



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



WEBSITE: www.b-2-1-196lib.com

Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

February 2014

Commanders Corner: Hope all of you have made it through this period of global warming this winter. It's been down right cold in Indy. Good news is I am writing this from Tampa, Florida today and, even though it's a little rainy here, I expect to be able to lose some golf balls on the coming weekend. From the latest tally, it looks like the chapter has 106 official members. Also, it is the first of the year and dues should be in by the end of January if possible. Our Secy/Treasurer, Don Hicks has done an outstanding job of trying to contact everyone regarding dues and it looks like we are doing pretty well on getting people caught up. We are looking for personal experiences articles from our members to place into the upcoming issues of the chapter newsletter, so, if you have anything to contribute, please forward it to our trusty editor, Rich Heroux. Rich has done a masterful job of coming up with almost every article for the newsletters and I am sure he would appreciate any submissions from the members to help ease the load.



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

Chuck



Four Chaplain Sunday: The first Sunday in February and veteran organizations worldwide are encouraged to make the day with memorial services. This year is the 71st anniversary of the loss of USAT *Dorchester*, sank by a U-boat in the icy North Atlantic on Feb. 3, 1943. Among the 672 men who died were four Army chaplains: Lts. George L. Fox (Methodist), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), John P. Washington (Roman Catholic) and Clark W. Poling (Dutch Reformed). In the face of death, they removed their own life jackets and gave them to others, and are forever remembered as an example of faith, courage and selflessness.



Three MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to Army Cpl. * Billy M. McIntyre, 19, of Carter, Okla. On Dec. 7, McIntyre was reportedly killed in action while deployed along the eastern banks of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. He was a member of the 31st Regimental Combat Team, also known as Task Force Faith. again and was listed as missing in action.

* Pfc. James R. Holmes, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 1, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for on Jan. 14 and will be buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery in May.
* Cpl. Cristobal Romo, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, was lost Dec. 12, 1950, in North Korea. He was accounted for Jan. 13 and will be buried with full military honors in Riverside, Calif., on March 22.

New Bergdahl Video Surfaces: A new video surfaced this month showing Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, the only known American service member being held against his will. It is the sixth known video to show him in captivity after being captured in eastern Afghanistan by the Taliban on June 30, 2009. They initially demanded \$1 million and the release of 21 Afghan prisoners being held at Guantanamo Bay. The Taliban later reduced their demand to five prisoners in exchange for Bergdahl. This is an extremely difficult situation for the U.S. Government. Bergdahl is being held in an unknown location by an enemy combatant who represents an ideology, not a country. Plus, the Taliban's offer for a prisoner swap goes against U.S. policy to not negotiate with terrorists. The VFW knows that pinning down his location and launching a successful rescue operation remains a top U.S. priority. We remain hopeful and have communicated our support directly to the Bergdahl family.

New Service Members Mortgage Protections: The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has written new rules to protect service members and their families from serious financial challenges. According to CFPB, more than a third of the complaints from military families are mortgage-related, including poor mortgage servicing, sloppy lender recordkeeping and inconsistent foreclosure practices. Some of the changes being implemented will address the worst problems in the mortgage servicing industry, and provide new rights and protections to borrowers with an emphasis on military families.

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term '*gossip*.'

Reminder: Tax Season Is Coming: The normal U.S. filing deadline for filing personal income tax returns is April 15; however, there is an automatic extension deadline of June 15 for U.S. citizens and resident aliens whose tax home is overseas. Here are some helpful tax preparation tips: (1) those who have a new child in the family will need to apply for a Social Security number as soon as possible to be able to claim the child as a dependent and to apply for certain tax credits; (2) foreign nationals and others who have tax reporting or filing requirements and do not qualify for a Social Security number, should apply for an ITIN through the IRS; (3) for those who have moved recently, make sure to update the address and contact information with any organization that may send tax documents; and (4) begin gathering receipts and any other documents (W2s, 1098s, 1099s, child care statements, charitable donations, and moving expenses) needed to complete the return. For more information, The local AARP Foundation folks will once again be preparing individual Income Tax returns without charge at the local community Senior Centers starting the end of January. Call your local center and ask for an appointment. It's that simple.

