



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



WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)

*"A Soldier Once... And Always"*

Volume 4

March 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**



**Military Compensation Commission Update:** Office Executive Director Bob Wallace met Thursday with the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which is charged with examining how our troops are compensated while in uniform, in retirement, and as veterans, and their reach includes those programs operated by the VA and Department of Labor. Among the compensation and Quality of Life programs under review are the 20-year retirement system; military pay and the tax-exempt status of allowances; concurrent receipt of retiree and disability pay; education; military healthcare costs and eligibility; military exchanges, commissaries and schools; and transition and employment assistance programs, among many others. Also under discussion is a joint military medical command approved by delegates attending last year's 114th VFW National Convention in Louisville. The VFW testified before the Commission in November and remains wary of their overall intent, but is appreciative of the continued two-way conversation. The Commission is required to issue their report to the White House in February 2015.

**Michael Behenna Wins Parole:** Former U.S. Army 1st Lt. Michael Behenna has won parole and will be released from Fort Leavenworth on March 14, his mother, Vicki Behenna, said Wednesday. Behenna, who was convicted of unpremeditated murder in a combat zone, learned early Wednesday morning and called his parents in Oklahoma City. "We go between tears and laughing," Vicki Behenna, of Edmond, told The Oklahoman. "I'm just so thankful. I'm just so very very thankful. It's wonderful." Behenna, 30, has served five years of a 15-year sentence. He was convicted in 2009 of killing an Iraqi man connected to al-Qaida while questioning him. This was his first year of eligibility for parole. His parents, Vicki and Scott, and brother Brett appeared last month before the U.S. Army Clemency and Parole Board outside Washington and presented the members with a 400-page report that included a letter from Michael, letters of support from Gov. Mary Fallin and members of the congressional delegation and law enforcement officials. The family told the board that Michael would work on a western Oklahoma cattle ranch and take classes at Oklahoma State University in ranch operations. "They came and got him about 7:30 this morning and gave him a letter to read," Vicki Behenna said. "The letter said his request for clemency (a reduction in sentence) had been denied but that his request for parole had been granted." She said, "I think he's in shock. I started crying immediately when he told me. Of course over the phone I can't see his expression. He would kind of go, 'Yeah, it's good, mom. It's good.'" She said he immediately expressed concern about two fellow inmates. Behenna was officially dismissed from the Army last month. The secretary of the Army signed his dismissal, which had been pending during Behenna's appeals through military courts and the U.S. Supreme Court. "Mr. Behenna will have served five years confinement, and will continue to be under parole supervision for ten years."

## Unless You've Been a Soldier by Clive Sanders

Unless you've been a soldier,  
You just won't understand.  
The things that we have seen and done,  
In the service of our land.  
We have trained to live in combat,  
To cope with awful sights,  
That shouldn't be seen by anyone  
And keep you awake at nights.  
  
We don't discuss the wounds we have,  
To the body or the mind.  
We just put our hurts behind us,  
And turn our memories to blind.  
We are proud we served our country,  
And remember those we lost.  
For the freedom that you have today,  
They paid the awful cost.

Submitted by Tom LaZear

**Afghanistan Frees Detainees US Calls 'Dangerous':** Afghanistan released 65 accused militants from a former U.S. prison on Thursday despite protests from the American military, which says the men are Taliban fighters who will likely return to the battlefield to kill coalition and Afghan forces. The move further strains relations between Washington and President Hamid Karzai, whose increasingly anti-American rhetoric and refusal to sign a long-negotiated bilateral security deal has increased uncertainty ahead of the year-end withdrawal of most international combat troops. Karzai ordered the detainees released several weeks ago, after his government took over the prison from U.S. troops. The decision prompted angry denunciations from Washington. U.S. forces in Afghanistan say some of the men are responsible for killing or wounding dozens of international and Afghan soldiers as well making bombs that have killed civilians. The prisoners were freed just after 9 a.m. from the Parwan Detention Facility near Bagram Air Field, about 45 kilometers (28 miles) north of Kabul, according to prison spokesman Maj. Nimatullah Khaki. They boarded a bus to leave the facility, laughing and smiling, he said. The U.S. has argued for the detainees to face trial in Afghan courts - citing strong evidence against them, from DNA linking them to roadside bombs an appointment. It's that simple.

