membership numbers. We need you now more than ever!! As a reminder, members and associates at and beyond the age of 90 have no dues. But, we gladly accept contributions to help with our expenses and charitable donations.

Board elections for 2014/2015 are complete and I'm also pleased to announce that we have filled our long vacant Associate member position. Please welcome Lorraine Jasinski as the new Board member representing all our Associate members. I would also like to welcome our other two new Board members: BG Tim Kennedy USA (Ret) and CDR Tammy Harstad USN (Ret). A full list of Board members for 2014-2015 is listed in this issue of *The MCMOAA'n*.

Our next Chapter meeting will be on Tuesday, 14 JAN at noon (look for more information further in the newsletter). Our guest speaker will be CAPT John Plehal USN (Ret) who is the Director of Membership and Marketing for MOAA. CAPT Plehal has been a member of the MOAA staff since 2004 and in his current position since JAN 2013. He was a Naval Flight Officer for 28 years and served in a variety of operational and training assignments worldwide, including as Commanding Officer of a P-3 squadron. CAPT Plehal grew up in Austin, Minn., and still has ties to the area. We are very pleased to have CAPT Plehal as speaker for this next meeting and we look forward to his update on Legislative issues. We would love to have a "full house" for this meeting.

As always, I would love to hear from you if you have ideas for our Board and Chapter meetings ([ritacox@gmail.com](mailto:ritacox@gmail.com)).

Have you seen our award winning website? <http://www.mcmoaa.org>

Rita

**Upcoming MCMOAA Events**

(All Board and Chapter Meetings are held at the Ft. Snelling Officer's Club)

- 9 JAN** – 1000 – Second Dues Mailing  
**14 JAN** – 1000 – Board Meeting and  
 – 1200 – Chapter Meeting  
**11 FEB** – 1130 – Board Meeting  
**11 MAR** – 1130 – Board Meeting  
**8 APR** – 1130 – Board Meeting

**New MCMOAA Board Member**

BG Timothy M. Kennedy, ARNG (Ret)

BG Kennedy was born and raised on a dairy farm in Westport, Wis. He attended high school in Waunakee, Wis. and graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a BS in Physical Education in 1970. BG Kennedy's military career began when he enlisted into the National Guard on 30 JUN 1970. He served nearly nine years as an enlisted soldier, attaining the rank of Sergeant First Class (E-7). He was awarded a direct commission as an officer in the Adjutant General corps in FEB 1979. He commanded at the Company, Battalion and Brigade levels. He graduated from the Command and General Staff College in 1988 and the U.S. Army War College in 2000. His last assignment before retiring was as Assistant Adjutant General – Operations, Joint Force Headquarters, Minnesota Army National Guard. In that capacity, he was responsible for conducting Mobilization Deployment Readiness Exercises and the Minnesota Organizational Readiness Evaluation program. A traditional Guardsman, while serving with the Minnesota National Guard, he spent seven years teaching in the Minneapolis Public Schools, 22 years at Honeywell and will finish his civilian career in 2014 after spending 15 years at WennSoft, a software company based in Milwaukee, Wis. He currently lives in Minneapolis with his wife, Susan. They have 2 children, Kelly Linton of Edina and Robert Kennedy of Eden Prairie, and four grandchildren.



The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributing authors or sources listed and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of MOAA, the Minnesota Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, or the editorial staff of *The MCMOAA'n*. Any errors or omissions are unintentional - you should verify any information you are considering acting on. The editor and publisher wholly reserve the right to edit, amend or reject any contribution submitted for publication. Send comments, questions, suggestions and possible articles for publication to the editor, CDR Russ Jowers, USN (Ret), [editor95@comcast.net](mailto:editor95@comcast.net) or call 612-770-2891.

**January Dates in Military History**

- 2 - 366** - The Allamanni cross the Rhine to invade the Roman Empire.  
**3 - 964** - Anti-Papal rioting in Rome.  
**4 - 1493** - Columbus sets sail from the New World to return from his first voyage.  
**6 - 1515** - First recorded accidental discharge of a firearm, a wheellock pistol wounds a strumpet in Constance.  
**11 - 1785** - The Continental Congress convenes in New York.  
**12 - 1813** - U.S. Frigate '*Chesapeake*' captures the British '*Volunteer*'.  
**14 - 1814** - Treaty of Kiel: Denmark cedes Norway to Sweden in return for Pomerania.  
**16 - 1861** - LT Adam Slemmer, USA, rejects demands by Florida state troops to surrender Ft Pickens.  
**19 - 1915** - Germans begin Zeppelin raids on Great Britain, bombing Great Yarmouth & King's Lynn, 20 die.  
**21 - 1918** - New York Philharmonic refuses to play music by living German composers.  
**23 - 1932** - El Salvador's army kills 4,000 protesting farmers.  
**24 - 1935** - Kreuger Brewing Company of Virginia introduces beer in cans.  
**27 - 1944** - Soviets lift the German Siege of Leningrad after 880 days: perhaps 1,000,000 dead.  
**30 - 1945** - Danzig: Soviet sub sinks German ship *Wilhelm Gustloff*, 7,700 die -- worst loss of life in a single sinking in history.

**Your 2014-15 MCMOAA Board of Directors**

John Abrahamson, BG (Brevet), USA (Ret)\*  
 Richard Buchman, LCDR, USNR (Ret)\*  
 Kathleen Couillard, LTC, USA (Ret)\*  
 Rita Cox, CW2, USA (Ret)\* (President)  
 Tammy Harstadt, CDR, USN (Ret)  
 Bruce Hedblom, CW5, USA (Ret)\*  
 Lorraine Jasinski, MRS (Associate)  
 Russ Jowers, CDR, USN (Ret)\*  
 Timothy Kennedy, BG, USA (Ret)  
 Michael Moran, COL, USMCR (Ret)\*  
 Donald Nesheim, CW4, USA (Ret)\*  
 John Nowicki, LTC, USA (Ret)\*  
 Robert Rupp, COL, USA (Ret)\*

\* = Incumbent

**Revised By-Laws as printed in our SEP and NOV issues were approved by voters.**

## MCMOAA Wins Third Consecutive 5-Star Award



GEN John Tilelli, Chairman of the Board, MOAA, presents the 5-Star Level of Excellence pendant to our President, CW2 Rita K. Cox at MOAA's annual meeting in Colorado Springs, Co. This is the third consecutive year MCMOAA has won the 5-star award.

## MOAA Can Help with Retirement

MOAA

Making the retirement transition involves many decisions. MOAA has several resources available to assist you with your decision making process. Start with MOAA's [Benefits & Financial Planning](#) and [Estate Planning](#). Guides are available to PREMIUM and LIFE members. Not a PREMIUM or LIFE member? [Join now](#) or [login to upgrade your membership today](#).

## Designate an arrears of pay beneficiary in myPay

[Army Echoes SEP-DEC](#)

When a retiree dies, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service sends any unpaid retired pay to the beneficiaries on record. Retirees frequently forget who their beneficiary of record is, and occasionally need to update or change that beneficiary. Doing this used to require sending forms via mail, then waiting for the account to be updated. *myPay* now offers retirees the option to designate up to five arrears of pay beneficiaries online. Beneficiary designations can be updated without the hassle of forms, envelopes or waiting. And members can change beneficiaries whenever they would like to.

Members can still submit a DD Form 2894, but will have to allow for mailing and processing time to elapse before their changes can take effect. The DD Form 2894 must be used to designate more than five beneficiaries.

To update arrears of pay beneficiary information, login to *myPay* and:

- Select "Beneficiary for Arrears"
- The current beneficiary designation will display
- Click on "Designate Beneficiaries" (Warning: Any transaction created will overwrite your existing elections)
- Enter beneficiary information
- Click "Continue"
- Click on "Designate More Beneficiaries" to add up to five beneficiaries
- When you have completed the designation of your beneficiaries, click on "Confirm Beneficiaries"
- Review your changes. If correct, select "Yes" (Warning: Any transaction created will overwrite your existing elections)
- Save or Print your new beneficiary designations

## Kosovo Campaign Medal Transitions to Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

AmaanLyleAFPS art24SEP

The Defense Department has announced the transition of the Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM) to the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM), effective 1 JAN 2014. In a 19 SEP memorandum, Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica L. Wright stated that the KCM recognized the significant contributions of U.S. military personnel in support of Operation Joint Guardian since 1999 as part of the NATO-led Kosovo Force. "The contributions of U.S. military personnel have been integral to ending open hostilities and to reducing ethnic tensions, allowing for the dramatic reduction of force levels over the past decade," Wright noted. As smaller contingencies of U.S. forces continue to support Operation Joint Guardian and NATO headquarters in Sarajevo, the AFEM will accordingly recognize that support of operations in the Balkans, the memo states.



Kosovo  
Campaign Medal



Armed Forces  
Expeditionary Medal

The AFEM area of eligibility mirrors that of the KCM, Wright explained, with the addition of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Hungary. The eligible area also encompasses Serbian land and airspace including Vojvodina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia, and U.S. Naval vessels operating in the Adriatic Sea. The Department of Defense Manual 1348.33, Volume 2, "Manual of Military Decorations and Awards" contains specific eligibility criteria.





### Minnesota Medal of Honor Winner

The President of the United States  
in the name of The Congress  
takes pleasure in presenting the  
Medal of Honor  
to



**MIKE COLALILLO**

**Rank and organization:** Private First Class, U.S. Army, Company C, 398th Infantry, 100th Infantry Division. **Place and date:** Near Untergriesheim, Germany, 7 April 1945. **Entered service at:** Duluth, Minn. Birth: Hibbing, Minn. **G.O. No.:** 4, 9 January 1946.

**Citation:**

He was pinned down with other members of his company during an attack against strong enemy positions in the vicinity of Untergriesheim, Germany. Heavy artillery, mortar, and machinegun fire made any move hazardous when he stood up, shouted to the company to follow, and ran forward in the wake of a supporting tank, firing his machine pistol. Inspired by his example, his comrades advanced in the face of savage enemy fire. When his weapon was struck by shrapnel and rendered useless, he climbed to the deck of a friendly tank, manned an exposed machinegun on the turret of the vehicle, and, while bullets rattled about him, fired at an enemy emplacement with such devastating accuracy that he killed or wounded at least 10 hostile soldiers and destroyed their machinegun. Maintaining his extremely dangerous post as the tank forged ahead, he blasted 3 more positions, destroyed another machinegun emplacement and silenced all resistance in his area, killing at least 3 and wounding an undetermined number of riflemen as they fled. His machinegun eventually jammed; so he secured a sub-machinegun from the tank crew to continue his attack on foot. When our armored forces exhausted their ammunition and the order to withdraw was given, he remained behind to help a seriously wounded comrade over several hundred yards of open terrain rocked by an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage. By his intrepidity and inspiring courage PFC Colalillo gave tremendous impetus to his company's attack, killed or wounded 25 of the enemy in bitter fighting, and assisted a wounded soldier in reaching the American lines at great risk of his own life.

### MCMOAA Business – November Reports

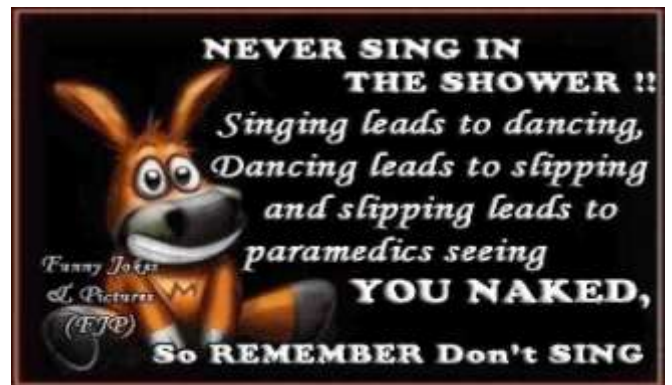
- **Treasurer** - CW5 Bruce Hedblom, USA (Ret)

Bank Checking Account Balance - \$9,884.27

- **Membership** - COL John Abrahamson, USA (Ret)

Current Membership count as of 31 OCT - 1271

On 22 OCT, membership dues were mailed. A second dues mailing will be held on 9 JAN for non-renewals.



### New Book by a MCMOAA Member

MGRobertDShadley

MG Robert D. Shadley was our guest speaker at the SEP 13 Chapter meeting. He gave a candid synopsis of the tragic events he had uncovered at his command while on active duty and discussed post-discovery details as well as the process of bringing the culprits to justice. His new book is the complete story of the U.S. Army's most highly visible sexual abuse scandal on record at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and how a network of senior male instructors was in competition to abuse their power in order to exploit the young female trainees in their charge and commit sexual assault. Immersed in a battle unlike anything he'd been trained for, MG Shadley unraveled the game, got help for the victims, and brought the perpetrators to justice.



(Continued next page)

Here is our installment for this issue:

*"Caring for victims and identifying perpetrators."*



“As a result of my discussions with Ellie, I came to the conclusion that ....our objectives needed to be threefold: (1) identify potential victims and ensure we provide all necessary support to them, (2) identify alleged perpetrators and allow the judicial system to work its due process, and (3) identify systemic causes for the problem and initiate corrective actions to preclude recurrence. These three vectors guided my actions for the remainder of my involvement with the Army’s APG sex scandal.”