TRICARE to Close 189 Walk-In Facilities: On April 1, TRICARE will close 189 walk-in facilities in the United States. The reason? The majority of beneficiaries use the Internet or phone to make changes, and closing the contractor-operated CONUS facilities would save \$254 million over five years. The change does not affect TRICARE benefits or healthcare services, and overseas walk-in facilities will remain open. According to TRICARE officials, all of the administrative services that walk-in TSCs currently provide can be handled by TRICARE websites, mobile apps and toll-free phone centers. Beneficiaries can do the following on the TRICARE website:

- Enroll in or purchase a plan
- File a check or claim
- View referrals and prior authorizations
- Find a doctor
- Change primary care managers
- See what services and procedures are covered by their health plans
- Compare plans
- Manage prescriptions

VA Warns of Pension Poaching Scams: about VA pension eligibility requirements, [click here](#) or call toll-free 1-800-827-1000. [Download](#) a pension poaching awareness postcard. The VA is warning everyone of potential pension poaching scams. Be cautious if someone offers to move your assets around in order for you to qualify for VA pension. This type of scam is often directed toward veterans and family members who "do not" actually qualify for VA pensions. Other examples:

- Organizations who cold-call veterans or survivors, charge money for assisting with a VA pension claim, and take credit card information from veterans over the telephone.
 - People who charge as much as \$6,000 upfront to represent claimants before the VA, with a percentage of any eventual back payment from the VA as a portion of the ultimate fee.
- Please note that the VFW's nationwide cadre of VA-accredited service officers assist all eligible veterans and survivors for free, and last year helped 125,000 veterans recoup \$3.7 billion in earned benefits. For more information about VA pension eligibility requirements, toll-free 1-800-827-1000.

We start a new feature with this issue of the "Soldier's Footsteps". This feature will be dedicated to the men who served with 2/1 Infantry. It will be their story. Written by them for all to enjoy. We anticipate a great deal of enthusiasm for future articles as we develop a base of articles from you. Send your copy to the Editor, 2/1 Newsletter either by email rheroux1@nc.rr.com, or by snail mail at 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525. In any case we can not over emphasize these articles contain historical value for all of us. Here is the first:

We were the 81mm mortar platoon for Bravo CO. 2/1st 196th Infantry. We were on the smallest base ever, hence it was called OP 56. Usually they are called fire bases, but this was an outpost up near the DMZ in the spring of 72. We were bait for the NVA whom were gathering up along the DMZ and the Ho Chi Minh trail ready to come across and inflict some heavy damage on us. We fired missions for our grunt company working the area around the outpost and for anyone else in the area. We went from OP 56 to Tam Ky to guard the Loran tower which guided the B-52's and then back out to OP 56. Do to the smallness of the outpost, the chopper pad was at the bottom of the hill and everything was dropped there and we had to lug it up the hill. Water, c-rations, ammo still in the wooden crates and any supplies for the hill. It was all bull work and we didn't lack for fire missions. Every night we sent out a three man listening post, which was our turn every three days. We got sniped at, rocketed and every once in a while the dinks got a few mortars delivered to them and fired a few rounds and had no success hitting us. It was just at the end of the monsoon season and it was getting hot out so it went from muddy to dust in no time. We hardly ever got clean fatigues and sometimes we had to ration our water supply to make it last.



In the picture, we are getting ready to leave OP 56 and head to Tam Ky and our other squad was off to the side waiting for their chopper. We only had enough guys to make two squads, so we were always on detail, ambush, bunker guard or poop burning detail. Three hours a night sleep was a lot and we never had enough to eat. This was the first of four or five trips out to OP56 and as you can see we packed heavy as you never knew when you would get resupplied. In the picture, from left to right are Woody Collins, (head of FDC) platoon SGT. Larry Corpuz. SGT. Clint Vogel. Jim gales the gunner and hands on two m-16's. Al Horner and Frank Hagen All of us were together since September of 71 except SGT. Vogel whom was fairly new in country and came to us from a line platoon.