**MREs Near Holy Grail: Pizza That Lasts Years:** They call it the holy grail of ready-to-eat meals for soldiers -- a pizza that can stay on the shelf for up to three years and still remain good to eat. Soldiers have been asking for pizza since lightweight individual field rations -- known as meals ready to eat, or MREs -- replaced canned food in 1981 for soldiers in combat zones or areas where field kitchens cannot be set up. Researchers at a U.S. military lab in Massachusetts are closing in on a recipe that doesn't require any refrigeration or freezing. "You can basically take the pizza, leave it on the counter, packaged, for three years and it'd still be edible," said Michelle Richardson, a food scientist at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center. Scientists at the Natick labs also are responsible for developing equipment and clothing that improves soldiers' combat effectiveness and their survival, but the quest for good pizza has become known as the holy grail there. Pizza is one of the most requested items when soldiers are asked every year what they'd like to see in their rations, said Richardson, who has spent nearly two years developing the recipe in a large kitchen full of commercial equipment.



**SSA to Expedite Disability Process for Veterans:** The Social Security Administration unveiled a new initiative this week to expedite disability claims by veterans with a VA disability compensation rating of 100%. Under the new process, which is set to launch in mid-March, Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors. In order to receive the expedited service, veterans must tell Social Security they have a VA disability compensation rating of 100% P&T, and show proof of their disability rating with their VA Notification Letter.

**We started a new feature in last months Newsletter. To date no other story to print has been received. Please send your entry 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.**

**Senate Votes to Repeal COLA Cuts:** The Senate voted 95-3 on Wednesday to repeal cuts that would have reduced military retirement pay by tens of thousands of dollars for enlisted and officers alike. The House passed the same bill Tuesday by a vote of 326-90. The legislation will now go to President Barack Obama. The 1 percent reduction in the annual cost-of-living adjustment for current working-age military retirees, scheduled to go into effect in January 2016, was part of a bipartisan budget deal in December intended to reduce the federal budget deficit and partially restore some of the automatic budget cuts that were imposed on the Pentagon and other government agencies under sequestration. The COLA cut would have saved the government about \$6 billion over the next decade. The cut elicited strong opposition from veterans organizations, which pressured members of Congress to repeal the measure. Defense Department leaders also came out against the reductions, although they've also called on Congress to enact legislation that would curb the growing cost of military compensation and benefits. The Military Officers Association of America estimates the retirement cuts would cost a typical enlisted member who retires at 40 about \$83,000 over 20 years, and cost a typical retired officer more than \$124,000 over 20 years. That's based on an estimated retirement package totaling about \$1 million over that span.

**Vets Upset COLA Reduction Remains for New Troops:** Veterans welcomed the repeal of the reduction of the cost-of-living-adjustment for retirees starting in 2016, but veterans' advocate groups are disappointed the reduction will still apply to new troops. The bill now awaiting President Obama's signature grandfathered current retirees and troops as of Dec. 31, 2013, from COLA cuts that were created as a deficit reduction measure. However, troops entering service after that date will see smaller COLAs when they begin retiring in 2034. Representatives for several veterans organizations say that's not fair and want to see the entire law scrapped. "Future military retirees will be required to serve just as long and perhaps sacrifice even more than their predecessors," Veterans of Foreign Wars national spokesman Joe Davis said. "It is in that regard that the VFW will continue to fight for a full repeal of the COLA penalty, and we hope that this vote will continue that conversation."

