



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



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"A Soldier's Footsteps"

January 2014

Commanders Corner: Christmas this year was a little busy around my house as, for the first time in 22 years, the big creek that runs through my property flooded all the way up and into my garage area on Sunday the 22nd. This was the first, and hopefully last time it has ever even come close to the house. The creek was 7 feet over flood stage and it looked like Niagara Falls coming over the levee. The sound of the water woke me up around 5:30 am and the water was already about 20 feet from the house. Luckily, only the garage and the basement area are on that level; the main part of the house is above it. I wasn't worried about anything when I went to bed because we have had the water rise on parts of the property in the past but it hasn't ever gotten as far as the driveway area. Not so this time! The water finally started to subside about 11am but, not until it got about 3 feet deep in my barn and outbuildings and I had sandbagged in front of the garage and basement door. Naturally, all my "guy stuff" is located in the outbuildings and were all under water. To top it off, my wife's relatives were due in the afternoon for a Christmas party. Well, the show must go on, so we made the best of it. Water finally receded out of the outbuildings and barn by Tuesday so, Thursday and Friday was spent surveying the damage and getting things cleaned up. To my surprise, I was able to get all the equipment that was completely under water running again. Cleaning up all the debris in the yard must go on. I live in the country so I had stuff from my woods and adjacent corn fields all over the place. All is well and I just reflect on the joy of being a home owner when things like this happen. Hope all of your holidays went a little smoother and you were able to enjoy your family and friends as much as I finally was able to do. For those of you that don't know, our Vice-commander, Rich Heroux had to spend a little time in the hospital wrestling with a bout of pneumonia. Luckily, he was released in time to have Christmas with his family and according to the last email I received from him, he's doing fine. As the new year is upon us; it's time to remind everyone that the 2014 dues should be in by the end of January. If you aren't paid up for 2013; we'd appreciate it if you'd remit them also. If you aren't sure of your status on dues, you can contact any of the officers and we'll research it. A reminder was sent out to several members in November reminding them about delinquent dues and we have had several people catch up and also cover 2014. Our dues and extra donations look like we won't have any problem financing a hospitality room with all the goodies at the annual ADVA reunion in Houston for 2014. I'm looking forward to a new year and the chance to get together with as many of you as possible at either Kokomo or Houston (or anytime for that matter). Have a wonderful 2014.



Two MIAs Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to two servicemen who had been missing since the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Identified are:

- * Army Pfc. Jerry P. Craig, 17, of Panhandle, Texas, who will be buried Dec. 19, in Leesville, La. In late November 1950, Craig was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, deployed along the eastern bank of the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea, when they were attacked by Chinese forces and forced into a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position. Craig was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950.
- * Air Force Col. Francis J. McGouldrick Jr. of New Haven, Conn., who is being buried today at Arlington National Cemetery. On Dec. 13, 1968, McGouldrick was on a night strike mission when his B-57E Canberra aircraft collided with another aircraft over Savannakhet Province, Laos. McGouldrick was never seen again and was listed as missing in action.

197th Infantry Brigade Deactivated at Fort Benning Columbus Ledger-Enquirer, Ga. | Dec 13, 2013 | by Ben Wright

The 197 Infantry Brigade, a basic training unit with history dating back to World War II and both Gulf War at Fort Benning, was officially discontinued Thursday in a ceremony at Doughboy Stadium. About 400 of the 800 soldiers in the brigade stood in formation for the last time as its flag was cased. Battalions of the unit will be assumed by the 316th Cavalry Brigade as the Army restructures the fighting force to reduce soldiers to 490,000 from 562,000 troops by fiscal year 2020. The Army will save about \$1.6 million in fiscal year 2014. Soldiers and civilians of the 197th Brigade will continue their training duties in the 316th Cavalry Brigade but the change means a new assignment for Lt. Col. Joseph I. Pierce, brigade commander. "It's been a distinct honor and pleasure to serve with the 197th Infantry Brigade," he said. Pierce has been reassigned to Iraq where he will advise a small contingent of Iraqi soldiers. To prepare for the change, the brigade has been working for about six months with the 316th Cavalry Brigade. The brigade teaches 11 courses, including Bradley Leaders Course, Combatives School, Heavy Weapons Course, Sniper School and Stryker Leaders Course.