The (Paperwork) Burden of War: Veterans routinely complain about how much paperwork they have to do to apply for Veterans Affairs benefits. They have a point. The VA's Inspector general recently visited the agency's office in Winston-Salem, NC., and found claim forms stacked so high that they "appeared to have the potential to compromise the integrity of the building." The IG's report estimated that approximately 37,000 claims folders were stored on top of filing cabinets." The weight on the sixth floor was 164 lb. per sq. ft., well above the safe limit of 125 lb. "We noticed floors bowing under the excess weight," the IG said. The paper deluge would be funny if it weren't the result of a sobering fact: 45% of veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars are seeking VA compensation for physical and mental injuries related to their service. The agency handled 1 million claims in each of the past two years, a VA spokesman says. VA officials removed the paper mountains and are looking into electronic record keeping to deal with the paper problems. Dealing with the injuries is another matter.

OIG Reports: Stronger Accountability over Cost, Schedule, and Scope for Development of VA's Pharmacy Reengineering Project Needed. OIG evaluated the effectiveness of the Office of Information and Technology's (OIT) management of the Pharmacy Reengineering (PRE) project, which was restarted in October 2009 under the Project Management Accountability System (PMAS). Although some progress has been made, OIT has not been effective in keeping the PRE project on target in terms of schedule, cost, and the functionality delivered. Specifically, deployed PRE functionality has improved patient safety; however, project managers have struggled to deploy PRE increments in a timely manner. Project managers were also unable to provide reliable costs at the increment level. OIT restarted PRE at a time when PMAS had not evolved to provide the oversight needed to ensure project success. As such, PRE management was challenged in keeping PRE on track and the project is at an increased risk of not being completed on time and within budget. Moreover, the future of Pharmacy Reengineering is uncertain due to potential plans to transfer funding and remaining development to the Integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) project in FY 2014. Stronger accountability over cost, schedule, and scope for the remaining development is needed prior to such a transfer so that iEHR is not compromised by the same challenges. OIG recommended the Executive in Charge and Chief Information Officer (CIO) ensure all of the time used to complete each remaining PRE increment is reported and monitored, including the time on the initial operating capability phase; ensure adequate oversight and controls, including the planning guidance, staffing, and cost and schedule tracking needed to deliver functionality on time and within budget; and establish a plan for future funding of PRE until iEHR is decided. The CIO agreed with OIG's recommendations and provided an acceptable corrective action plan.

IG Tells Congress VA Continues to Face Challenges in Improving Accuracy and Timeliness of Disability Claims: Ms. Sondra McCauley, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, testified before the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, United States House of Representatives, on the results of Office of Inspector General (OIG) inspections of VA Regional Offices (VAROs). OIG conducts cyclical reviews which include how well the VAROs process high-risk claims. OIG continues to find error rates of about 30 percent in the VARO processing of claims for traumatic brain injury (TBI) and temporary 100 percent disability ratings. Ms. McCauley also discussed OIG's ongoing work reviewing the Veterans Benefits Administration's initiative dealing with claims over 2 years old and the accuracy of claims processed in the Veterans Benefits Management System.