**Department of Defense to use Only American Made Flags:** It is the ultimate symbol of chest-thumping American patriotic pride and now the United States flag must be "100 percent made in the USA" -- at least where the Pentagon is concerned. A new law requires the Department of Defense -- a major consumer of flags for everything from ships to bases to burials -- fly only flags wholly sourced from home shores. "My recently signed law makes sure every flag bought by the US Department of Defense is 100 percent Made in America, with American products," Congressman Mike Thompson, whose district is home to a manufacturer of flags, wrote on his Facebook page. "Our men in women in uniform should serve under American-made flags like those made at NBI (North Bay Industries in Rohnert Park, Calif.), and our tax dollars should be spent on American-made flags," the Vietnam war veteran said.



### **Survey: Most Enlistees Don't Value Commissaries:**

Most active duty troops, especially enlistees, don't value the commissaries nearly as much as the government pays to operate them, according to a survey by the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. The Washington D.C. think tank published a report in 2012 based on a survey that asked troops and retirees what benefits they valued the most. The report then compared how much troops value these benefits to the price the government pays to provide them. Commissaries, long one of the non-compensation benefits of military service, didn't fare well with enlistees, the military's largest population. Pentagon leaders are considering cuts of up to \$1 billion from the \$1.4 billion commissary subsidy over the next three years, sources told Military.com last month. It costs the U.S. military about \$600 per servicemember to pay for the commissaries on base. By comparison, it costs the services \$110 per servicemember to provide the base and post exchanges. The report found that less than 6 percent of enlisted personnel valued the commissaries more than they cost. Two thirds of the officer corps agreed with the enlistees. These results stretched across the active and reserve components. The segment of the military that valued the commissaries the highest were retirees. Enlisted and officer retirees rank commissary privileges among their top two additional services and benefits, according to the report.



**DoD Has No Plans to Close Commissaries:** According to Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, there are no plans to close military commissaries. The chairman first addressed this issue during his Facebook town hall meeting last month (a transcript of the recent town hall meeting with General Dempsey is available on [DoD Live](#)). Although the DoD officials are not planning to close commissaries, they did ask the Defense Commissary Agency for a range of options, including how the system would operate with reduced or no taxpayer subsidies. Military exchanges work on this system and that the same potential exists with commissaries.

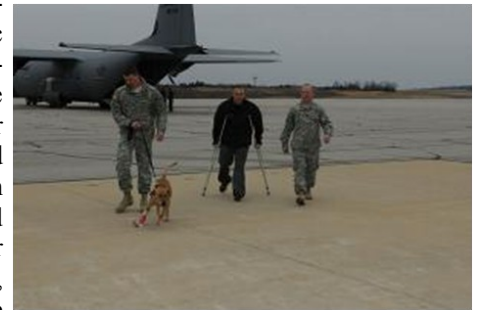
In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, *'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.'* (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)

### **Marines Don't Plan to Cut Wounded Warrior Program:**

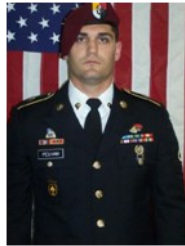
The Marine Corps has plans to maintain its existing Wounded Warrior care while the Army trims its own more expansive system and cuts staff after nearly 13 years of war. "What we're doing right now is what we're going to be doing for the foreseeable future," said Lt. Col. Leland Suttee, commander of the sprawling Wounded Warrior Battalion-East complex at Lejeune and the 200 staff who serve there. The Army announced plans last month to consolidate operations at its Wounded Warrior Transition Units serving combat and non-combat wounded, injured and ill troops, resulting in the loss of more than 500 civilian and staff jobs. However, Suttee said the Marines' intent was to stick with the current system. Suttee speculated that "there will be changes over time. Certainly those numbers will come down," he said of the drastically reduced numbers of combat wounded troops coming into the Wounded Warrior program as U.S. forces withdraw from Afghanistan. "But to me, the demand signal is still out there," Suttee said, as more senior troops, particularly those with multiple deployments to war zones, come to the realization that they were suffering from traumatic brain injury, concussion aftereffects and post traumatic stress. Both the Army and the Marine Corps set up Wounded Warrior programs to deal with the special needs of severely wounded combat troops who still wanted to serve. In a setting designed for mutual support, they would live together in their own barracks while receiving care and treatment. The concept for both services was that those who recovered sufficiently could return to full duty with their parent unit. Others would receive help with the transition to civilian life and Veterans Administration care, and their families would be supported through the process. As of Feb. 10, there were a total of 6,995 wounded, ill and injured soldiers assigned to 29 Army Warrior Transition Units (WTUs) for active duty troops and nine Community Based Warrior Transition Units (CBWTUs) for Guard and Reserve troops. The number of troops in the program was down from a high of 12, 551 in June 2008, according to the Army's Warrior Transition Command.