Code Talker Whose Words Appear on Medal Dies at 90:

Wilfred Billey, A Navajo Code Talker, whose words are inscribed on congressional medals given to his group and who fought to have a World War II comrade recognized for his service, died recently in New Mexico. He was 90. He was one of hundreds of Navajo Code Talkers who stumped the Japanese during World War II by relaying messages in their native language. After the war, Billey worked with New Mexico's congressional delegation to come up with the words appearing along the bottom of the medals: "Dine Bizaad Yee Atah Naayee' Yik'eh Deesdlii" or "The Navajo language was used to defeat the enemy," his family said.

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



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.

Cafe Owner Won't Let a Vet Go Hungry: There's a red white and blue sign in the window of the Veteran's Cafe and Grille that says simply "Welcome Home." And in the four years that Lou Mascherino and his wife Rhonda have operated the cafe it has indeed become a home of sorts for vets - a combination diner, military museum and hangout for those who have served America. The walls and ceiling are crowded with hundreds of items from photos and uniforms to military patches and flags. And, if a veteran can't afford a meal, well, they eat for free. "That's part of our thing. We won't ever let a veteran go hungry," said Mascherino, who served in the Army for three years back in the 1970s. The cafe opened on Veteran's Day in 2009 at another location nearby in this tourist resort. A short time later, Rhonda Mascherino put an item on the back of the menu suggesting that people bring in 5-by-7 family photos of those in the military. It started as a trickle, but then over the months and years people began almost daily dropping off items from their closets and attics. "Almost every day we get something in. People come in and say I've got my grandfather's uniform from World War II or I've got his picture," said Lou Mascherino - nicknamed Mash. The cafe opened when the Veterans Welcome Home and Resource Center, a local nonprofit that helps vets tap into government and other resources, thought a small cafe might be a good fundraising tool. That idea really didn't work out, but Lou Mascherino, who has worked for decades in the local dining industry, decided he wanted to go out on his own and said he would take on operating the cafe. It was touch and go for a while but now the cafe has found its niche, moving earlier this year into larger quarters. "Veterans won't talk to a lot to people who are not veterans. This place here is like a safe haven," said George Bontya, who visits the cafe a couple of times a week and served four years in the Air Force, including a tour in Vietnam. "You get a lot of vets who come in here and they will just sit around and talk." The cafe works closely with the Welcome Home and Resource Center as well as other veterans' organizations.

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day drinking beer.

All State National Guards Now Issuing Same-Sex IDs: Less than two months after Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel instructed the director of the National Guard Bureau to have all states issue dependent ID cards to spouses and dependents of gay and lesbian servicemembers, that mission has been accomplished, the Pentagon says. "Following consultations between the National Guard Bureau and the adjutants general of the states, all eligible spouses and dependents -- including same-sex spouses -- are now able to obtain ID cards in every state," Hagel said in a statement released Friday. Hagel drew attention to the fact that several states were refusing to issue the IDs during a speech Oct. 31 before the Anti-Defamation League in New York City. He told the gathering that he had instructed Gen. Frank J. Grass, director of the Guard bureau, to "take immediate action to remedy this situation." Grass told reporters during a Nov. 9 meeting with reporters that nine states originally refused to issue the IDs, but that four -- Indiana, Florida, Oklahoma, and West Virginia -- had come around by then, leaving Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina and Georgia as the holdouts. Only two of the states, however, Indiana and West Virginia, are issuing the cards at all National Guard bases and using the same procedure they use in issuing the cards to spouses and dependents of straight soldiers and airmen.



Congress Set to Overturn COLA Cuts for Retirees: A flurry of bills to repeal the just-enacted cuts to the cost-of-living-adjustment for military retirees was expected to come up for immediate consideration as soon as Friday, when the House and Senate re-convene from the holiday recess. "In my opinion, it should be the first item on the docket for 2014," Rep. Martha Roby, R-Ala., said of the bill she and others have proposed on the House side to strip the COLA provision from the Budget Control Act signed by President Obama on Dec. 23. Under fire from constituents and veterans groups in their home districts and states, members from both sides of the aisle in the Senate and House were ready to reverse course on the COLA section of the overall budget act that most of them voted for earlier this month to ease budget pressures. Starting in 2015, the current budget act would reduce the COLA adjustment to the pensions of military retirees by one percentage point until they reach the age of 62, when the full COLA increase would be restored. The Defense Department has projected that the COLA cut for about 800,000 military retirees would save \$6 billion over 10 years. The various bills offered in the House and Senate to repeal the COLA cut differ mainly on how to offset the \$6 billion in savings. The bill backed by Roby, Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick, R-Pa., and others would replace the COLA cut with an estimated \$7 billion in savings they said could be achieved by closing a tax loophole that allowed non-citizens to receive cash payments from the Refundable Child Tax Credit. In her proposed Military Retirement Restoration Act, Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., would make up for the \$6 billion in COLA savings by closing loopholes for corporations using offshore tax havens. Shaheen said in a statement that her proposal already had 15 co-sponsors.