Libya Releases 4 US Military Personnel: Four U.S. military personnel investigating potential evacuation routes in Libya were taken into custody at a checkpoint and then detained briefly by the Libyan government before being released, U.S. officials said Friday night. These four military personnel were operating in an area near the coastal city of Sabratha in northwestern Libya as part of security preparedness efforts when they were taken into custody, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. Sabratha, about 40 miles west of Tripoli, is a popular tourist area with its ancient Roman ruins. No one was injured. The military personnel were taken to the U.S. Embassy after their release, a Defense Department official said. The official was not authorized to discuss the incident by name and requested anonymity. The four were supporting U.S. Marine security forces protecting the American Embassy, the official said. They were likely U.S. special operations forces, which have been deployed to Libya. An altercation apparently took place at the checkpoint, the Defense Department official said. Reports of gunfire could not be confirmed. After they were detained at the checkpoint, the Americans were transferred to the Ministry of the Interior and held for a few hours, the official said. Psaki said U.S. officials were still trying to confirm details of the incident. "We value our relationship with the new Libya," Psaki said. "We have a strategic partnership based on shared interests and our strong support for Libya's historic democratic transition." The U.S. Embassy in Tripoli includes a security detail. The embassy's personnel are restricted in their movements in Libya. Libya has been marked by unrest since the ouster in 2011 of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Armed groups that fought Gadhafi's army turned themselves into militias that exploited the weakness of the weak central government in Tripoli and operate independently of the police and the military. In September 2012, terrorists attacked the U.S. diplomatic mission at Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

Lawmakers Accuse Military of Anti-Christian Bias Members of a House subcommittee pressed a senior Pentagon official and several chaplains over alleged disciplinary actions against Christians for expressing their faith in Jesus Christ. "We know of instances where Christians have been reprimanded for statements as simple as that," Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., told Virginia Penrod, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military personnel policy. "Are you saying that you know there are no other instances of other people being reprimanded?" "I don't know of instances of any faith -- If you do have examples, the Department will be more than willing to look into these," Penrod said. Her claim was backed up by Rear Adm. Mark L. Tidd, the Navy's chief of chaplains, Brig. Gen. Charles R. Bailey, deputy chief of chaplains for the Army, and Brig. Gen. Bobby Page, deputy chief of chaplains for the Air Force. The subcommittee on military personnel held the hearing to consider the DoD's policy on religious accommodation. The law mandates that servicemembers be able to practice their faith, or observe no faith, without interference or pressure. Over the past dozen years there have been increasing complaints of bias, though those substantiated by the various services and the Pentagon have been cases of officials using their authority or influence to promote Christianity. These include a series of incidents at the Air Force Academy and also at the Pentagon, itself, where senior military officials appeared in uniform for a promotional video for Christian Embassy, an evangelical organization. Lt. Gordon J. Klingenschmitt was ultimately released from the Navy with an honorable discharge.

Nothing is foolproof to a sufficiently talented fool.

Soldiers Named to 2014 US Olympic Team: Nine soldiers in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program are members of the U.S. Olympic Team that will compete at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games, scheduled for Feb. 7 through 23 in Sochi, Russia. The U.S. Olympic Committee officially recently announced the team. The soldier-athletes named to Team USA are 2010 Olympic gold medalist in four-man bobsled Sgt. Justin Olsen, 26, of San Antonio; 2010 Olympic bobsledder Capt. Christopher Fogt, 30, of Alpine, Utah; 2010 Olympic bobsledder Sgt. Nick Cunningham, 27, of Monterey, Calif.; bobsledder Sgt. Dallas Robinson, 31, of Georgetown, Ky.; 2006 Olympic luger Sgt. Preston Griffall, 29, of Salt Lake City; and luger Sgt. Matt Mortensen, 28, of Huntington Station, N.Y. Three WCAP coaches also will represent the U.S. Army in Russia. Team USA luge coach Staff Sgt. Bill Tavares, 50, of Lake Placid, N.Y., will be making his sixth appearance in the Olympics, including once as an athlete and five times as a coach. Team USA skeleton coach Sgt. 1st Class Tuffield "Tuffy" Latour, 45, of Saranac Lake, N.Y., will make his fourth trip to the Olympics. He has coached U.S. and Canadian men's and women's bobsledders to Olympic medals. Team USA assistant bobsled coach 1st Lt. Michael Kohn, 41, of Myrtle Beach, S.C., is a two-time Olympic competitor who will make his Olympic coaching debut at the Sochi Games. He won a bronze medal in four-man bobsled as a WCAP athlete at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. USA-1 bobsled driver Steven Holcomb, 33, of Park City, Utah, is the reigning Olympic champion in the four-man event. He spent seven years in the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program.