### **Wounded K-9 Team Returns Home:**

A specialized search dog handler and his canine partner, both recovering from gunshot wounds during a battle in Afghanistan, returned home to Fort Leonard Wood Friday, greeted by their unit comrades of the 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade. Sgt. Eric Goldenthal, 67th Engineer Detachment, Canine Company, 5th Engineer Battalion, 4th MEB, and his specialized search dog, Corky, both walked off the aircraft on their own power. The team, one on crutches and the other with a paw bandage, were flown home aboard a C-130 Hercules transport aircraft that landed at the post's Forney Air Field. Both were shot seconds apart during an attack, Jan. 19, in the Afghanistan Kapisa province, as they were leading the way for Green Berets. Goldenthal said he wasn't worried about his injury -- his mind was on one thing, his battle-buddy and best friend, Corky. "I just kept asking if he would be alright. I was worried about his leg," said Goldenthal who also got hit in the leg. Goldenthal and Corky have been teammates for more than a year. They left Fort Leonard Wood in September for an overseas assignment with Special Forces -- a mission Goldenthal volunteered for. "I am back a little earlier than expected. It would have been nice to finish my mission down there. But, it's good to be back," Goldenthal said.



**Odierno: Army Needs at Least 450,000 Soldiers:** The U.S. Army's top officer said the service should have at least 450,000 active-duty soldiers or it may not be able to adequately respond to conflicts around the world. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno said the Army's minimum end-strength should be 980,000 soldiers, including at least 450,000 in the active component, 335,000 in the National Guard and 195,000 in the Reserve. The service requested authorization for almost 1.1 million soldiers, including 520,000 in the active component, 354,200 in the National Guard and 205,000 in the Reserve, according to fiscal 2014 budget documents. But after more than a decade of ground operations in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq, the service's active-duty component is slated to shrink, possibly to as low as 420,000 soldiers over the next several years, under automatic budget cuts known as sequestration. Odierno said such reductions would make the military "too small." "Losing that last 30,000 makes a huge difference in the capabilities that we have," he said during a panel discussion on Tuesday at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C., referring to the number of active-duty soldiers. Odierno also pushed back against the idea of downsizing the military simply because the wars of the past decade were coming to an end. "It's easy to say, 'I just don't see us having another conflict again,'" he said. "Well, I heard that in 1980. I heard that in 1990. And I heard that in 2000. And yet, we're constantly engaged." Odierno cited potential risks from Kim Jong Un, the young North Korean leader who last year tested a nuclear bomb and threatened to attack U.S. allies in the region, the civil war in Syria, and sectarian divides surfacing in Iraq and other countries in the Middle East.



**Two Fort Bragg Soldiers Killed in Afghanistan:** Two Fort Bragg soldiers were killed in Afghanistan recently when two men wearing Afghan National Security Forces uniforms opened fire on their unit. Spc. John A. Pelham, 22, of Portland, Ore., and Sgt. 1st Class Roberto C. Skelt, 41, of York, Fla., were killed. Both soldiers were assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group and died from wounds suffered when they were struck by enemy small-arms fire in Kapisa province. "ISAF and Afghan officials are assessing the incident to determine the facts, and as more information becomes available, it will be released as appropriate," the release said. According to media reports, Kapisa Gov. Mehrabuddin said the attack happened in the Taamir Bazaar area of the Tagab district and that several civilians also were wounded. A Taliban spokesman said the attackers were "associates" of the group, according to reports. In remarks Friday, Pentagon spokesman Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby said the attack occurred as a small number of ISAF advisers were meeting with their Afghan counterparts at a district center. The deaths of Pelham and Skelt are the first "insider" or "green on blue" attacks in Afghanistan this year. They are the third and fourth Fort Bragg soldiers to be killed in fighting in Afghanistan this year. Three of the deaths have come this week, and all have been soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group.