May 2014 be the best year of your life!!!

Man Accused Of Taking Army IDs To Stay In Custody: An Iraq War veteran accused of stealing identification information of roughly 400 members of his former Army unit so he could make fake IDs for his militia was ordered Monday to remain in federal custody. Prosecutors say Keith Michael Novak, who's charged with fraud in connection with identity theft, is a self-described commander of a militia. Court testimony on Monday revealed the investigation into the 25-year-old Novak began after he allegedly talked with an FBI source at Camp Williams in Utah - where he was training for the National Guard - about blowing up a National Security Agency facility. In addition, FBI Special Agent Christopher Crowe testified, Novak told undercover FBI employees that he had a "target package" on billionaire Warren Buffett. Crowe did not elaborate on why Novak may have been targeting Buffett. An explanation of a "target package" was not disclosed. An affidavit unsealed last week said Novak threatened violence if arrested, allegedly telling an undercover FBI employee he had "5000 rounds, a thousand of it is in magazines, ready to go." Crowe said Novak had a semi-automatic pistol, brass knuckles and a knife on him when he was arrested last week. Crowe said Novak resisted arrest and that the pistol had a loaded magazine, but did not have a round in the chamber. Six unloaded firearms were found in Novak's apartment. Defense attorney Anders Folk argued Novak should be released, saying he is not a flight risk and that statements he's accused of making were nothing more than boasting. Folk also said it's not illegal to be in a militia.

Bill Blocks Air Force from Retiring A-10 Warthog: The bipartisan defense budget that passed through the House Thursday includes strict language mandating the Air Force not execute any plans to retire the A-10 Warthog. The legislation specifically blocks the Air Force from spending any money to divest A-10s through 2014. Air Force Staff Sgt. Welsh has said the older, single-engine aircraft like the A-10 are needed for close air support for joint strike missions, which is to take over the A-10's close air support role. In service since the 70's, the twin-engine jet aircraft is designed to provide ground troops with close air support by using its armored fuselage for protection, flying low to the ground to track and hit enemies and firing deadly 30mm rotary cannons.



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.

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine

US Drone Strike in Pakistan Kills 3 Militants: A suspected American drone fired two missiles at a home in a northwestern tribal region of Pakistan bordering Afghanistan, killing at least three foreign militants, Pakistani intelligence officials said Thursday. The U.S. authorities often target Taliban, al-Qaida and their Pakistani supporters in the country's tribal regions. The latest strike took place just before midnight Wednesday in the village of Qutab Khel in North Waziristan and initial reports gathered from their agents in the field suggested the slain men were Arabs, the two intelligence officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The American drone program is extremely unpopular in Pakistan because it is perceived as killing innocent civilians, which the U.S. denies. Many in Pakistan also consider it an affront to their sovereignty but the U.S. has shown no indication it is willing to halt the program. Angered over the strikes, supporters from cricket star-turned politician Imran Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf party in the northwest have been protesting along a main road used to truck NATO troop supplies in and out of Afghanistan for the past month, forcing the U.S. to stop shipments out of Afghanistan. Khan has urged the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to force the U.S. to end drone attacks and block NATO supplies across the country. On Thursday, about 150 supporters from Khan's party on the outskirts of the southwestern city of Quetta briefly blocked trucks carrying supplies for NATO forces heading toward Afghanistan, said a senior police official Abdul Rauf. But he said police ordered them to allow the trucks to proceed. Trucks carrying NATO supplies pass through Quetta, the capital of southwestern Baluchistan province, before going through the Chaman border crossing - one of two routes used for supplies. The other route is further north.

Israeli Jets Strike Gaza in Response to Attacks: The Israeli air force struck the Gaza Strip overnight in response to rockets fired hours earlier into southern Israel, the Israeli military said. The attack was the second by Israel in three days. Two Palestinians were wounded in the Thursday night strikes, the Wafa Palestinian news agency reported. The air attacks targeted a weapons manufacturing plant and a weapons storage facility, the Israeli military said. Gaza News said F-16 fighters hit an industrial facility in north-City and a weapons manufacturing city. Gaza has the purpose of target Israel and its sovereignty putting thousands of lives at risk," Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said in a statement. Israeli forces remained on high alert along the Gaza border in case of an escalation, the Jerusalem Post said. The airstrikes came after two rockets landed near the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon Thursday -- one shortly after midnight and the other Thursday evening. Both rocket attacks landed in open fields and caused no injuries or damage, Israel said. Israel struck Gaza Tuesday after a Palestinian sniper fatally shot an Israeli repairing a security border fence.