Twins Deploy Together Four Times: While many siblings have deployed together over the course of this war on terrorism, there are not many that have deployed together on four separate occasions. The Wilkerson twins, Eric and Jason, both 88Ms, or Heavy Equipment Operators, from Forward Support Company 365th Engineer Battalion have. Staff Sgt's. Wilkerson have deployed together three separate times to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. The first time, from 2004 to 2005 was to Taji, Iraq (Camp Cook) as gun truck drivers, the second and third, (2008 to 2009 and 2010 to 2011) to Kuwait with missions in Iraq. This first time to Afghanistan (2013 to 2014), they are both based at Bagram Air Base. During their second tour, Eric drove Line Hauls in Heavy Equipment Convoys and Jason drove gun trucks. During the third deployment both were convoy commanders conducting line hauls. They are originally from Paris, Missouri, a small town in the north east corner of the state. When asked how it felt to deploy together so many times, Jason replied: "It doesn't bother us. We've been in the military with the same group of Soldiers for many years. We've stayed together and learned many things together, so we like it." They have both been in the Army for 14 years and plan on staying in for at least 20 years. They are currently assigned as M916s drivers. "You call, we haul," said Eric. Back in the states, Jason works in maintenance at the Missouri Department of transportation and part time at a family quarry. He is also going to school for an Associate's Degree in Industrial Maintenance from Moberly Area Community College in Moberly, MO. His hobbies include going to church, Ford Mustangs, trucks and running. Eric has an internship at the 3M Factory in maintenance and is also taking night classes at MACC in Industrial Maintenance for his Associate's Degree. His hobbies include building, Mustangs, and pickups.

God gave you toes as a device for finding furniture in the dark.

Soldier Receives Life-saving Armored Plate: A soldier from the 2nd Engineer Battalion received a unique token of his career Jan. 24 when he was presented with the armored plate that stopped a bullet and saved his life during his last deployment to Afghanistan. In a small ceremony with the 595th Sapper Company, members of the Army's Program Executive Office (PEO) Soldier presented Sgt. Thomas Dacey with the armored plate he was wearing during a battle July 4, 2013. While conducting an operation to clear a known enemy compound in Farah province, Afghanistan, Dacey's platoon came under attack from insurgent forces. After fighting several hours in the compound, Dacey's squad pushed forward and breached a wall. Upon conducting the breach, Dacey stood up to get a head count of his soldiers and was shot. The bullet pierced his rifle's scope spraying him with debris. "My arm was burning because I had a couple (scope) fragments in my arm, and then I looked down and realized I'd been shot," Dacey said. Dacey ducked around a corner, and seeing the bullet had been stopped by his armor was able to shrug off the hit and continued to fight through the rest of the battle. "I always trusted my equipment and made sure that I always wore it the right way, but this just proves that it works," Dacey said. "I'm very proud of (Dacey) for being out there. You know he was engaged with the enemy in close combat at less than 70 feet away. ... We're happy his equipment worked for him," said Sgt. Maj. Doug Maddi form PEO Soldier.