“On the way back to Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) (on 17 SEP 1996), I made up my mind to expand the attendance at the daily crisis action team (CAT) meetings, increase the frequency to twice a day, and chair every meeting either in person or by phone if I was not at APG. I felt that I needed to get an up-to-date status on what CID (Criminal Investigation Command) and military police (MP) investigations were uncovering and the corrective actions that were evolving and being implemented. I had learned over the years that in a tough situation the leader must go to the point of the action and become personally involved.

“At the 18 SEP update, after discussing possible public affairs implications and the status of the investigation, I directed that we all needed to avoid turning this situation into a witch hunt. The objective was to find the female trainees who had been abused and from their statements identify any potential perpetrators. We would let the judicial system work, and we would avoid even the appearance of command influence.” “On 21 SEP, I asked CW3 Hayden and his CID team to take over all sexual misconduct investigations involving ... personnel assigned to USAOC&S. I asked them to include not only the felony cases CID normally investigated but also the non-felony cases doctrinally done by the installation’s MPs. I wanted consistency in investigations and one bellybutton to push, CW3 Hayden, to find out what was going on.”

“During the morning update on 4 OCT, CW3 Hayden announced that CID would be going back three classes to interview female trainees. This period would cover the whole time that Staff Sergeant (SSG) Delmar G. Simpson had served as a drill sergeant (DS) at US Army Ordnance Center and School (USAOC&S) and was consistent with our objective of identifying potential victims and ensuring we provided all necessary support.”

By going back and interviewing every young woman who attended a course of instruction at APG over a two-year period we were able to identify those who had been victimized or had information about sexual misconduct. From their statements, taken by trained investigators, we could provide help to victims and uncover alleged perpetrators.

#### **Editor’s Note:**

*The MCMOAA’n will publish excerpts of MG Shadley’s book in upcoming issues. Next up – “Impact of national agenda”*

#### **Beyond The Yellow Ribbon Events**

BTYR

##### **Tran-Siberian Orchestra "The Lost Christmas Eve"**

When: Dec. 14, 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Where: Target Center, Minneapolis.

About: Save \$5 per ticket to see this spectacular performance. More Info: 612.673.1311

##### **City of Anoka Yellow Ribbon Proclamation**

When: Dec. 14, 7 p.m.

Where: Anoka County Fairgrounds

About: The City of Anoka will be proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon City.

##### **Donny and Marie Christmas Show**

When: Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Where: Target Center, Minneapolis

About: Donny and Marie mix the holiday songs and spirit of their early television specials and recordings with a nostalgic look back on their storied career in a dynamic stage show showcasing fan favorites. Special military discount on select ticket prices. More Info: 612.673.1311

(Continued next page)

**Discounted Tickets to Team USA vs. Canada Women's Hockey**

When: Dec. 28, 3 p.m. - Where: Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul

About: This Olympic Exhibition game will feature the 2013-14 Women's National Team playing Canada in preparation for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. Tickets discounted for military.

More Info: <http://www.xcelenergycenter.com/military>

**2014 Veterans Appreciation Ride**

When: Jan. 11, 2014 - Where: Madelia, MN

About: The Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association and Minnesota Snowmobile Education and Advancement Fund is holding their 6th Annual Veterans Appreciation Snowmobile Ride. The ride is provided as a token of appreciation to the Veterans who have given part of their lives to serve. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and one night's lodging will be provided to the attendees and 25 snowmobiles will be available to those that would like to try snowmobiling. Others are invited to come along and bring their own snowmobile. Pre-registration is required.

More Info: 763-577-0185

**Mall of America Yellow Ribbon Proclamation**

When: Jan. 17, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. - Where: Mall of America Rotunda, Bloomington

About: The Mall of America will be proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon Company during a proclamation ceremony at the Mall of America Rotunda!

**Welcome New Members**

MRS B. Bailley	St. Louis Park	COL L. Ludwig	Plymouth
MRS P. Bartlett	Bloomington	CAPT G. Nelson	Anoka
1LT T. Davern	Inver Grove Hgts	COL J. Pearson	Rice
LCDR M. Gielski	Rochester	CAPT A. Rydholm	Minneapolis
MRS F. Gunberg	Minneapolis	MRS L. Waage	Minnetonka
CPT G. Jaenisch	Fergus Falls		



**Joining the Army Special Forces**

[Military.com](http://Military.com)

For several years the Army has been recruiting civilians to join the U.S. Special Forces. This means that you can enlist on a Special Forces contract, which puts you in the pipeline for the required Special Forces training program.

**ARMY SPECIAL FORCES QUALIFICATIONS**

To become part of the Army's Green Berets, you need to be mentally and physically tough, endure difficult training and face challenges head-on. In addition, to qualify for the Special Forces contract you must meet the following criteria:

- Be a male, age 20-30 (Special Forces positions are not open to women)
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Have a high school diploma
- Achieve a General Technical score of 110 or higher and a combat operation score of 98 on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery.



Tip: Scoring high on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) (See next section) is key to joining an elite team like the U.S. Special Forces. It also makes a difference when it comes to enlistment bonuses and choosing your MOS.

- Qualify for a secret level security clearance
- Qualify and volunteer for Airborne training

(Continued next page)

- Take Defense Language Aptitude Battery or Defense Language Proficiency Test
- Achieve an overall minimum score of 229 on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT)

*Next issue – Special Forces Training*

**About the ASVAB** – If you're serious about joining the military, then get serious about the ASVAB.

The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at over 14,000 schools and Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) nationwide and is developed and maintained by the Department of Defense. Start by taking our practice ASVAB tests online (see below). These tests will give you an idea of how you'll score, and identify areas that need improvement. Then use our suggested resources and ASVAB study guides to learn how to prepare for the test.

### **How important is the ASVAB test?**

Your scores in four critical areas -- Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge (see below) -- count towards your Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT) score. The AFQT score determines whether you're qualified to enlist in the U.S. military.

Your scores in the other areas of the ASVAB will determine how qualified you are for certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses. A high score will improve your chances of getting the specialty/job and signing bonus you want. Scoring high on the ASVAB will require study and concentration. Don't skimp on preparing for this test. It's your future. Get the most out of it.

ASVAB Practice Tests:

[http://www.todaysmilitary.com/before-serving-in-the-military/asvab-test/asvab-test-sample-questions?campaign\\_id=SEM2012:on:google:ASVAB-asvab\\_practice\\_test:exact](http://www.todaysmilitary.com/before-serving-in-the-military/asvab-test/asvab-test-sample-questions?campaign_id=SEM2012:on:google:ASVAB-asvab_practice_test:exact)

### **70K Veterans Still Have Chance to Gain Retiree Status**

TomPhilpottMilitary.com

About 70,000 disabled Veterans who served on active duty after 9/11, and were medically discharged with disability ratings of 20 percent or less, still have a shot to gain "retiree" status, with base shopping privileges and lifetime eligibility to TRICARE for them and their families. The catch is they have to know about this opportunity and to apply. Applying is a breeze. Notifying eligible Veterans they can apply is the greater challenge. Efforts to reach many of them by mail have been delayed.

To win an upgrade in disability rating, qualified Vets don't have to appear before one more medical or physical disability evaluation board. They only have to fill out a short application form, send it to a panel called the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR), and wait until the PDBR reviews all relevant health records and decides whether the Veteran's parent service did indeed low-ball their original disability rating. For many years, the Army led the services in tweaking policy and using the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities in ways that kept ill and injured soldiers from a combined rating of 30% or higher to qualify for disability retirement. It was less costly to rate a single unfitting condition, ignore others and separate rather than retire soldiers, by awarding ratings of 0, 10 or 20%.

In 2008, Congress ordered the services to clean up their disability evaluation systems and end such practices. It also directed the Department of Defense to establish the PDBR with authority to reexamine medical files and, if appropriate, recommend that ratings of Vets medically separated from 11 SEP 2001, to 31 DEC 2009, be raised to 30% or higher. PDBR applicants don't need to worry about a ratings downgrade. That's prohibited. Yet more than three years after the PDBR began operating, only 6800 Veterans have applied for review. Of those, the PDBR has decided 3800, recommending disability upgrade and retiree status for 27%. That's down from a rate of 45% through 2011. The services decide whether to accept PDBR recommendations to upgrade a rating to at least 30% and allow "retiree" status. Such a re-characterization triggers eligibility for retroactive retired pay back to date of discharge (minus separation pay previously awarded) and full military retiree benefits. TRICARE eligibility also is retroactive so a newly minted retiree able to document out-of-pocket medical costs since time of discharge can file a claim with TRICARE. Most of 1033 Veterans who have won "retiree" status through PDBR review are Army Veterans.

(Continued next page)



The top three medical conditions given revised ratings were post-traumatic stress, back ailments and arthritis. To date, Air Force and Coast Guard authorities have approved every PDBR recommendation. Army has accepted 98% of them. The Navy Department, for sailors and Marine applicants, has approved 94%. This fall, VA resumed mailings to disabled Veterans eligible for PDBR reviews, sending 20,000 packets to VA addresses for qualified Veterans separated through year 2005. More mailings are planned every eight weeks, until the effort is complete, presumably sometime next year. More on the PDBR and how to apply is online at: [http://www.health.mil/About\\_MHS/Organizations/MHS\\_Offices\\_and\\_Programs/pdbr.aspx](http://www.health.mil/About_MHS/Organizations/MHS_Offices_and_Programs/pdbr.aspx).

### **Retirees can manage DEERS records/ID Cards online**

JohnWellerbeDepDEERS/RAPIDSPROJECTOFFICEREchoes artSEP-DEC13

Retirees can now access their Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) records online through DS Logon. DS Logon is the new, secure Department of Defense logon ID that allows service members, retirees and family members to access the DEERS Self Service Application. Retirees can use this application to update their addresses or beneficiary's enrollment information; to request an ID card; or to complete other actions. The ability to request a dependent ID card online is especially helpful for retirees with children in college or away from home. The retiree does not have to be present when the child goes to the closest ID Card facility to obtain the new ID card. To obtain a DS Logon account, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement> and follow the prompts to create an account or you can register in person at an ID card facility, VA Regional Office or TRICARE Service Center.

### **Resource Information for Members**

Burial and Memorial Benefits – [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov)  
 1-800-535-1117  
 DEERS Verification – (Update ID records)  
 1-800-538-9552  
 Defense Finance & Accounting – (Pay issues)  
 1-800-321-1080  
 Delta Dental – 1-888-838-8737  
 Dept. of Army Casualty Assistance – (Retiree death notice) 1-800-626-3317  
 Express Scripts Pharmacy – 1-877-363-1303  
 Medicare – 1-800-772-1213  
 Military Home Front (military installations info) –  
[www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil](http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil)  
 MyPay Customer Service – 1-888-332-7411  
 Veterans Affairs Burial Info – 1-800-697-6947  
 Veterans Affairs Regional Office – 1-800-827-1000  
 TRICARE West Information – 1-877-988-9378  
 TRICARE for Life – 1-866-773-0404



### **myPay passwords now longer and change every 60 days**

Echoes artSEP-DEC13

With the *myPay* 2013 Spring Release, system password requirements aligned with Department of Defense security rules. This means all users who access *myPay* with their login ID and password must create a new password using the following rules:

- Must be 15 to 30 characters in length
- Contain at least two UPPERCASE letters
- Contain at least two lowercase letters
- Contain at least two numbers (0-9)
- Contain at least two of the following special characters: # @ \$ ^ ! \* + \_ %

Additionally, passwords will now expire every 60 days. Each time this happens, users must update their password, and the updated password must change at least four characters from their previous password. The updated password also cannot be one of the user's last 10 passwords. About 10 days before their password expires, members will receive an email advising them to update their password. Members should make sure the email address recorded in their *myPay* profile is current to ensure they receive these notices.

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Some members provide authorization for a trusted family member, friend or associate to access their pay information without the ability to make changes. Individuals who have been given such limited access rights are called “Limited Access Users.” Limited Access Users will be required to change the password every 60 days also. The same rules apply to the limited access password as to a member’s primary access password. Like everyone else, Limited Access Users will be prompted by screen displays when the password change is necessary.

For more information, call (800) 321-1080 (option 1) or visit *myPay* at <http://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.

### **TRICARE Retiree Dental Program update**

TRDP DeltaDental

The Department of Defense selected Delta Dental of California to continue administering the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) under a new five-year contract effective 1 JAN 2014 through 31 DEC 2018. To maintain your coverage in the TRDP under the new contract, you do not need to take any action. There have been no changes made to the Basic plan benefit design under the new contract. However, here are a few of the exciting changes that take effect for the Enhanced plan on 1 JAN 2014:

- An increase in the annual maximum amount for each person enrolled, from \$1,200 to \$1,300
- A new benefit year, which will run from 1 JAN through 31 DEC
- An increase in the annual maximum amount for dental accident coverage for each person enrolled, from \$1,000 to \$1,200
- An increase in the lifetime orthodontic maximum amount for each person enrolled, from \$1,500 to \$1,750
- A third cleaning allowed for children and adults with diagnosed Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes
- A new look and feel to the [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org) website

Your current TRDP enrollment card will still be valid under the new contract. However, on 1 DEC 2013, Delta Dental no longer has the authority to issue new or replacement enrollment cards. If you wish to receive an enrollment card, you will need to contact the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) at [www.dmdc.osd.mil](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil). Since Delta Dental uses the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) to verify eligibility for the TRDP, it is important to keep your personal information up to date for each family member. DEERS information may be updated at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>.

For more detailed information on the TRDP or to enroll, please visit [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org) or call (888) 838-8737.