When you go into court, you are putting yourself in the hands of twelve people, who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

Spoils of War: Soldier Adopts Battle Buddy: Sergeant Pamela Collen, 163rd Military Police Detachment, 716th MP Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, stands in the grassy field behind Fort Campbell's MP Headquarters. In spite of the frigid temperature, she wears a broad smile on her face. It isn't long before the source of her grin comes rocketing toward her at a dizzying speed, carrying with it the squeaky tennis ball. "Good girl, Astra," says Collen, giving her Belgian Malinois deserved scratch behind the ears. Collen and Astra don't have a typical dog/owner relationship.



Though the typical hallmarks of loyalty, love and affection are all there, theirs was a relationship built through professional training, strengthened through two deployments and cemented when Collen gave Astra a "forever home" when she retired from service as a military working dog.

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.

Common entertainment in the old days included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't *'playing with a full deck.'*

Civil War Camp for Black Soldiers is New Landmark: Camp Nelson in Jessamine County, a Union recruiting center for black troops during the Civil War, recently celebrated its designation as a National Historic Landmark. "It's the highest designation for a historic site recognized by the United States government that's not a national park," said Stephen McBride, director of interpretation and archaeology for Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park. "It's a recognition that the site is highly significant on a national level." The designation is a necessary step toward Camp Nelson becoming a national park, which has been a goal of Jessamine County officials, McBride said. Whether Camp Nelson will ever become a national park is uncertain, but the historic-landmark designation puts the site on a better footing to pursue that goal. Bill Justice, superintendent of the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in LaRue County, will represent the National Park Service. The ceremony is open to the public. A bronze plaque will be unveiled Saturday and will go on the front of the Camp Nelson interpretive center, McBride said. The designation covers the 525 acres of the Civil War Heritage Park, the original part of Camp Nelson National Cemetery within the borders of a stone wall, and parts of the Hall community on the western side of U.S. 27, McBride said. Camp Nelson already is on the National Register of Historic Places. But fewer than 3 percent of the properties on the register are designated historic landmarks, said Mary Kozak, special projects director for Jessamine County. The camp was established by an order of President Abraham Lincoln in June 1863. It was named for Maj. Gen. William "Bull" Nelson, who started the first Union recruitment camp at Camp Dick Robinson in Garrard County. In March 1864, when the enlistment of blacks began, Camp Nelson became an important recruiting and training center for black soldiers. As many as 10,000 black troops trained there. Eight regiments of "U.S. Colored Troops," as the regiments were called, were founded at Camp Nelson, and five others were stationed there, making it the third-largest such center in the nation. It also was a supply depot and had a hospital. At its peak, Camp Nelson had 300 buildings. After the war ended in 1865, the federal government sold most of the original 4,000-acre site, leaving only a camp for black refugees and a small cemetery. It was expanded to become Camp Nelson National Cemetery later in the 1860s. In the summer of 1868, 2,203 Union dead from Perryville, Richmond, Frankfort, London and Covington were reinterred at Camp Nelson National Cemetery. Veterans and their spouses continue to be buried there. Today, the restored Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park draws 13,000 visitors a year. McBride submitted the application for the latest designation to the National Park Service and to outside reviewers. Then, in November 2012, he gave a presentation to the National Historic Landmarks Review Board. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the designation in March 2013.

ABMC Assumes Control of Clark Veterans Cemetery: December 16, 2013, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine and U.S. governments to allow the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to assume operations and maintenance of the Clark Veterans Cemetery. A local VFW Post had been the caretaker of the cemetery and its 8,000 non-World War II veterans and dependents for almost two decades after Clark Air Base was closed due to Typhoon Yunya and the Mount Pinatubo eruption. World War II remains are interred in the American Cemetery in Manila, which is one of 24 cemeteries ABMC operates overseas.

Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

MILITARY PROSECUTORS WITHHOLD EVIDENCE; ARMY RANGER GOES TO PRISON FOR 25 YEARS FOR SHOOTING AL QAEDA OPERATIVE:

Army Ranger 1st Lieutenant Michael Behenna was sentenced to 25 years in prison for killing Ali Mansur, a known Al Qaeda operative while serving in Iraq on March 20, 2009. Mansur was known to be a member of an Al Qaeda cell operating in the lieutenant's area of operation and Army intelligence believed he organized an attack on Lt. Behenna's platoon in April 2008 which killed two U.S. soldiers and injured two more. Army intelligence ordered the release of Mansur and Lt. Behenna was ordered to return the terrorist to his home. During the return of Mansur, Lt. Behenna again questioned the Al Qaeda member for information about other members of the terrorist cell, and financial supporters. During this interrogation, Mansur attacked Lt. Behenna, who killed the terrorist in self-defense. The government subsequently prosecuted Lt. Behenna for premeditated murder. Not only is this a miscarriage of justice on the behalf of Lt. Behenna, who was acting to prevent further loss of life in his platoon, it is demoralizing to the U.S. troops who continue to fight on behalf of the freedom and security of our nation. Whether it is U.S. border patrol agents, members of the armed forces, or FBI agents, no individual who is serving on the frontlines in the War on Terror should be so blatantly mistreated. Here is a brief trip of this action;



- 3 September 2007: 1LT Michael Behenna deployed to Iraq for his first tour of combat.
- April 21, 2008, Al Qaida operatives attacked LT Behenna's platoon. The IED attack resulted in the death of two of LT Behenna's platoon members, two Iraqi citizens, and wounded two additional soldiers under LT Behenna's command.
- May 5, 2008: Based on information from US Army intelligence, LT Behenna's platoon detained known terrorist Ali Mansur at his home for the attack on LT Behenna's platoon. Mansur had illegal weapons and a passport indicating trips to Syria.
- May 16, 2008: Without explanation, Army Intelligence ordered the release of Mansur.
- LT Behenna, who lost two members of his platoon just weeks earlier, was ordered to transport Mansur to his home.
- LT Behenna attempted a final field interview of Mansur prior to his release.
- During the interview, Mansur attacked LT Behenna, and LT Behenna reacted to defend himself by firing two shots which killed Mansur.
- July 2008: The U.S. Army charged LT Behenna with premeditated murder for the death of the Al Qaida operative and terrorist Ali Mansur
- February 23, 2009: 1Lt. Behenna's trial begins. Defense experts testify that Mansur was standing with his arm outstretched when shot.
- On the evening of February 25th, prosecution expert witness Dr. Herbert MacDonell told the prosecution attorneys the only logical explanation for what happened was that Mansur had to be standing, reaching for LT Behenna's gun when he was shot. This contradicted the prosecution's theory that Mansur was executed while seated on a rock.
- On February 26th LT Behenna testified that while he was interrogating Mansur he turned his head towards his interpreter, and when he did, Mansur lunged for his gun. The LT fired a controlled pair of shots. This explanation was identical to what Dr. MacDonell told the prosecution team in a private meeting the night before.
- During a recess after 1LT Behenna's testimony, Dr. MacDonell met with the prosecution team and told them again that the LT's testimony was exactly what he had demonstrated to Prosecutors the day before and that the LT must be telling the truth. The prosecutors sent Dr. MacDonell home to New York. Leaving the courtroom, Dr. MacDonell told defense counsel he would have made a great witness for LT Behenna.
- The defense counsel asked prosecutors if they have any exculpatory evidence about Dr. MacDonell, and the prosecutors denied possession of such evidence.
- In the prosecution's closing arguments they argued LT Behenna's testimony that Mansur was reaching for his gun was "impossible" based upon the evidence (despite knowing that their own expert witness had told him it was the only logical explanation.)
- Later that Friday night a military panel of seven officers, none of whom had combat experience, convicted LT Behenna of unpremeditated murder and assault.
- After LT Behenna was convicted, but before sentencing, Dr. MacDonell sent an email to the prosecution team requesting that the information provided in his demonstration be turned over to the defense.
- A mistrial was requested by the LT's defense counsel, but on March 20, 2009 the military judge denied both defense motions to declare a mistrial and to order a new trial.
- LT Behenna's attorneys have exhausted his appeals through the military courts and are currently pursuing a fair trial by petitioning the United States Supreme Court.
- LT Behenna is currently serving a 15-year sentence in Ft. Leavenworth (the original 25 year sentence was reduced five years by the commanding General of 101st Airborne and the Army Clemency Board reduced it another five years.) The earliest he would be eligible for parole is after serving a third of his sentence.

Without parole or a new trial Lt. Behenna will get out of prison for the shooting an Al Qaeda terrorist in self defense when he is 40 years old.