**Department of Defense to use Only American Made Flags:** It is the ultimate symbol of chest-thumping American patriotic pride and now the United States flag must be "100 percent made in the USA" -- at least where the Pentagon is concerned. A new law requires the Department of Defense -- a major consumer of flags for everything from ships to bases to burials -- fly only flags wholly sourced from home shores. "My recently signed law makes sure every flag bought by the US Department of Defense is 100 percent *Made in America*, with American products," Congressman Mike Thompson, whose district is home to a manufacturer of flags, wrote on his Facebook page. "Our men in women in uniform should serve under American-made flags like those made at NBI (North Bay Industries in Rohnert Park, Calif.), and our tax dollars should be spent on American-made flags," the Vietnam war veteran said. One user, identifying himself as another Vietnam veteran, wrote: "Way to go!! Great job thank you. Wish List. Can we do it with other products as well? No Vets coffin should be draped in a cheap rag made over seas." Although flags were already made by US companies, their material -- such as fabric and ink -- previously could have come from abroad.

**World War II Vets Awarded France's Legion of Honor:** Fourteen WWII veterans from across North Carolina will soon gather in Raleigh, NC as French officials award them the Legion of Honor for their service during the war. The men all fought on French soil in 1944 or 1945 during the liberation of France. About a decade ago, the French government decided to recognize all war veterans who contributed to the liberation. The award is the highest honor in France and recognizes those who have served the country in some distinguished way. Napoleon Bonaparte founded the National Order of the Legion of Honor in 1802. Hundreds of WWII veterans from across the U.S. have received the award. Allen Evans, who lives in Chapel Hill, will be among the men who are so honored. Evans was a staff sergeant with the headquarters battery in the Army's 76th Field Artillery Battalion during the war. Evans, now 89, can remember how France looked as Allied forces moved through the county during the final year of WWII. He saw buildings riddled with bullet holes and people devastated by years of war. But he also remembers the way people lined the streets for soldiers. Knowing that they craved something other than canned rations, the French would toss them tomatoes along with flowers in gratitude. It was a gesture that meant a lot to the soldiers. "The French people were just unbelievably hospitable," Allen said. The crowd's enthusiasm and patriotism stick with him to this day, a rush of emotion he describes as extraordinary.

**During WWII , U.S. airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say: "I gave them the whole nine yards", meaning they used up all of their ammunition.**



**Proposed Defense Budget For FY 2015 Would Cut Troop Pay and Benefits:** The U.S. Defense Department is proposing limiting troop pay raises, reducing housing allowances and cutting funding for commissary stores because of automatic budget cuts, DoD officials said. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin Dempsey outlined the recommendations as part of a preview of the Pentagon's \$496 billion base budget request for fiscal 2015, which begins Oct. 1, 2014. The federal government's spending plan is scheduled to be released on March 4. The proposals to curb personnel costs, which is destined to consume a rising share of defense spending, include limiting troop pay raises to 1 percent, reducing housing allowances by an average of 5 percent, cutting some \$1 billion in commissary subsidies -- which will likely mean higher prices for troops and retirees -- and higher health care fees for some retirees. "The savings will enable the Department to sustain a well-trained, ready, agile, motivated and technologically superior force," Hagel said during a recent briefing at the Pentagon. "Although these recommendations do not cut anyone's pay, I realize they will be controversial." The proposals drew swift criticism from veterans' service organizations and many lawmakers who have voted down similar efforts in the past. "The all volunteer force is a finely tuned instrument," Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "These moves are the consequence of trying to resolve our fiscal problems on the backs of our troops." With two years' worth of pay caps and the 5 percent housing-cut proposal, an E-5 Army sergeant with 10 years of service and a family of four would lose \$1,400 a year, while an O-3 Army captain would lose \$2,100 by the end of fiscal 2015, according to the association. Hagel said personnel reductions are needed in order to preserve funding in other areas of the budget, including weapons modernization and readiness. The request would downsize the military, especially the Army, whose active-duty force would shrink to between 440,000 and 450,000 soldiers -- and even further to 420,000 soldiers if automatic cuts known as sequestration remain in effect. "Reducing the Army to its smallest size since World War II is the worst possible approach to maintain our national security," Caroline Delleney, a spokeswoman for Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., chairman of the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, said in a statement.