### **Naval Aviation Leadership Notes**

- Any system which depends on human reliability is unreliable.
- An ounce of image is worth a pound of performance.
- Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
- Everyone has a scheme that will not work.
- If nobody uses it, there’s a reason.

### **Target Drone Crashes Into Navy Cruiser**

KrisOsbornDefense.org art20NOV

Authorities and Navy officials are investigating the cause of an accident on 16 NOV off the coast of Southern California wherein a small unmanned aircraft system crashed into a Navy cruiser, the USS Chancellorsville, service officials confirmed. The drone was being used as part of a training exercise when it malfunctioned above the surface, crashing down into the ship, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.



Two sailors suffered minor burns in the incident, Navy officials told the paper. Sailors aboard the ship were using the drone to test the ship’s radar tracking system. The USS Chancellorsville is an Aegis cruiser meaning it is equipped with ballistic missile defense technology, including radar. The crew of the ship was performing what’s called Combat System Ship Qualification Trials, according to the U.S. Naval Institute News. The damaged ship is now on its way back to San Diego for further analysis, the Los Angeles Times reports. The 13-foot target drone, a Northrop Grumman BMQ-74, hit areas near the ship’s Command Information Center, or CIC, according to U.S. Naval Institute News. The CIC is one of the most armored areas of the ship as it houses the control room for the Aegis radar system, USNI stated. The operator of the BQM-74 lost control of the drone during the test before it struck the ship, USNI added.

**Benefits Impact by Remarriage after Loss of a Spouse**

MOAA

Remarriage after the loss of a spouse involves many considerations, especially the affect it will have on the surviving spouse's Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). Remember these points when deciding to remarry:

- 1) Remarriage before age 55 results in suspension of SBP.
- 2) Remarriage before age 57 results in suspension of DIC.
- 3) When remarriage occurs after age 55 but before age 57, resulting in the loss of DIC, a surviving spouse may have SBP reinstated to the full amount by repaying DoD the SBP premium amount refunded when DIC initially was awarded. Repayments may be made in a lump sum without interest or in installments with interest based on the interest rate in effect at that time. If the remarriage at any age ends in death or divorce, the surviving spouse may apply for reinstatement of the SBP and DIC.
- 4) Remarriage after age 57 allows receipt of both SBP and DIC.

Recently, several survivors won a court case to restore full SBP and DIC upon remarriage after the age of 57. Be aware DoD requires full repayment of SBP premiums plus interest. (Original refunds of SBP premiums were without interest and fully taxable to the surviving spouse.) Legislation has been introduced to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset and recoupment of refunded SBP premiums upon the surviving spouse's remarriage. Present law penalizes surviving spouses if they remarry before or after age 57. TRICARE, commissary, and burial rights are lost upon remarriage at any age. While most benefits can be reinstated when the remarriage ends in death or divorce, TRICARE, once lost, cannot be reinstated.

MOAA encourages surviving spouses to consider these facts when considering remarriage. If you have any questions, call MOAA's Member Service Department at (800) 234-MOAA (6622).

**FAA Delays Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Test Site Selection to End of 2013**

StewMagnusonNationalDefense art13OCT



The Federal Aviation Administration is on track to select by the end of the year six sites where it can test unmanned aerial vehicles, said a representative of an industry trade group. That will still be 16 months beyond the congressional mandate that the agency was given in 2012. The test sites are expected to pave the way to full integration of remotely piloted aircraft in national airspace, which lawmakers want to happen by 2015.

The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International estimates that the economic impact of U.S. airspace integration will total more than \$13.6B in the first three years and will grow sustainably for the foreseeable future, cumulating to more than \$82.1B between 2015 and

2025. "Every year that airspace integration is delayed, the United States loses more than \$10B in potential economic impact. This translates to a loss of \$27.6M per day that [unmanned aerial systems] are not integrated in U.S. airspace," said AUVSI spokesperson Melanie Hinton. The test sites are envisioned as places where remotely piloted aircraft can fly with few restrictions, and crucial data on the technologies that will allow them to travel among regular air traffic are gathered. One of the main issues is how unmanned aircraft will sense other aircraft and take corrective measures to avoid collisions — better known as sense-and-avoid systems. John Porcari, Dep. Sec. at the Department of Transportation, said at the AUVSI conference in AUG that the FAA had received 25 proposals from public organizations in 24 states, but the agency would not be choosing the finalists until the end of the year. Hinton said the number of applicants is closer to 30.

One of the hopefuls, the state of Utah, undertook a study that explains why so many localities are interested in hosting test sites. The economic impact to the state being chosen would mean more than 23,000 new jobs adding up to \$12B in wages, \$720M in new tax revenues and an overall \$23B in total economic impact over 10 years, the study said. Hinton said industry will create more than 70,000 new jobs in the first three years after the aircraft are allowed to fly in U.S. airspace. By 2025, total job creation is estimated at 103,776, and the bulk of these jobs are in the high-paying manufacturing sector, she said. The total tax revenue to the states is expected to exceed \$635B in the first 11 years, she said.

Have you seen our award winning website? <http://www.mcmoaa.org>

Both the Army and Marine Corps hope to one day deploy troops who can operate at length with little or no resupply. But there are limits to how much an individual can carry and how long those supplies will last. Marines especially can count on being far from base for days on end during amphibious forced entry operations. And once in combat, they can't count on resupply. There are two schools of thought on how to mitigate the risk of running out of supplies in the field. One is to artificially increase a Marine or soldier's load-bearing capability. The less expensive, simpler avenue is to develop ways in which necessities can be foraged. Short of developing Tony Stark's Iron Man suit and disregarding farsighted exoskeletons that would allow troops to carry hundreds of pounds, Marine Corps engineers want troops to gather what they need to survive and communicate where they fight, rather than lugging water and batteries into battle.

The Marine Austere Patrolling System, or MAPS, may go a long way toward achieving that goal. Wearing MAPS on a chest rig, a Marine can harness solar energy and purify found water without any peripheral equipment. It moves in the direction of making a Marine's communication and other equipment "transparent," said CAPT. Frank Furman, logistics program manager for the Office of Naval Research's expeditionary maneuver warfare and combating terrorism department, and a Marine infantry officer with two tours in Afghanistan. Creating a sense of seamlessness between Marines and their equipment — making systems "transparent" — has been one of the main challenges of the program, Furman said in an email to National Defense. "The ideal form factor is for it to be completely transparent to the user," he said. "We're not quite there." ONR has teamed with the Naval Research Laboratory to develop the photovoltaic cells that are incorporated into the rig. The solar panel can be worn on a Marine's back to draw power while on the go, or laid out on the ground when stopped. The water filtration system is made by Cascade Designs, an outdoor equipment company. MAPS is assembled at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Va.

Furman described how the system would be used during a 48-hour operation — a period during which he would likely need at least three disposable batteries. He would likely pack double that number to create a buffer in case one is a dud, or he had to stay in the field longer than expected. The number of batteries a Marine will carry depends on multiple factors — the mission, its duration and the weather are a few considerations. Batteries don't last long in the cold. The role of the Marine is another factor — a machine gunner may carry none, while a platoon commander may carry a bunch because he has the radio. Standard 5590 and 2590 radio batteries weigh about 2 and 3.2 pounds, respectively. On the high end, Furman said he has carried as many as eight cells on an operation, for a total battery load of up to 32 pounds. A normal battery load for a dismounted Marine is between 2 and 4, or up to 18 pounds of batteries. "Here's where MAPS comes in," Furman said. "Because it uses a central battery, you don't need spares for each type of battery."

The central battery is connected to devices like GPS and night vision goggles by way of an energy management system that divides up the available charge, ensuring that nothing goes dead before the others. A Marine will not lose his radio before his night vision, for instance. The 20-watt solar panel has a charging throughput rate of about 20 watts — more than enough to recharge the battery in sunlight, or run a radio directly, he said. The photovoltaic cell captures more of the sun's energy and is more flexible than previous versions, which allowed them to be worn as part of a garment. Where previous cells were about 6% efficient, MAPS cells are 30% efficient.

The Army has a similar system that runs on the flexible conformal battery and peripheral communications equipment, which is gaining acceptance with the Marine Corps as it is fielded in Afghanistan. The Marine Corps went one step further with MAPS by building in a water filtration system that is attached to the Marine's Camelback water bladder. As with batteries, water is something a Marine doesn't want to run out of in combat. Furman said if he estimated he would need a gallon of water for an operation, he would routinely bring two, adding 17 pounds to his load. "If you run out of water, you die. If you can get water locally, the risk of running out is much less," he said. "So you can afford to reduce that safety factor. This is a critical point." The "ultra filtration hollow-fiber" filter is an inline system that connects directly to the tube of a Camelback worn by the Marine. Sucking on the tube draws water from the bladder through the filter, automatically cleaning it before it is consumed.

Work is ongoing to develop a self-cleaning passive filtration system that sits inside the bladder itself. It also has a ripple effect on the logistical tail that keeps that Marine and fellow troops fighting. Marines who need water need convoys to truck it in. Those convoys need drivers who are vulnerable to attack on the road. Those trucks need fuel and mechanics and other support personnel. A Marine with a personal, reusable filter can gather water from anywhere as long as the source is fresh water. You have cascading effects down the chain," Furman said. "This type of product can harness the same principal, but in a positive way."

**Brain Stimulation Could Help PTSD, TBI Patients**

ArmedForcesNews art 22Nov

The Pentagon's top scientific research agency is exploring the possibility that brain stimulation could help service members and Veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other brain maladies. In October, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) issued a formal request for potential contractors to come forward with their ideas to implement the plan to improve the overall understanding of brain disorders. "Methods developed through this program will use neural recording and stimulation to close the loop on therapeutic treatment in individuals who receive minimal benefits from currently available treatments," the DARPA request stated.

**Most Military Components Beat 2013 Recruiting Goals**

ArmedForcesNews art 22Nov

Each active and reserve component of the Defense Department's four armed services except for the Army Reserve either met or exceeded recruiting goals for fiscal year 2013, which began ended 30 SEP 13. The Air Force Reserve showed the greatest gain against projections, signing up 7,846 new accessions – ahead of its goal of 5,817. The Army Reserve reported 26,191 accessions, short of its goal of 29,880. The active Army (69,154 accessions), Navy (40,112 accessions) Marine Corps (21,215 accessions) and Air Force (26,275 accessions) and Marine Corps Reserve (8,798 accessions) all met their goals. The Navy Reserve (5,584 accessions) and Air National Guard (10,737 accessions) slightly exceeded recruiting goals.

**Fort Snelling Officers Club Holiday Dinner Dance**

LTCRonSorenson-651-271-6837

Don't Delay on this event - The annual Fort Snelling Officers Club Holiday Dinner Dance is being held at the Officer's Club Saturday evening, 21 DEC. A 17-piece orchestra will be on hand to provide music during dinner and for dancing after dinner. Menu choices are steak, salmon or a vegetarian option. The charge to attend is \$45 per person, \$35 per person for the vegetarian option.

Advance reservations are needed by 15 DEC for food planning. Reservations should be made immediately and can be made by contacting LTC Ron Sorensen. His email address is [sorenforage@msn.com](mailto:sorenforage@msn.com). Phone is 651-271-6837. The event is being presented by The Flower & Garden Club, an organization affiliated with the Fort Snelling Officer's Club. Any revenue exceeding expenses goes to military charities such as the Armed Forces Service Center at the Airport as well as similar organizations. MOAA members are invited to attend. It is a great way to get into the Holiday spirit. There is a cash bar starting at 1700 with dinner at 1830 followed by dancing.

**Who Gets What When Someone Dies**

SocialSecurity&amp;You TomMargenau artCreators.com

**Q:** My wife died 29 SEP 2013. In other words, she was alive almost the entire month of September. And yet I wasn't allowed to keep her Social Security check that came just a week or so after she died. Can you justify this in any way?

**A:** I'm not sure I can "justify" it, but I can explain what the law and Social Security rules say. You are probably aware that Social Security checks are paid one month in arrears. In other words, the check that comes in November is the payment for October. And in your wife's case, the check that came in October was the Social Security payment for September. You may not be aware that the law says a person must be alive the entire month (and that means every day, every hour, every minute and every second of the month) to be eligible for the check for that month. Because your wife died on 29 SEP, she was not alive the entire month. Therefore, I'm sorry, but she (and now in turn you) are just not due any of the proceeds of her September Social Security check. In other words, Social Security checks are not pro-rated. But as I've pointed out before in this column, although that may be bad news after you are gone, it's good news when you first sign up for Social Security. For example, if you are 66 years old on 29 SEP and want your benefits to begin effective with age 66, you will get a check for the entire month of September, even though you are only 66 for two days in the month. (Note: This rule does NOT apply if you take benefits at age 62. The law says you must be 62 for an entire month before you can get a Social Security benefit for that month.)

**Notes of Interest**

Various

- **ARNG.** The Army National Guard will decrease in size from 358,200 troops to 350,200 by the end of fiscal 2015, according to LTG William Ingram, director of the Army Guard. "The Army's getting smaller. The Guard, the [active- and reserve-component] mix, and the number of soldiers that would remain in the National Guard is a concern," he said.