Brigade to Trade in Tanks for 8-wheeled Strykers



A Fort Carson brigade will trade its tanks for eight-wheeled Stryker combat vehicles in a move that will make the 4th Infantry Division among the most flexible units in the Army. After the change, the division will have armored, infantry and Stryker brigades, creating a force that can be tailored to meet various global threats. The post's 1st Brigade Combat team will get the vehicles in as little as two months. "The conversion, scheduled to begin in March 2014, is being made to achieve a needed operational mix of brigade combat teams within the Army, and will take an estimated 10 months to complete," the Army said in a news release. Fort Carson officials say the move will benefit the post in a number of ways. "By converting an armored brigade to a Stryker brigade, the 4th Infantry Division increases the operational capability and flexibility, while continuing to further Fort Carson's net zero environmental goals of reducing pollution and fuel consumption," spokeswoman Dee McNutt said in a statement. The Stryker, added to the Army inventory in the late 1990s, is designed as a quickly-deployable vehicle that can take on roles played by the 72-ton M-1 Abrams Tank and the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Fort Carson, along with the rest of the Army, is transitioning to a post-war force that is built to quickly deploy to war from bases in the U.S. Strikers', as envisioned, can head to combat almost anywhere within 96 hours.

Two Airmen Sentenced for Stealing Mail: Two Airman assigned to U.S. Air Force postal centers in the Kaiserslautern area were convicted of stealing earlier this month, one for swiping an iPhone, the other for destroying mail. Senior Airman Nikeem A. Coleman, of the 86th Communications Squadron, pleaded guilty to opening a fellow airman's mail and stealing an iPhone contained inside, said Ramstein Air Base spokesman Juan Melendez in an email. Coleman, who worked at the Northside Post Office on Ramstein, was sentenced Jan. 9 by a panel of officers to hard labor without confinement for three months; he was reduced in rank to airman and received a reprimand. Coleman's punishment included two months' restriction, which means his daily movements will be limited as determined by his unit, Melendez said. The other case involved a senior airman with the 86th Communications Squadron who worked at the military post office on Kapaun Air Station. During a special court-martial at Ramstein on Jan. 13, Eddy Escobar Loaiza pleaded guilty to stealing and destroying a civilian's letters. A panel of officers reduced Escobar Loaiza to the rank of airman, ordered him to forfeit \$300 a month for six months and sentenced him to hard labor without confinement for three months, according to Melendez. The cases were unrelated, Melendez said. Both were reported by co-workers, and leadership immediately removed them from their assigned duties, Melendez said.

Airman Sentenced to 12 Years for Lewd Conduct: A Peterson Air Force Base airman was sentenced to 12 years of confinement Tuesday for possessing pornographic pictures of toddlers, having cybersex with a teenage girl and attempting to strangle his wife. Thirty-year-old Senior Airman Czachery Rike, a firefighter with the 21st Civil Engineer Squadron, pleaded guilty Tuesday morning to three of four charges, including exposing his genitals via electronic communications technology to a child under the age of 16, possessing and distributing child pornography and assaulting his wife. The court martial, which began and ended Tuesday, was held at Peterson Air Force Base. Rike opted for his sentence to be determined by a military judge alone. He faced up to 102 years and six months of confinement. Rike, who will be dishonorably discharged from the Air Force, will be held at the Teller County Jail until he is moved to a military confinement facility to service his sentence.

VA Warns of Pension Poaching Scams: The VA is warning everyone of potential pension poaching scams. Be cautious if someone offers to move your assets around in order for you to qualify for VA pension. This type of scam is often directed toward veterans and family members who "do not" actually qualify for VA pensions. Other examples:

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He, who laughs last, thinks slowest.