**George W. Bush: Helping veterans lifts his spirits:** Former President George W. Bush says his focus on a new initiative helping returning veterans also aids him emotionally. The George W. Bush Institute and Syracuse University are undertaking a study on issues affecting veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001. Bush described on ABC News "This Week" how his spirits are always lifted when he meets with veterans. He said that many in the U.S. are incredibly comfortable and yet have a "woe is me" mentality. He says that's not the case with veterans, who ask how they can continue to serve. Bush said the mission of his institute is to help society serve veterans more efficiently. For example, it's working to show employers how various military experiences can translate into marketable job skills.



**Many Vets Saw the Fall of Fallujah Coming:** Many who served in the U.S. military in Iraq were not surprised last week when news arrived that insurgents linked to al-Qaida had reclaimed Fallujah. A little more than two years after the last U.S. combat platoons left the region, the Iraqi security forces they fought with and helped train are facing an offensive by insurgents in areas that saw some of the worst American casualties of the war. Iraqi forces under the Shiite Muslim-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki are fighting Sunni extremists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, with the renewed violence in Anbar province fanned by civil war in neighboring Syria. Between March 2003 and December 2011, 4,489 Americans died in the military engagement in Iraq. More than 55 soldiers, sailors and Marines with Mississippi ties were among those dead. Former Marine Staff Sgt. Dennis Woullard, who served with the Gulfport-based 4th Amphibious Assault Battalion, A Company, 3rd Platoon, wasn't in Fallujah during his two deployments to Iraq in 2003 and 2005, but said he knew that area in the eastern portion of the Anbar province would be a struggle -- especially after Americans left.



**More Secure VA ID Cards Coming:** The VA has announced the phased roll out of newly designed, more secure Veteran Health Identification Cards (VHIC). Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC will display the veteran's member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a plan ID, reflecting the veteran's enrollment in VA healthcare. The new card replaces the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was introduced in 2004. As part of a phased rollout, starting this month, the card will only be offered to newly enrolled and other veterans who have not yet been issued a VIC. In April, VA will begin a three-month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to current VIC cardholders. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced. Enrolled veterans can get more information about the VHIC by visiting their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator, calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visiting their local VA health care facility. Veterans not enrolled in the VA healthcare system can [apply for enrollment online](#) at any time, call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit their local VA healthcare facility.



**Question: Is sex Work?** A Colonel was about to start the morning briefing to his staff. While waiting for the coffee machine to finish brewing, the Colonel decided to pose a question to all assembled. He explained that his wife had been a bit frisky the night before and he failed to get his usual amount of sound sleep. He posed the question of just how much of sex was "work" and how much of it was "pleasure?"

A Major chimed in with 75%-25% in favor of work.

A Captain said it was 50%-50%.

A lieutenant responded with 25%-75% in favor of pleasure, depending upon his state of inebriation at the time.

There being no consensus, the colonel turned to the PFC who was in charge of making the coffee and asked for his opinion?

Without any hesitation, the young PFC responded, "Sir, it has to be 100% pleasure.

The colonel was surprised and as you might guess, asked why?

Well sir, If there were any work involved the Officers would have me doing it for them.