(Continued next page)



- **Vet Jobs.** In FY 2012, the Executive Branch of Government hired the highest percentage of Veterans in over 20 years, surpassing the previous high set in FY 2011. The Government hired approximately 195,000 new employees in FY 2012 as compared to approximately 230,000 new employees in FY 2011—a reduction of over 34,000 total hires. Of those 195,000 FY 2012 hires, approximately 56,000 were Veterans, equaling 28.9% of total hires.
- **Korean War Veterans Memorial.** Korean War Veterans and families can now take a virtual tour of their national memorial from their home computers, as well as other mobile devices. Visit [www.koreanwar60.com/kwm](http://www.koreanwar60.com/kwm).
- **Military Sexual Assaults.** Sexual assaults in the military increased by an unprecedented 46% during the last fiscal year. There were 3,553 sexual assault complaints from OCT 2012 through JUN, compared to 2,434 reports during the same period the previous year.

## Marriage in Later Years

SusanLadikaMoneyTalksNews art21OCT

If you're getting married in your 20s or 30s, your main concerns may be buying a house and starting a family. But if you remarry in your 50s and 60s, you need to pay attention to protecting your house and family financially. In 2011, the remarriage rate for those between the ages of 55 and 64 was almost 17 percent, and for those 65 and older, it was 4.6 percent, a study by the National Center for Family & Marriage Research at Bowling Green State University found. As unromantic as it sounds, if you're part of those age groups, you probably have assets, children and grandchildren to think about before you head to the altar. What are some of the things you should keep in mind before your big day?

**1. Talk about yourself — and your kids.** In any good marriage, you need open communication. Not only should you be prepared to talk about your credit score, credit history, assets and debts, you also should be prepared to bring your kids and grandkids into the conversation. That way you can try to avoid misunderstandings and anger over the financial decisions you make.

**2. Not just for the rich and famous.** You don't have to be wealthy and powerful to need a prenuptial agreement. You should each hire your own attorney to represent your interests when negotiating a pre-nup. By putting all your decisions down on paper, you can avoid legal disputes down the road.

**3. Whose home, sweet home? If you both own homes, you'll have to decide where you want to live.**

You might want to move into one person's house and sell the other, or sell both and purchase a home together. If you move into a home one of you already owns, you'll have to determine what to do if the person who owns the house dies first. Will the surviving spouse continue to live there? Will it pass on to the owner's children? Will it be sold?

**4. Yours, mine and ours.** Then you'll need to figure out how to pay the bills. Will your bank accounts and credit cards remain separate? Will you establish a joint checking account to pay the bills? You'll also have to decide who will pay what. Will everything be split 50-50? If you're still working, will the spouse with the larger income pay the lion's share of expenses?

**5. Who gets power of attorney?** If you have a power of attorney or health care surrogate, you should discuss who will carry on that role. Your first instinct might be to change the designated decision maker from an adult child to your new spouse. But you should also consider your spouse's age and health. Of course, anyone could become ill at any age, but you should give it extra thought before shifting those powers to an older person.

**6. Who inherits what?** One spouse probably will die first, so you'll need to discuss who should inherit that person's money, possessions and property. Typically you'll want to leave assets for your children or grandchildren, while also leaving something for your surviving spouse. How much your spouse is entitled to inherit will vary from state to state.

- In many states, it doesn't matter what your will says. A surviving spouse can't be cut out of the will, either intentionally or accidentally, according to <http://NOLO.com>.
- Most states allow a surviving spouse to claim one-third to one-half of the estate of the spouse who died. In some states the amount you can claim depends on how long you've been married.
- In the 10 community property states – Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin – each spouse generally owns half of what either earned during the marriage (unless that's overridden in writing) and can do what they want with their half of the estate.
- Rules for how retirement accounts are handled after someone dies can be extremely complex, The Wall Street Journal says. But generally speaking:
  - If you have a 401(k), your spouse is generally considered your beneficiary, regardless of who is named as beneficiary for the account.
  - If you want your children to inherit something, moving your money to an IRA might be a better choice. Take the time to decide how to distribute heirlooms and personal items. There can be plenty of hurt feelings because Grandma's tea set went to your second wife, rather than to your grandchild.

On 20 SEP, the Army published its plan to modernize Army Knowledge Online (AKO). The plan transitions business users to a suite of more secure, interoperable Department of Defense (DOD) services. The improved security requires users to have Common Access Cards (CAC) embedded with users' personal digital certificates. The Army will close all accounts for military and civilian retirees and family members, who do not have CACs. The Army plans to close inactive retiree and family member AKO accounts on 31 DEC 2013. These are accounts that have not had a password change in over 90 days and are not set to automatically forward email to another government account. The Army will also remove email storage for active retiree and family member accounts on this date. On 31 MAR 2014, the Army will close all remaining retiree and family member AKO accounts.

To ease the transition, the Army G-6 recently approved an exception to policy that allows retirees and family members to automatically forward their AKO email to a civilian email address until 31 DEC 2013. However, retirees must set this up in their AKO account profiles before 31 DEC 2013. To avoid disruptions to communications and personal accounts, retirees should take the following steps as soon as possible:

- Obtain a personal email address from a civilian provider.
- Replace AKO email addresses in all personal accounts – especially myPay accounts at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (<https://www.mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.)
- Obtain a premium DS Logon account. This account allows access to personal benefits records and claims on DOD and Department of Veterans Affairs websites. See the following DS Logon article for more information.
- Download important emails and files to a personal computer.

The Army has many sources of information that retirees may access in place of AKO. The Army home page [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) provides official Army news and information and links to Army social media sites (Army Facebook , Army Twitter, Army YouTube and Army Flickr.) It also includes links to Army images, audio, video, presentations, and Army Live, the official Army blog. The U.S. Army Installation Management Command's home page ([www.imcom.army.mil](http://www.imcom.army.mil)) includes links to individual installations and garrisons that provide local information and services to retirees. The Army's official benefits website is <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil>. The Army plan indicated that retirees may share files using free and paid commercial services. The plan also noted retirees may join comment forums at military service organization and commercial websites. For updated information on the AKO transition, go to <http://www.eis.army.mil/ako>.

Official U.S. Army Internet Sources include:

- Army Home page: [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)
- News: <http://www.army.mil/news/>
- Early Bird: <http://ebird.osd.mil/ebird2/index.html>
- Information: <http://www.army.mil/info/>
- Benefits: <https://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil>
- Audio/video: <http://www.army.mil/media/amp/>
- Mobile phone apps: <http://www.army.mil/mobile/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/USarmy>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/USArmy/>
- YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/USArmy/>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/soldiersmediacenter/>
- Soldiers Magazine: <http://soldiers.dodlive.mil/>
- Army Live Blog: <http://armylive.dodlive.mil/>
- Stand To!: <http://www.army.mil/standto/>

### **Why Men Die First**



*Editor's Note - Julie Kink is a MCMOAA Associate member and lives in Stillwater. She was invited to this ceremony on Veterans Day in Washington D.C. as a Storyteller. She is a contributor to "Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul" and serves on the Advisory Board of The Virtual Wall, the Stillwater Veterans Memorial Board, and the Family Contacts Committee, a group that connects family members of Vietnam War helicopter casualties with men who served with their loved ones. Julie is also an Honorary Member of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association – both the national organization and the Upper Midwest Chapter.*

Thank you for being here. My name is Julie Kink. I'm proud to say my brother, David, was a helicopter pilot with Charlie Troop, 1st of the 9th Cav, in 1969. David would be celebrating his 64th birthday today. But he didn't come back from Vietnam. He was killed after a month in country. He was 19 years old. I was seven years old the last time I saw David - a tall, slender young man with a dry sense of humor that seems to be what his friends remember most. He had a ready smile and a bearing of strength and positive energy. He was a little shy and quiet, soft spoken and an animal lover. And he dreamed about flying - maybe day-dreaming a bit too much in class. Who knows what forces were at work in that 18-year-old brain? David was bored with school. He didn't know what he wanted to do with his life, so he enlisted under the "high school to flight school" program. We aren't a military family. I doubt my brother had any patriotic motives other than choosing an exciting path and getting to do what he loved. He was bright and made it through the Army's Warrant Officer Rotary Wing Aviation Course, graduating from Georgia's Hunter-Stewart Army Airfield in May 1969. I remember how proud Mom was to fly to Savannah to pin his wings on. I have two other older siblings who were closer in age to David than I was. His death affected each of us differently. I always felt that they lost their past while I lost my future - a known entity, versus the unknown - because they had more time to get to know him than I did. Like most families at the time, we didn't talk about it.



So about 20 years ago, I started trying to find out more about him. I never really set out to learn anything in particular, and my search took a long time. Today, Gold Star Family members like me can do in 3 days what it took me 3 years to do: find someone who knew my brother. I poked around looking for Vietnam Veterans and asking questions, afraid to stir up painful memories, thinking I would be unwelcome - thinking that I was probably the last one on earth to start looking for a brother's Vietnam buddies after so many years. But for many of the Veterans I talked to, I was the first family of the fallen they had contact with. It's been good for guys to know that it's OK for us family members to hear the good stories - and the bad ones - that for the most part we are OK and that we don't hold any blame. I'm on a committee that helps family members of Vietnam helicopter casualties connect with men who served with their loved ones, and I organize a Gold Star Family Breakfast every year for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association reunions. So no longer am I the only one I know who lost someone in Vietnam. When I hear from someone who knew my brother, it gives me comfort that's hard to describe. To know that those who surrounded him in those days are OK and doing well in their lives is an incredible feeling. I believe he would be grateful that his friends came home, grew to adulthood, lived some good times, and are in a good place today.

On Memorial Day, we honor the dead. On Veterans Day, we embrace the living. Today is the day we thank LIVING Veterans for their service, and acknowledge that YOUR contributions to our nation are appreciated. ALL those who served - not only those who died - have sacrificed and done their duty. But as Americans, we have not always done a good job of thanking Veterans. The Vietnam war was unpopular, and people didn't talk about it. Soldiers who came back from Vietnam tried to put it behind them when they re-entered civilian life, and often never talked about Vietnam to their civilian friends or even their families. I know one Veteran who told me when he got home and went back to college, he was made to feel too ashamed to even pay attention to what was happening in Vietnam. He was treated as though he lost the war, made to feel like all Vietnam Veterans were on street corners, holding up cardboard signs, looking for a free ride. Another Veteran I know simply walked away from flying and all of his training in 1978. His glory days had ended but his pride and love for his fellow Veterans remained, despite how poorly they were treated. Now, 45 years after the war, he gets more and more people thanking him when they see his CAV hat. In fact one elderly lady in the grocery store stopped him and asked if he was in Vietnam. When he told her that he was, she grabbed both his hands in her frail hands and thanked him. He said it was hard to keep a dry eye.

I want to tell you what I've learned from these men who have allowed me to revisit that intense period of their lives, when they were young and invincible and ready to risk their lives for one another. I learned that each of you went over as a new guy, alone, and if you didn't get killed or wounded, you went home an old guy - alone. I learned that above all else, what you were fighting for was each other.

(Continued next page)

I learned that you pushed yourself to the limit, physically and emotionally. And then pushed yourself even more. I learned that at 19, 20, 21 years old, you developed the uncommon ability to watch a buddy die, gather his things to send to his mom, and go back to the field to fight another day. I learned that when you were weary, you carried each other's gear . . . when you were wounded, you carried each other . . . and when you died, you carried each other's memory. I learned that you can go through any number of personal tragedies without flinching, but that touching a name on a wall can make you cry. I learned that you still carry the responsibility for your buddies' lives on your shoulders every day.

I want to share one of my core beliefs with you, and that is the idea that we can't change what happens to us, but our reaction is totally within our control. What I did with the life-changing event of losing my brother was to set out to find those who knew him - as much to get to know THEM, and THANK THEM, as to get to know the brother I lost. In knowing them, I have gotten to know him. I am so fortunate to have been able to do that. Those are the men that I honor here today. Men like John Powell, the Charlie Troop Cobra pilot who was flying "high bird" protecting my brother's light observation helicopter that day in 1969, and who has become a loved and true friend. Like David's commander Bob Tredway, a father figure who became a mentor to me, and helped me make my own journey to Vietnam in 2006. Or like Mike Sprayberry, a quiet, unassuming Alabama farmer whose actions as a young 1st lieutenant in the spring of 1968 earned him our nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. Mike had the extraordinary courage to marry me last December. I love you, Michael.

I took a huge step into the unknown when I set out looking for guys who could help me understand what my brother lived and died for. What I found was the love of my brothers' brothers - bonds stronger than family. I grew close to guys who let me inside a little part of their world. They shared with me their stories, their memories. . . their beers, and their tears. Through our common loss, we have been made stronger. I spent barely 8 years of my life growing up with my brother, David. I've spent 17 years now, loving all of you. On this Veterans Day, I want to say: God bless you for letting me in on this very, very special world of yours. And Welcome Home. Thank you.

### **Veterans Day Speech at Winona Senior High**

JimCrigler 11NOV13

*Editor's Note: CW2 Jim Crigler, USAR, 129<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company, Call sign - Bulldog 12, Vietnam 1971-72 - is a MCMOAA member, and a member of the Upper Midwest Chapter and national organization of the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association. Jim lives in Winona and is President/Sr. Partner of the Winona Search Group.*

Thank you very much for that warm welcome. As a Vietnam Veteran I can tell you it is very much appreciated.