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Helen Denton, 91, keeper of the world's biggest secret, laid to rest on Pearl Harbor Day: Corporal Helen Kogel sat in the center of the room at a desk just large enough for her Royal manual typewriter and the stack of papers that were her duty to type. There was little talking except for the dictation she would take from the officers in the mornings. No one discussed with her what she was doing. But she knew. Usually, her brown, curly head was bent over the typewriter; her hazel eyes intent on the words she typed meticulously in order not to make a mistake. She had three carbon copies to make with every page of type. Mistakes were a nuisance—just something to slow the process down even more. For nearly eight weeks, five days a week, eight hours a day, the routine was the same. She would type from the dictation and from the stack of papers that were brought to her as the various officers came in and out. Each newly typed page was stamped TOP SECRET. She told no one of her assignment and no one asked where she spent her days. After all, they were all part of General Dwight D. Eisenhower's staff, it was 1944 during World War II, German bombs were falling on London, and their work was top secret. "Corporal, do you know what you've typed?" asked Gen. Eisenhower. Corp. Kogel said, "Yes, sir. These are the battle plans that you will use for the invasion of France." Corp. Helen Kogel, a 23-year-old from South Dakota, had just become a part of history. She had typed the complete battle plans for the invasion of the Normandy Coast and the liberation of Europe — Operation Overload, D-Day. And she was unable to confide in anyone. She knew the number of ships, aircraft and men, what units would be deployed, where each army involved would land. She knew ship movements, people movements. Where planes would drop bombs. She knew that the 101st Airborne — where two hometown friends served — would go in first to cut railroad lines, blow up bridges, and seize landing strips. She knew everything except the date it would begin. But she guessed it would be soon. And she could not discuss with it with anyone, in fact, she was told to forget what she had typed. But not until 1994 and the 50th anniversary of D-Day did Helen tell anyone that she had typed the battle plans for the invasion. "A friend asked what women had done during WWII and if any women were involved in the invasion and I mentioned it," remembers Helen. The next thing she knew, the friend had called a local TV station and from that she was asked to speak about her experiences at Fort Gillem.

Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

Beware! Your GI is Coming Home!

Very soon the undersigned will be in your midst, de-Americanized, demoralized, dehydrated and demobilized, ready to take his place once again as a human being with freedom and justice for all, engaged in life, liberty and the somewhat related pursuit of happiness.

In your joyous preparation to welcome him, you must make allowances for the crude environment which has been his home.

He may be somewhat Asiatic, suffering from advanced stages of Vietcongitis, flack jacket slump and sand bags under his eyes, and must be handled with "EXTREME CARE"!

Show no alarm if he prefers to squat, rather than sit upright in a chair, pads around the house in thong sandals and a towel, takes showers in the raw in the front yard, slyly offers to sell cigarettes to the Postman (For a profit of course), shuns cold drinks or tips a bottle to see if the cap will burn off the acid, picks suspiciously at his food as if you were trying to poison him, insists on dipping his plate into boiling water before eating and gripes because the butter is hard instead of soft and runny.

Be tolerant when he tries to buy everything half price, accusing the grocer of being a thief, and refuses to enter a stranger's house without a rifle squad to cover him.

He may complain about sleeping on a soft mattress with a pillow, but if he does, throw an old rain-coat into the yard where the mosquitoes are the heaviest and he will be happy.

In his first week back on the block, be sure to leave the telephone receiver off the hook between dusk and dawn. If it should happen to ring he might stagger out of bed, shocking the neighbors with violent profanity while fumbling through his belongings looking for his steel pot, M-16 rifle, then charging out of the house with a laundry bag full of food, shouting, "Gooks in the Wire" then he may disappear into the woods for the next two days.

Show no alarm if he cries with terror at the sight of roast beef, potatoes or stares with shock at ice cubes floating in a glass. Don't worry if he pours gravy on his dessert or mixes peaches with his macaroni.

With a little luck which I kind of foxtrot doubt, his profanity will soon decrease enough to permit him to associate with mixed groups, and not long afterwards he should be speaking as good as ever.

For the first few months be extremely watchful when he is around girls. His first reaction upon meeting one might be to stare (all four eyes), pant, slobber, drag his tongue at his feet, depending on his capacity for shock. A steel leach is recommended.

Keep in mind that beneath his tanned, beaten, and rugged exterior there beats a heart of "Gold". Treasure this, for it is the only thing of value he has left. Treat him with "LOVE", "CARE", "UNDERSTANDING", and an occasional (every day) case (s) of "beer".

When you hear him muttering to himself in the quiet of an American evening, respect his solitude and have faith in his ability to return to the civilized world.

So break out the civvies, fill the refrigerator with beer and for God Sakes Keep the girls off the streets, BECAUSE THE KID IS COMING HOME!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!