So today is Veterans Day. From the beginning of our republic, after all of our wars, the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War, etc., we have always had a sort of "remembrance day". (Old soldiers tell stories) But it wasn't until 1918 that we first solidified a day as Veterans Day. Two Armies, the Allied forces in France and the German Army held their fire and stopped killing each other on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month of 1918. An armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities was declared. At first we called it Armistice Day, and it was established at the end of what we thought was "the War to end All Wars" - World War 1. One year later, on 11 NOV 1919, it was formally called "Veterans Day". It became a National Holiday in 1938. Many of us get Veterans Day confused with Memorial Day. Memorial Day is for the remembrance of all those that paid the ultimate sacrifice -- they died for our freedoms. Veterans Day is a day that pays tribute to all American Veterans both living and dead.



So what is a Veteran? Well, in part, it is all US military Service members, past and present, that have served our country honorably. They all took an oath, a SWORN oath. I brought that oath with me and I'd like to read it to you. "I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

What "that" means is that you agree to follow orders in the defense of our freedoms and our liberty up to and including your death. You have a contract with the people of America to put your life on the line if necessary. Every U.S. service Veteran has taken this oath. I have brought with me today several military service Veterans. If I may, I'd like to introduce them to you: Herb Koenig CWO, Army Helicopter pilot - flew in Vietnam in 1971 -72 with the 60<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company. Herb flew in the Easter Offensive and the battle for Kontum.

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He flew 1000's of missions in Vietnam. Paul Pickett, CAPT, USMC, fought in Mogadishu. If you read the book or saw the movie, "Black Hawk Down", Paul was there. He is one of only a handful of US Marines that have received a direct commission from enlisted man to officer. Bruce Reed, U.S. Army Medic - served in Vietnam in 1969-70 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade and later the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry. If you were wounded in the heat of battle and hollered "MEDIC", Bruce would be there through thick or thin or a hail of bullets. Bruce has seen the worst of war. The Empty Chair/w/flight helmet is in honor of those that cannot be here because they made the ultimate sacrifice. Every one of us up here knows someone that paid the ultimate price. There are other Veterans among us as well. Jim Flim, retired track coach at Winona. U.S. Army, Vietnam in 1970. In our community, Gerry Krage, City Council member, a multiple Iraq war Veteran.

I'm sure there are teachers with us that have served and many of you have relatives that are Veterans. One that I know is here is Kou Vang. Kou is not a Veteran himself but Kou's Grandfather, and his Grandfather's Brother fought for the United States during the Vietnam War. You see they fought a secret war for the CIA. Specifically, they would rescue downed pilots in Laos. As a pilot that flew into Laos I knew that if I was shot down I had a chance of survival if I could find a Hmong Village. Kou's Grand Uncle paid the ultimate sacrifice. He was tortured and killed by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) for leading men to rescue downed American pilots. I consider Kou's Grand Uncle and Grandfather Veterans and honor them as well today. Many of you may not know that the Hmong's were forced off of their traditional lands in Laos for helping the United States during the war. In many ways, they are all Veterans.

I want to talk today not just about the Veterans that saw combat because most Veterans do not actually see combat. They either serve in times of peace or in support of combat troops. In WW2 for every combat soldier that served, there were 4 soldiers that supported them (cooks, supply, payroll, medical, etc). In Vietnam it was 10 to 1. But each of these individuals took the same oath and therefore offered the same sacrifice. They are all equally important in protecting our freedoms. I would like to tell you a story about two Vietnam Veterans. So if I may, let me take you back in time. The month is April in the Spring of 1972. The place is II Corps in the mountains of the Central Highlands, South Vietnam at the temporary home of the 129<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company. At the time the Nixon Administration was rapidly pulling combat troops out of Vietnam. We are now down from 550,000 troops at the peak of the war two years earlier to about 50,000 troops. Remember that 10/1 ratio? We had only 5000 to 6000 "combat" troops at the ready. The North Vietnamese have been quietly preparing to take advantage of this pullout. Now in the spring, the NVA pushes south and makes a vicious assault to take all of the Provincial Capitals in South Vietnam. They have sent 12 divisions, 180,000 fighting men and boys to win this battle. In North Vietnam after their most recent draft of civilians to fill the ranks of their army some say there is not a single able-bodied man or boy over the age of 10 years old left in any village in the entire country. In the 129<sup>th</sup>'s area of operation the NVA are sending human waves of soldiers to attack the Provincial Capital of Kontum and to close the few main roads that connect the province together. The fighting is horrendous. And if you are a helicopter pilot, you become a flying target. There are thousands of enemy that try to greet every resupply or medevac aircraft with machine gun bullets and rockets.

On 26 APR, two pilots rest in their hooch at the end of a long and very stressful day of combat flying. They are scared to death. They pray, they discuss and ponder their fate, their mortality, the purpose of the war, the morality of the war and they think of their families. They are both the oldest sons of large Catholic families. One turns to his friend and says, "I am not certain how I will survive this. Please, would you do me this great favor..... If I am killed, my family will be devastated..... would you do me the honor if I am killed in action (KIA) of escorting my body back to my family?" The other pilot is taken aback by this request and looks at him in silence for a few seconds, and then he says, "on one condition, and that is, if I am killed first, that you do me the same honor." And then he raises a small book that he had in his hand and waived it like a preacher waving a bible and says "A solemn vow, my friend!!" and a solemn vow it was! The next day, while resupplying troops under combat assault, 1LT Thomas Francis Shaw is killed in action. Three days later, on 30 APR 1972 in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, it is a beautiful spring afternoon at the home of Frank and Ginny Shaw. High school students David and Kevin Shaw hear a car door shut and look out the window. They see a neatly dressed Army officer and a Catholic Priest get out of a dark sedan. They both immediately know that something is terribly wrong.

And thus began for me my toughest mission of the Vietnam War. You see, I was the pilot that asked for that escort. And now I was the one being the escort. It was not what I thought would happen. But war, or fate, or perhaps the hand of God, takes its own direction. I share this story of two Veterans with you, not because I want you to think I'm special, but rather because I am not special. I am not special among Veterans. The Shaw family is special. Their sacrifice, and the sacrifices of the 58,000 other families of soldiers that died in Vietnam is immense. And their wounds I can assure you have not healed to this day. But the story I tell has been told before. It and similar stories have been told from every war and conflict from the Revolutionary War to wars we fight today. It is a story of courage, oath, duty, comradeship. Most of all it is a story of sacrifice. And all of it is done to protect our way of life.

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The freedoms that we have as an American people, well let me just say, they are not free. You have heard this phrase before but let me repeat it again: Freedom is NOT free. It is not free if you are protecting it and it is not free if you are the one living it. As Americans we have responsibilities to our freedom. Case in point: As you turn east on to Lake Blvd from Huff Street in Winona, you will soon pass the Veterans Park portion of the drive. As you look to the left you will see a reddish brown granite memorial dedicated to the Vietnam War Veterans. There are 2 panels on this monument. On the left side is a Huey helicopter. Every Vietnam Veteran knows the sound of those blades slapping the air. To them, it was the sound of hope. Below that are the dates 1958 thru 1975. Seventeen years of war. Seventeen years! And then when our combat Veterans returned home, we treated them with disdain. An entire generation of men/women, some of them real American heroes, were trashed. As a people, we did a grave disservice to the very men and women that fought for the rights that we asked them to fight for. The American people, war weary, checked out on this one. They blamed the Veterans instead of the politicians that promulgated the war. And the politicians let them. They did not keep their responsibility to their soldiers at that time. That's why the right hand granite panel shows an exhausted and weary Vietnam War Veteran.

Vietnam severely divided our nation. But we are America. And slowly, ever so slowly we started to heal. Most Vietnam Veterans did what I did. When they got out of the service, they put the war in a faraway place in their minds, did not talk about it, and got on with life as best they could. But healing needed to take place. One of the biggest steps in that healing was the building of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. Some of you may not know this but it was not planned and proposed by our representatives in Washington, D.C. It was proposed by a Vietnam combat Veteran named Jan Skruggs. Jan took \$2,800 of his own money and started raising funds. He petitioned Congress and was finally awarded the site that the memorial sits at today. Some of you may have seen the Wall. When it was first built it was very controversial. But even before we could dedicate this memorial, it began to fulfill its destiny as a symbol of healing and a place of honor. In the summer of 1982, a U.S. Navy officer in uniform walked up to where the concrete of the foundation of the Wall was being poured. He stood over the trench for a moment, and then he tossed his dead brother's Purple Heart Medal into the wet concrete and saluted. This was the first offering to that memorial. To date, there have been over 400,000 offerings left at the Wall. Veterans leave dog tags, combat medals won, long letters to comrades lost, cigarettes to repay those borrowed decades ago, widows leave graduation photos.

I first saw the wall in 1985 while on a business trip to Washington. My business meetings ran late. By the time I got to the monument it was early evening and the sun was setting. Walking along touching the names on the granite and looking at that monument, well, emotionally I was overwhelmed. There on the wall were my friends, my brothers --Veterans whose lives were sacrificed. Tears welled up in my eyes as I backed away from the monument to sort of take it all in. There was a chill in the air that evening, and as the cool air hit the sun heated granite, a sort of fog came off the wall. It was as if that wall was breathing. And all those names were saying something. And right there I realized that each of them did something very special. They answered their country's call. They stood for something much greater than themselves. Many would say that it was controversial for what they fought for - the domino effect of Communism, helping an ally, etc. But I know what they fought for, because I was with them. They stood for and fought for freedom. That wall is there to remind us that we have the freedom to hold our politicians/leaders accountable. In fact, it is there to remind us that we have the responsibility to hold our leaders accountable.....TO VOTE! Looking at 58,000 names of American sons and daughters on a granite slab is quite sobering. I want every politician, hell, I want every American to look at that wall before they consider sending someone else's child to war.

So I want each of you to realize that one of the things that Veterans Day is for - certainly is to thank a Veteran and remember your freedoms...but to also remember your responsibility to use those freedoms. Forgive me for focusing so much on Vietnam. It is my war. And war has a way of defining the person that fights it. Veterans Day is for all Veterans of all wars as well as peacetime. I mean think about it, without the Veterans of the American Revolution there would be no United States of America. No land of the free or home of the brave. Without the Veterans of the Civil War, who fought on either side for what they believed in, the strong United America we know today might never have been possible. Without the World War II or Korean Veterans, we might be living in a country...in a world....where freedom of choice or the right to vote no longer exists. And without those who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan or are currently fighting the War on Terrorism in other parts of the world, we could be living in constant fear....or under the control of a terrorist threat....or simply without freedom.

We all benefit from their service. Perhaps the soldier poet says it best in the poem "it is the soldier" It was written in 1970 by Charles Province, an Army Veteran. It goes like this:

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It is the soldier, not the minister who has given us freedom of religion.  
 It is the soldier, not the reporter who has given us freedom of the press.  
 It is the soldier, not the poet who has given us freedom of speech.  
 It is the soldier, not the campus organizer who has given us freedom to protest.  
 It is the soldier, not the lawyer who has given us the right to a fair trial.  
 It is the soldier, not the politician who has given us the right to vote.  
 It is the soldier, who salutes the flag, who served beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, who allows the protester to burn the flag.

All of our Veterans have protected our democracy...our freedom...our way of life. Today we honor them and thank them. I believe that the best way to honor our Veterans is to take an active part in maintaining freedom in America. For you teachers, we must teach future generations about what it means to be an American. For you students, we must volunteer in our communities...take care of our wounded and disabled Veterans and their families....Vote in Elections...and continue to try to make America the very best that it can be. Without our Veterans we would not be here today. Without you, we won't be able to reach where we could be tomorrow.

So I would like to ask each of you to take a few minutes today and ponder upon the freedoms that you have and the difference that each of us can make. Perhaps after class today you can sit with a friend or a relative and talk about our freedoms and the sacrifices made so that we continue to have them. Or perhaps you can take the few blocks walk down to Winona's Veterans Park and see the names etched in stone. Oh, and if you see a Veteran, especially a Vietnam Veteran. Please walk up to them and thank them for their service and sacrifice. I can assure you that they will appreciate it and the thanks that you get in return may very well make your day, too. Winona Senior High, thank you for honoring our Veterans on this day. May God bless all of them, each of you, and this great country.

### **Support Our Troops Plates**

TaylorStephensMDVA 23SEP13

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces volunteer to serve our country and protect the freedoms we hold dear. They endure extreme hardships, leave their families and sometimes make the ultimate sacrifice. If they're willing to do all this, shouldn't we be willing to show our support? The Minnesota "Support Our Troops" license plates are a way to show support for Minnesota service members, Veterans, and their families. This support is given back to the military members through the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs and the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. These organizations use the minimal annual contribution of \$30 to assist in the bettering of Veterans and military families and homeless or underserved Veterans around the state. The donations help with programs like CORE, which provides family counseling services – also available for children, financial counseling, debt management, and mental health counseling. It also helps with financial assistance, grants, shelter, outreach to diverse communities and community seminars. Since it became available in 2005 more than 34,000 Minnesotans in all 86 counties have purchased and maintained plates.



To purchase an SOT Plate visit your local DMV office or call 651-4 Troops. For more information, visit our [Support Our Troops License Plate website](#).

### **Navy Christens Newest Carrier - USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)**

LarryShaughnessyCNNBlog art8NOV

In Newport News, Va., on 9 NOV the Navy christened its newest aircraft carrier, the USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN-78). This nuclear-powered ship is the first of a new class of at least 10 carriers that the Navy expects will be steaming the seas, protecting the United States well into the next century. The Ford itself is projected to stay in service until 2057. This carrier is state-of-the-art in naval architecture, according to news releases from the Navy and the shipbuilder.

For example, the *Gerald R. Ford* will use electromagnetic force, similar to how modern roller coasters are propelled, to catapult planes off the deck



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instead of the pressurized steam used in today's fleet. The arresting gear that grabs planes when they land will be software-controlled, with the goal being less wear and tear on the planes. The ship looks much like the current Nimitz-class carriers. It's roughly the same length, width and weight. But the island - the superstructure that rises above the flight deck - is skinnier, taller and set farther aft on the ship, allowing for more flight-deck operations and aircraft maintenance. It's also part of the reason the Ford will be able to carry more warplanes and launch 25% more air missions per day than the current carriers in the fleet, according to the Navy. Below the waterline its four 30-ton propellers will be driven by two newly-designed nuclear reactors. And for the first time the Navy will have no urinals on this carrier, the most expensive ship (about \$14B) ever. It's use of gender neutral toilets mean berthing can be swapped between male and female without concern and one unit throughout means fewer spare parts and repair.

This new class of carriers is designed with built-in flexibility to accommodate future Navy decisions about aircraft and missions. And it's designed to do all this on the cheap. Most of the lights in the ship will use high-efficiency bulbs that will last twice as long between changes. And the ship is designed to require 30% less maintenance over its lifespan. Finally and most importantly, because of designed efficiencies, it'll put to sea with 1,000 fewer sailors and Marines than a Nimitz-class carrier. Over the life of the Ford, the efficiency of the ship, the Navy said, will save \$4 billion. The ship is named after President Gerald R. Ford who served on the carrier USS *Monterey* during World War II and who later became President when Richard Nixon resigned in the wake of the Watergate scandal. "It's very fitting that our next carrier, a ship that will calm the unknown crises of the future by its very presence offshore, will be named for President Gerald Ford," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said at the ship's keel-laying. The push to name the ship after Ford began years ago and then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld actually told Ford about the ship's name months before Ford's death in 2006, making the new carrier one of the few Navy ships named after a living person. "How fitting it will be that the name Gerald R. Ford will patrol the high seas for decades to come, in the defense of the nation he loved so much," Rumsfeld said at Ford's funeral. Ford's daughter, Susan Ford Bales, had the honor of breaking the traditional bottle of champagne on the ship's bow as it launched.

CAPT John F. Meier has already been named as the ship's first commanding officer. He will be responsible for monitoring the final months of construction and likely be onboard when the Ford goes on its first sea trials. "I'm thrilled to be here," Meier said in a Navy release last summer. "I couldn't ask for a better assignment or a greater honor." But as the Navy launches its newest carrier, not all is well in the land of flattops. Just last month, ADM Jonathan Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations, conceded that because of budget issues the Navy may have to reconsider how many aircraft carriers it will keep in the fleet. "You have to go where the money is, and carriers and air wings are quite expensive," ADM Greenert said, according to a Virginia newspaper, the *Daily Press*. "I'd hate to say it is inevitable, but we have to look very hard at it."

### **Grenada Thanks U.S. at 30th Anniversary of Invasion**

AP art26OCT

More than 7,000 U.S. Marines and Army paratroopers invaded Grenada in 1983 to the cheers of residents, who commemorate the action with a national holiday known as "Thanksgiving Day." The action came after Grenada's Marxist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, three members of his Cabinet and four others were executed by a radical faction of his Cuba-backed party and a military government seized power. Six days later, President Ronald Reagan sent in U.S. troops, helped by a few hundred Caribbean security forces. Reagan said the invasion was necessary to protect the lives of the more than 600 U.S. students at St. George's University School of Medicine. "The U.S. stemmed the flow of blood, for which we are eternally grateful," said Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell as he spoke at a Thanksgiving Day church service. "It is because of that we can enjoy democratic principles, which we sometimes take for granted."

### **Military History -- Gulf War Operation Earnest Will**

[http://www.martinfrost.ws/htmlfiles/july2008/operation\\_praying\\_mantis.html](http://www.martinfrost.ws/htmlfiles/july2008/operation_praying_mantis.html)

Operation Earnest Will (24 JUL 1987 - 26 SEP 1988) was the U.S. military protection of Kuwaiti owned oil tankers from Iranian attacks in 1987 and 1988, three years into the Tanker War phase of the Iran-Iraq War. It was the largest naval convoy operation since World War II. The U.S. Navy warships that escorted the tankers, part of U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, were the most visible part of the operation, but U.S. Air Force AWACS radar planes provided surveillance and Army special operations helicopters hunted for possible attackers. In DEC 1986, the government of Kuwait asked the Reagan administration to send the U.S. Navy to protect Kuwaiti tankers. U.S. law forbade the use of Navy ships to escort civilian vessels under foreign flag, so the Kuwaiti ships were re-registered under U.S. flag. Even before Earnest Will formally began, it became clear how dangerous Persian Gulf operations would be. On 17 MAY, an Iraqi warplane fired two Exocet missiles at the guided missile frigate USS *Stark*, killing 37 sailors and injuring 21. Iraqi officials said the targeting of the U.S. warship was accidental.

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On the very first escort mission, on 24 JUL 1987, the Kuwaiti oil tanker al-Rekkahre, re-flagged as the U.S. tanker *Bridgeton*, struck an Iranian mine damaging the ship, but causing no injuries. The *Bridgeton* proceeded under her own power to Kuwait, with the thin-skinned U.S. Navy escorts following behind to avoid mines. On 15 OCT, the U.S. tanker *Sea Isle City* was struck while at anchor by an Iranian Silksworm missile, wounding 18. The U.S. Navy responded by destroying two Iranian oil platforms. *Earnest Will* overlapped with Operation Prime Chance, a largely secret effort to stop Iranian forces from attacking Gulf shipping. The most dramatic moment of Prime Chance was likely the 21 SEP 1987, attack on the Iran Ajr, an Iranian ship converted for use as a minelayer. Using night-vision devices, Army gunship crews watched the Iranian vessel lay several mines, then engaged with miniguns and rockets. A SEAL team landed aboard the vessel and seized it. Several Iranian sailors were rescued from the waters of the Persian Gulf after leaping overboard during the attack. The SEALs scuttled the vessel the following day.



USS *Stark* (FFG-31) listing after being struck by two Iraqi Exocet missiles

On 14 APR 1988, the American frigate USS *Copeland*, while on patrol, encountered trouble with its primary missile launcher. The *Samuel B. Roberts*, assuming *Copeland*'s patrol area, struck an Iranian mine and was badly damaged. The explosion put a 25-foot hole in the *Roberts*' hull and nearly sank it. The crew saved their ship with no loss of life, and *Roberts* was towed to Dubai on 16 APR. After the mining, U.S. Navy divers recovered other mines in the area. When the serial numbers were found to match those of mines seized along with the Iran Ajr the previous SEP, U.S. military officials planned a retaliatory operation against Iranian targets in the Persian Gulf. Four days later, U.S. forces retaliated with a one-day attack on Iranian warships, armed speedboats, and oil platforms used as naval bases.

On 18 OCT the U.S. Navy mounted Operation Praying Mantis. The destroyers USS *Merrill* (DD 976) and USS *Lynde McCormick* (DDG 8), plus the amphibious transport dock USS *Trenton* (LPD-14), neutralized the Sassan oil platform. The Iranian personnel on the platform were given the opportunity to abandon it for a tugboat waiting alongside, but instead chose to open fire on *Merrill*, whose 5 inch, 54 caliber guns quickly dispatched the smaller, platform-mounted Iranian gun. Immediately afterward, U.S. Marines from Marine Air-Ground Task Force (MAGTF) 2-88 fast-roped onto the Sassan platform, gathered intelligence, and set explosives to render it unusable. The other group, which included a guided missile cruiser and two frigates, attacked the Sirri oil platform. Iran responded by dispatching Boghammar speedboats to attack various targets in the Persian Gulf, including an American-flagged supply ship and a Panamanian-flagged ship. After these attacks, A-6E Intruder aircraft from the VA-95 "Green Lizards" were directed to the speedboats by an American frigate. The two aircraft, piloted by LCDR James Engler and LT Paul Webb, dropped Rockeye cluster bombs on the speedboats, sinking one and damaging several others, which then fled to the Iranian-controlled island of Abu Musa.

Action continued to escalate. *Joshan*, an Iranian Combattante II Kaman-class fast attack craft, challenged USS *Wainwright* (CG-28) and Surface Action Group Charlie (SAG), firing a Harpoon missile at them. The USS *Simpson* (FFG-56) responded to the challenge by firing four Standard missiles, while USS *Wainwright* followed with two Standard missiles. The attacks destroyed the Iranian ship's superstructure but did not immediately sink it, so USS *Bagley* (FF-1069) fired a Harpoon of its own. The three ships of SAG Charlie closed on the *Joshan*, destroying it with naval gunfire. Two Iranian F-4 fighters then approached the USS *Wainwright*, which fired a few Standard missiles at the approaching fighters, driving them away. Fighting continued when the Iranian frigate IS *Sahand* (F74) departed Bandar Abbas and challenged elements of an American surface group. The frigate was spotted by two VA-95 A-6Es while they were flying surface combat air patrol for USS *Joseph Strauss* (DDG-16). *Sahand* fired missiles at the A-6Es, and the Intruders replied with two Harpoons and four laser-guided Skipper bombs. USS *Joseph Strauss* added a Harpoon. Most, if not all, of the U.S. weapons hit the Iranian ship.

Fires blazing on *Sahand*'s decks eventually reached her magazines, causing an explosion that helped sink the ship. Despite the loss of *Sahand*, one of Iran's most modern ships, the Iranian navy continued to fight. Late in the day, a sister ship, IS *Sabalan* (F73), departed from its berth and fired a surface-to-air missile at several A-6Es from VA-95. Intruder pilot Engler dropped a laser-guided bomb on *Sabalan*, leaving the ship dead in the water. The Iranian frigate, stern partially submerged, was taken in tow by an Iranian tug. VA-95's aircraft, as ordered, did not continue the attack. Engler was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by ADM William J. Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, for these actions against the *Sabalan* and the Iranian gunboats. On 3 JUL 1988, USS *Vincennes* shot down Iran Air Flight 655, an Airbus A300B2, over the Strait of Hormuz after mistaking it for an Iranian F-14. 290 people were killed. These two side effects of *Earnest Will* — Praying Mantis and the downing of the airliner — helped convince Iran to agree to a ceasefire on 20 AUG 1988, ending its eight-year war with Iraq. On 26 SEP 1988, USS *Vandegrift* escorted the last tanker of the operation to Kuwait.

**VA Advance Funding Update -- VA Opposes Remaining 14%**

AlexanderNicholsonThe Hill art1NOV

In one of the most baffling announcements of the year, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) issued a statement 31 OCT saying that it opposes expanding advance appropriations for the remaining portion of the VA's annual budget that is not funded one year in advance. This unusual position puts Veterans at significant risk of harm should the government shut down again, and it reflects poorly on the VA. More than 85% of the VA's budget already receives advance appropriations from Congress, a policy change dating back to 2009 that Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and other Veteran service organizations fought for and won. As a result of that victory, the VA's health care system was insulated from the effects of the recent government shutdown, and Veterans were able to continue receiving both routine and critical medical services until politicians could get their act together. The rest of the VA, however, did not fare so well during the shutdown. The processing of new benefits claims was halted, important help lines and centers were shuttered, and VA warned that it would not be able to make mandatory benefits payments to students, disabled Veterans, and survivors if the shutdown was prolonged into November.

Fortunately for Veterans and their families, the chairman and ranking member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL) and Rep. Mike Michaud (D-ME) introduced legislation with strong bipartisan support to fund the remaining 14% of the VA's budget in advance. This bill, the Putting Veterans Funding First Act, would protect the entire VA, its employees, and the millions of Veterans they serve from ever again becoming political pawns in Washington's budget fights. Earlier this week at a joint press conference organized by the Disabled American Veterans, the chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), announced his support for advance appropriations for the rest of the VA's budget and his intention to mark up this bill in his committee within weeks. The House committee already marked up and reported out the same bill earlier in the year.

So how did the VA respond to the renewed attention and growing support for the effort to provide the department with a secure, advance stream of funding for its operations and for Veterans' benefits payments? The VA is saying it does not want that guaranteed financial security. This is a bizarre, ill-advised position that is clearly not in the best interests of Veterans. Whether the VA wants full advance appropriations or not, legislators on both sides of the aisle in both chambers of Congress, virtually all major military and Veteran service organizations, and Veterans themselves, want the VA to be securely funded. This is one pill that the VA is just going to have to swallow.

**Iron Man Suit to Troops for Testing in Four Years**

MikeHoffmanMilitary.com art18NOV

ADM William McRaven, head of U.S. Special Operations Command, has made it clear that he wants to build an Iron Man suit for special operators that will repel bullets and offer super human strength. It's been unclear how soon that Iron Man suit may be a reality. That is until Monday when the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command's official Twitter page stated the U.S. wanted a contract for the suit by next fall and for full field testing to take place in "about four years." This was written prior to linking to an article about the Iron Man suit @RDECOM. The goal is to have a contract in place by next fall and have suits ready for full field testing in about four years.



Officials from SOCOM issued a formal request to researchers to help them build this suit which the military is calling the Tactical Assault Light Operator Suit (TALOS). "[The] requirement is a comprehensive family of systems in a combat armor suit where we bring together an exoskeleton with innovative armor, displays for power monitoring, health monitoring, and integrating a weapon into that, a whole bunch of stuff that RDECOM is playing heavily in," said LTC Karl Borjes, a Army Research, Development and Engineering Command science advisor assigned to SOCOM, in a statement. Military officials hope to tap into some of the country's top engineering minds to develop the suit, to include the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. MIT engineers are working on a liquid body armor made of magnetorheological fluids that "transform from liquid to solid in milliseconds when a magnetic field or electrical current is applied," according to an Army statement.

**Vietnam Memorial Wall Notes**

A total of 154 men on the wall received the Medal of Honor.  
There are 1,072 Minnesota names on the wall.

**DOGS****Blue Angels Update - Angels are Back; 2014 Schedule**

BrianFeldmanAtlanticWire art24OCT



The United States Navy announced 24 OCT that the Blue Angels, its touring squadron of stunt pilots, will be operating along its full tour schedule this year, after missing out on the 2013 season from federal budget cuts due to sequestration. According to RADM John Kirby on the Navy's official blog, the reduction in funding in 2013 caused the Navy to cancel approximately 2,800 community outreach events. This year, he wrote, "We will be able to provide Americans around our nation with special events to explain and show what their Navy does. These events include full schedules for Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron (Blue Angels) and Parachute Teams (Leap Frogs); five Fleet Weeks; six Navy Weeks; Navy and regional band performances; and 10 port visits to U.S. cities.

Regarding the news that the team would be performing a full tour schedule, CDR Frosch, the team's lead pilot, told the Pensacola News Journal that, "I think everybody was just excited to finally hear it. It's just been a long six months ... It's a great feeling, that's all I can tell you." While grounded, the group performed other community outreach. One of the most welcome stops on the tour—which runs from 16 MAR to 2 NOV 2014—is the U.S. Naval Academy's commissioning and graduation week in Annapolis, Md., at the end of MAY. The Blue Angels have performed during the occasion since 1954, but their last full performance was in 2010. In 2011, the squad underwent changes after their CO was relieved of command for flying too low, and in 2012 they only performed a flyover.

The complete schedule for 2014 is available at <http://blueangels.navy.mil/show>. The site indicates all shows through 2013 as being cancelled. It is recommended that 2014 attendees check the website for any last minute schedule changes prior to attending a show in your area. At present shows are scheduled for:

**Date - Show - Name - Location**

MAR 15 NAF El Centro Air Show @ NAF El Centro, CA  
 MAR 22-23 March ARB Airfest @ March ARB, CA  
 MAR 29-30 Wings Over South Texas @NAS Kingsville, TX  
 APR 5-6 Sun'n Fun @ Lakeland, FL  
 APR 12-13 Fort Smith Air Show 2014 @ Fort Smith, AR  
 APR 26-27 Fort Worth Air Power Expo 2014 @ NAS Fort Worth JRB, TX  
 MAY 3-4 Spirit of St. Louis Air Show @ St. Louis, MO  
 MAY 10-11 Vero Beach Air Show @ Vero Beach, FL  
 MAY 17-18 MCAS Cherry Point Air Show @ MCAS Cherry Point, NC  
 MAY 21 USNA Air Show @ US Naval Academy, MD  
 MAY 23 USNA Graduation Fly-Over @ US Naval Academy, MD

(Continued next page)



MAY 24-25 Bethpage Jones Beach Air Show @ Jones Beach, NY  
**MAY 31 Deke Slayton Airfest @ La Crosse, WI**  
**JUN 1 Deke Slayton Airfest @ La Crosse, WI**  
 JUN 7-8 Wings Over Pittsburgh @ Pittsburgh, PA  
 JUN 14-15 The Great Tennessee Air Show @ Smyrna, TN  
**JUN 21-22 Milwaukee Air & Water Show @ Milwaukee, WI**  
 JUN 28-29 Dayton Air Show @ Dayton, OH  
 JUL 5-6 National Cherry Festival Air Show @ Traverse City, MI  
 JUL 12 Pensacola Beach Air Show @ Pensacola Beach, FL  
 JUL 19-20 Defenders of Freedom Air Show @ Offutt AFB, NE  
 JUL 26-27 Thunder Over Utah Air Show @ St. George, UT  
 AUG 2-3 Seafair 2014 Air Show @ Seattle, WA  
 AUG 16-17 Chicago Air & Water Show @ Chicago, IL  
**AUG 23-24 Duluth Air & Aviation Expo @ Duluth, MN**  
 AUG 30-31 Selfridge ANGB Air Show @ Selfridge ANGB, MI  
 SEP 6-7 Cleveland National Air Show @ Cleveland, OH  
 SEP 13-14 Star-Spangled Spectacular 2014 @ Baltimore, MD  
 SEP 20-21 NAS Oceana Air Show @NAS Oceana, VA  
 SEP 27-28 Kaneohe Bay Air Show @ MCB Hawaii, HI  
 OCT 4-5 MCAS Miramar Air Show @ MCAS Miramar, CA  
 OCT 11-12 San Francisco Fleet Week @ San Francisco, CA  
 OCT 18-19 Memphis Air Show @ Millington, TN  
 OCT 25-26 Jacksonville Sea & Sky Spectacular @ Jacksonville Beach, FL  
 NOV 1-2 Wings Over Houston Air Show @ Houston, TX  
 NOV 7-8 Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show @ NAS Pensacola, FL

### Consider Probate for Rental Real Estate

CurtisSheldonMOAA art1OCT

A lot of military officers “collect” real estate during their careers. Sometimes we do it on purpose, sometimes we do it because the house just won’t sell. And I’m guessing that most of us never thought about how that would affect settling our final affairs. It all comes down to the fact that you go through probate where you are a resident and your rental real estate goes through probate where it is physically. So...if you own real estate in a state other than the one you live in you are exposed to what is called “ancillary” probate. In simple terms that means extra probate. But, you’ll be dead so why do you care?



Probate is time consuming and expensive so if your goal is to make things as simple as possible for your survivors you should consider taking some action to eliminate the exposure to ancillary probate. And by the way, if you own the property jointly with your spouse this problem doesn’t go away. First of all, on the event of the second death the property will go through ancillary probate. Secondly, depending on how the property is titled (JTWROS, Joint Tenancy, or Tenancy by the Entirety) your portion of the property may still go through probate. What to do about it?

Don’t own the property (I can hear the collective “duh” as you read this). Here is what I mean:

1. Transfer ownership of the property to a Limited Liability Company. Now the company goes through probate (the same place you do) and you avoid the ancillary probate.
2. Transfer ownership of the property to a Trust. Now the property will be distributed in accordance with the Trust Document and not your will, thus avoiding all probate expenses.

Which one you chose depends on your exact facts and circumstances and, as a reminder, neither of these techniques in and of themselves will reduce your exposure to Estate Tax. That is another issue.

As I always say, don’t try this without a net. Consult with a qualified Financial Planner and Estate Planning Attorney. Probate is something nobody wants to think about, but it is real and you should plan for it to make things run smoothly when the people you care about really need things to run smoothly.



### Minnesota Missing in Action (MIA) Recovery

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced 30 SEP that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Korean War, had been identified and were to be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army CPL **Harold A. Evans**, 22, of Linsell, Minn., was buried 12 OCT, in Thief River Falls, Minn. In late 1950, Evans was a member of the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 31st Regimental Combat Team, which was deployed east of the Chosin Reservoir near Sinhung-ri, South Hamgyong Province, North Korea. After engaging in a battle with enemy forces east of the Chosin Reservoir, members of the 31st RCT, historically known as Task Force Faith, began a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position. Following the battle, Evans was reported missing on 12 DEC 1950. Between 1991 and 1994, North Korea gave the United States 208 boxes of human remains believed to contain the remains of 350 - 400 U.S. servicemen. North Korean documents, turned over with some of the boxes, indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where Evans was believed to have died in 1950, near the Chosin Reservoir. To identify Evans' remains, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental comparison, radiograph comparisons and DNA analysis. Two forms of DNA were used to identify Evans -- Mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister, and Y-STR DNA, which matched his brother. Today, more than 7,900 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials.

### TRICARE Management Activity Transitions to Defense Health Agency (DHA)

NAUSWeekly update20SEP



On 1 OCT 2013, at the Defense Health Headquarters in Falls Church, Va., the TRICARE Management Activity folded its colors and a new flag was raised to celebrate the creation of a new activity called the Defense Health Agency (DHA), which will be fully operational in the fall of 2015. Led by Air Force MGEN Douglas J. Robb, the DHA will stand up with the mission to change how military medicine does business, streamlining processes, reducing complex operations and realizing actual cost reductions with a bottom line of improving care to

beneficiaries. The implementation of DHA is expected to reduce operating costs by consolidating services. There are ten shared services that will be placed under the DHA umbrella. The movement will be transitional. The first five: Facility Planning, Medical Logistics, Health Information Technology, the TRICARE Health Plan, and Pharmacy Programs moved on 1 OCT 2013. The remaining shared services of Public Health, Acquisition, Budget and Resource Management, Medical Education and Training, and Medical Research and Development will be part of DHA by 2015.

The establishment of the DHA is slated as " ... the biggest structural organizational change" in military health system history. Acting TRICARE Deputy Director Allen Middleton sees these changes as "relevant" and will eventually make the Defense Medical System "stronger." Large-scale relocations are not expected, and entitlements such as pay, leave, and benefits remain the same. Employees will not be expected to compete for positions. Only those in key leadership positions within the DHA will have this issue. As for job security, the Secretary of Defense has made it clear we are in for some tough financial decisions in FY14 that will impact the work force. This is a concern of many government organizations and should not, under the pressure of sequestration, be a surprise.

### TRICARE Use While Traveling

TRICAREStandareHealthMatterse-newsletter 20SEP

When you travel in the United States or overseas, your TRICARE Standard coverage goes with you. If you use Tricare for Life you will revert to TRICARE Standard rules and copay since Medicare does not pay for health care overseas. If you need emergency care, visit the nearest emergency room or call 911 in the United States. If you seek care from a TRICARE network provider (using TRICARE Extra), you will pay a lower cost-share and the provider will file the claim with your regional contractor for you. If you seek care from a TRICARE-authorized non-network provider, you may have to pay up front, save your receipts and file the claim with your regional contractor. You will also have to pay a higher cost-share. Claims are always filed with the regional contractor where you are enrolled, not with the regional contractor in the area where you are traveling. Expenses for care received under either TRICARE Standard or TRICARE Extra count toward your deductible and catastrophic cap. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/travel>.

If you need emergency care while traveling overseas, go to the nearest emergency care facility or call the Medical Assistance number for the overseas area where you are traveling. If you are admitted, contact the TRICARE Overseas Program (TOP) Regional Call Center before leaving the facility, preferably within 24 hours or the next business day, to coordinate authorization, continued care and payment.

(Continued next page)

Contact the TOP Regional Call Center for urgent care assistance. Use TOP Standard to receive care from any host nation provider when traveling overseas, unless local restrictions apply such as in the Philippines. TOP Standard, including cost-shares and deductibles, is similar to the stateside program. TRICARE Extra is not available overseas. TRICARE nonparticipating non-network providers may charge up to 15 percent above the TRICARE-allowable amount in the United States and U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). However, there may be no limit to the amount nonparticipating non-network providers may bill in overseas locations. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/overseas>.

**Note:** When seeking care from an overseas host nation provider, be prepared to pay up front for services and then file a claim with the TOP claims processor.

To process your claims reimbursements quickly and efficiently, you must submit proof of payment with all claims. For more information on proof-of-payment requirements overseas, visit <http://www.tricare.mil/proofofpayment>. If you live or travel in the Philippines, you are required to see a certified provider for care. Additionally, TOP Standard beneficiaries who reside in the Philippines and who seek care within designated Philippine Demonstration areas must see approved demonstration providers to ensure TRICARE cost-shares their claims, unless they request and receive waivers from Global 24 Network Services. For more information, visit [http://www.tricare-overseas.com/Beneficiary\\_PhilippineDemonstration\\_Home.htm](http://www.tricare-overseas.com/Beneficiary_PhilippineDemonstration_Home.htm).

**Filling Prescriptions on the Road.** You may use any TRICARE retail network pharmacy option when traveling in the United States or the U.S. territories of Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Currently, there are no TRICARE retail network pharmacies in American Samoa. To fill a prescription, you need a valid uniformed services identification card. At overseas host nation pharmacies, you will pay up front and file a claim with the TOP contractor for reimbursement. Visit <http://www.tricare.mil/pharmacy> for more information.

**Note:** If you live or travel in the Philippines, you are required to use a certified pharmacy. For more information, visit <http://www.tricare-overseas.com/philippines.htm>.

### Military Trivia - Ruptured Duck

DerekBarichelloSterlingILDaily Gazette art20SEP

Not many people know about the "ruptured duck." Mention it to any World War II Veteran and a smile is not far behind, or even tears. On 19 SEP, both emotions were on display when LT Greg McKinney and CPR John Westphal of the St. Charles, Il., American Legion handed out 17 of the lapel buttons nicknamed the ruptured duck to World War II Veterans at Heritage Square in Dixon, Il., As McKinney explained, G.I.'s had to wear their uniform for 30 days after they were discharged because of the shortage of clothing, and the gilt brass lapels, featuring an eagle perched within a wreath, were supposed to be worn by servicemen to show military police they were honorably discharged once they wore civilian clothes.



The "ruptured duck" honorable discharge emblem, as seen on a post-World War II postage stamp and the lapel pin.

However, Veteran Fred Petitti, who served in the U.S. Navy, erupted with laughter when asked about his pin. He threw his away many years ago. "We were made fun of so much for them, I never wore mine," said Petitti, who joined the military at 17 years old and served on patrol boats in the Atlantic and Pacific from 1941 to 1947. When he found out two men from St. Charles were coming to reissue ruptured ducks, he chuckled. "I forgot all about them," he said. "It means a lot to me now. I treasure it more now." Army medic James Dickinson, still has his lapel pin in a jewelry box at home. Among many of his fellow Veterans that day, the ruptured duck sparked conversation about the war. Dickinson, who had three brothers in the war, grew a wide grin when he talked about his father, who would mention him last out of the four as 'the medic'. "That brings back

good memories," Dickinson said, getting choked up. Dickinson worked in a hospital in England, and one of his daily responsibilities was handing out Purple Hearts by the dozen to the wounded. "Those poor men," Dickinson said in a somber voice - Army Air Corp. The ruptured duck got its nickname by Veterans, because the eagle faced to the right-hand side, which was the same direction that doctors instructed inductees to face when told to cough during an examination, McKinney and Westphal said. Each of the 17 men, in their 80s and 90s, and some in wheelchairs, were honored individually, including some who served in the Korean War. One man, Pete McKune, entered the room in his wheelchair just as his name was being introduced, and McKinney read the certificate to him as he began to cry.

(Continued next page)

"This is awarded to you for having served patriotically and faithfully in the armed forces of the United States during World War II for meritorious service by the grateful Veterans of the 7th Infantry Division, re-enacted," McKinney read. McKinney and Westphal, both World War II reenactors, have handed out 250 ruptured ducks in the last two years to "any and every World War II Veteran they could find," sometimes giving them away out of the blue to Veterans they meet.

After the ceremony, McKinney said the smiles and tears are natural with every presentation. "It brings back a lot of memories for them," he said. "Vets bottle up memories and when another Vet recognizes them, they get very emotional." Dixon resident Rick Munson met McKinney during a World War II re-enactment in Page Park and saw him hand out two lapels, bringing those Veterans to tears. Munson knew there were plenty more World War II Veterans who needed to be honored, including his friend and U.S. Army Air Corps Veteran Robert Schick, who flew and survived an unprecedented 50-55 air missions, among others. He invited McKinney to honor Veterans in ceremonies in Dixon and Franklin Grove, Ill. Frank Loomis, the lone Marine Veteran of the 17, was given a special recognition from McKinney, also a Marine. McKinney let out a hoot and gave Loomis, who was in a wheelchair, a big handshake. He told Loomis: "Semper fi."

## Lockheed Unveils Plans for SR-72

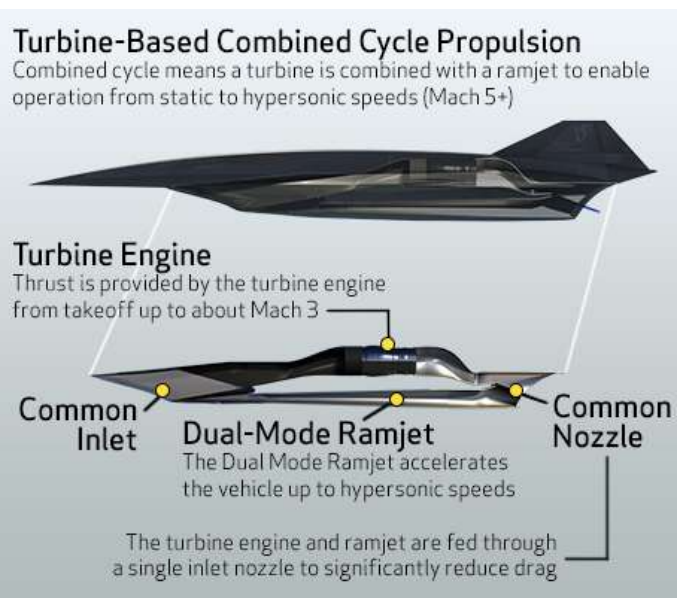
BrendanMcGarryMilitary.com art4NOV



Lockheed Martin Corp., the world's largest defense contractor, has unveiled plans for an unmanned successor to the famous SR-71 Blackbird spy plane. The new twin-engine, hypersonic aircraft, known as SR-72 and nicknamed "Son of Blackbird," will be designed to fly as fast as Mach 6. That's six times the speed of sound — more than 3,500 miles per hour — and twice as fast as its predecessor. Details of the jet were first reported last week by *Aviation Week*, a trade publication. The Bethesda, Md., based company wants to fly a missile to demonstrate the technology as soon as 2018. An operational aircraft could be ready by 2030 for surveillance or strike missions. "Hypersonic aircraft, coupled

with hypersonic missiles, could penetrate denied airspace and strike at nearly any location across a continent in less than an hour," Brad Leland, Lockheed's program manager for hypersonics, wrote in a [blog post](#).

"Speed is the next aviation advancement to counter emerging threats in the next several decades," he added. "The technology would be a game-changer in theater, similar to how stealth is changing the battlespace today." Like its predecessor, the aircraft is being developed by the company's Skunk Works advanced development programs facility in California. The plane would use a two-phase propulsion system. A standard jet turbine would propel the plane as fast as Mach 3, then a ramjet would kick in and accelerate the craft to hypersonic speeds.



Lockheed has teamed with the engine manufacturer Aerojet Rocketdyne, part of Rancho Cordova, Calif.-based GenCorp Inc., to integrate an off-the-shelf turbine with a supersonic combustion ramjet air-breathing jet engine to power the aircraft from standstill to Mach 6.

Lockheed has experimented with hypersonic aircraft before. The company's Falcon Hypersonic Technology Vehicle 2, or HTV-2, an unmanned, arrowhead-shaped glider, crashed into the Pacific Ocean in 2011 after flying for more than nine minutes and reaching speeds of Mach 20. (A similar flight in 2010 also failed.) The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Pentagon's advanced technology laboratory, which funded the project, later concluded the HTV-2 aircraft went so fast that its exterior coatings peeled apart from the airframe, creating gaps that caused the vehicle to roll and ultimately break apart. The SR-72 will draw on lessons learned from the HTV-2 project, but won't push the hypersonic envelop as far.



## Military's New Wild Galloping Robot

MeganGannonLiveScience art7OCT

Robot-makers at Boston Dynamics have unveiled their latest military-funded creation: a four-legged machine called WildCat that bounds and gallops across the ground in an uncannily animal-like way. A new [video shows off the robot's ability](#) to run to at 16 mph (25 km/h) on flat surfaces. Boston Dynamics has not released much new information on their new bot, but a caption on the company's YouTube page says WildCat will eventually be able to run quickly over all types of terrain. WildCat is a free-running version of one of Boston Dynamics' earlier quadruped creations called [Cheetah](#), a frighteningly fast robot that could sprint, on a treadmill at least, up to 28.3 mph. That's 0.5 mph faster than Usain Bolt, the world's fastest man. Though WildCat is slower than its predecessor for now, it does not need to be tethered to a treadmill to strut its stuff.



The new robot is being developed as part of the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's (DARPA) Maximum Mobility and Manipulation, or M3, program, which seeks to overcome the current limitations that ground robots face in terms of agility. The hope is that if these robots become more mobile and flexible, they can be much more effective at assisting human soldiers on the ground in a wide range of missions. Boston Dynamics has also built a four-legged, headless "[LS3](#)" [robotic mule](#) that can carry up to 400 pounds (181 kg) of equipment for soldiers on a 20-mile-long trek without refueling. That robotic packhorse was created as a quieter, faster and tougher version of the DARPA-funded "BigDog" robot made famous in viral videos showing it trudging through the woods and snow and staying upright even after being kicked by a person.

## Key Defense Amendments in Limbo

MOAA

The Senate left town for the Thanksgiving holiday without finishing its consideration of the FY 2014 defense authorization bill. When Senators return to Washington in DEC they'll have one week to pass their bill and hash-out differences with the House before Congress adjourns for the rest of the year. More than 500 amendments were introduced to the Senate bill for consideration, including:

- Restore a full 1.8% military pay raise in 2014
- End the SBP-DIC offset
- Expand concurrent receipt
- Protect access to TRICARE Prime
- Expand Applied Behavioral Analysis TRICARE benefit

With so little time to negotiate it is unlikely the Senate will consider all 500+ of the proposed amendments. Instead one of the following scenarios may occur:

**Scenario 1:** The Senate could work on a slimmed-down version of the bill and hold an abbreviated debate on a small number of the proposed amendments before voting on the bill. In this scenario it's unclear which amendments would be voted on. There's a strong chance the pay raise and TRICARE Prime amendments could still make it, but it's less likely concurrent receipt and SBP/DIC would make the cut.

**Scenario 2:** The Senate simply adopts the House-passed version of the defense bill. In this case none of the proposed amendments would be included. However, the House-passed version of the bill already includes a 1.8 percent active duty pay raise and the option to remain in TRICARE Prime. In this scenario the SBP/DIC offset, concurrent receipt expansion, many other amendments, and provisions already in the Senate-version would fall out.

**Scenario 3:** Slip the debate until January. Congress has typically completed work on the bill before the end of the calendar year, but there have been several occasions where the president signed the authorization act well after New Year's Day.

There is still time to make a difference. MOAA members have already generated nearly 30,000 messages to the Senate. Send your senators a [MOAA-suggested message](#) today asking for their support of these important amendments. See more at: [http://www.moaa.org/Main\\_Menu/Take\\_Action/Top\\_Issues/Serving\\_in\\_Uniform/Health\\_Care/Key\\_Defense\\_Amendments\\_in\\_Limbo.html#sthash.IqaXn6z0.dpuf](http://www.moaa.org/Main_Menu/Take_Action/Top_Issues/Serving_in_Uniform/Health_Care/Key_Defense_Amendments_in_Limbo.html#sthash.IqaXn6z0.dpuf)



**Reserve your seat now at the 14 JAN 2014 Chapter Meeting at the Historic Fort Snelling Officers Club**

-----Clip and mail this Reservation with your check-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Status: Ret. \_\_\_\_\_ Active \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Is this your 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting? \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Names (If Military, Please list Rank & Service) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send your check by 7 JAN, payable to MCMOAA @ \$26.00 per person along with this Return Coupon to:**

**C.H. Jones**

**744 85<sup>th</sup> Lane, Coon Rapids, MN 55433**

Telephone 763-571-6119 for changes or cancellations. Mail-in Reservations are preferred.

**Checks are preferred.** Cancellations must be received by Noon, **13 JAN.**

I will attend the meeting but not attend the meal. \_\_\_\_\_

**Casual Business is the desired dress.**

**^**

**Attendees not participating in the meal, please refrain from entering the ballroom until the meal has begun.**

**Membership Application/Renewal/Address Change - Minnesota Chapter - Military Officers Association of America**

Mail this completed chapter application with a check to MCMOAA, PO Box 11466, St. Paul, MN 55111-0488

**Regular Members: \$15 per year** ~ **Associate Members: \$5 per year** (Associate Members are spouses or survivors of Eligible Members)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print) First                                  M.I.                                  Last

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: ((MM/DD/YEAR)) \_\_\_\_\_ MOAA Member: Yes No

STATUS:  Active Duty \_\_\_\_\_ Nat'l Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_

Former Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse of an Eligible Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Surviving Spouse of an Eligible Officer \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE:  Army \_\_\_\_\_ Navy \_\_\_\_\_ Air Force \_\_\_\_\_ Marine Corps \_\_\_\_\_ Coast Guard \_\_\_\_\_ NOAA \_\_\_\_\_

USPHS \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

For Official Use: Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Member No.: \_\_\_\_\_

## MCMOAA CHAPTER MEETING

**14 January - 1130-Social 1200-Lunch, Meeting & Presentation**  
**Fort Snelling Officers Club** - Hwy 5 & Post Road, St. Paul, MN - turn left at Fort Snelling entrance  
 612-767-1960



### Program – Guest Speaker

#### **CAPT John Plehal, USN (Ret)**

*CAPT Plehal will provide members and guests with a national update and conduct the MCMOAA Installation of Officers.*

CAPT Plehal joined the MOAA staff in MAR 2004 as deputy director for professionalism. He was assigned to lead association efforts for currently serving matters in FEB 2006 and assumed duties as deputy director for marketing in FEB 2011. He became director of Membership and Marketing 1 JAN 2013. In addition to having specialties in personnel and financial management, he has four years of experience on the faculty of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at the National Defense University, where he was deputy chair of the Department of Grand Strategy. He is a graduate of the University of Utah ('76) and ICAF ('98).

As a Naval Flight Officer for 28 years, he served in a variety of operational and training assignments worldwide, including Commanding Officer of a P-3 squadron. His staff tours include the Bureau of Naval Personnel and the staffs of the Chief of Naval Operations and the Secretary of the Navy.

## MENU

### **Chicken Burgundy**

Saute'ed Chicken Breast topped with a Rich Burgundy Sauce

Rustic Mashed Potatoes and Green Beans with Almonds

House Salad (with Cucumber, Tomato and Ranch Dressing)

Fresh Baked Rolls with Butter - Dessert

Water, Coffee & Tea Service.