



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



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

Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

May 2014

Commanders Corner: Well, the month of May is upon us already. The Kentucky Derby, the Indianapolis 500 and *Cinco de Mayo* will give us a good start on the long awaited summer months. I sure am happy this winter is behind us; it was an unusually rough one. As you should know, annual dues were to be sent to our Secretary/Treasurer by the end of January and we had a pretty successful remittance from our members. At the end of the year, a memo was sent out to several members who had been delinquent for a year or so and some of the guys got caught up. We have added an "inactive member" list to the web site "Members List" this month with the names of members that are currently inactive because they are over a year in arrears for paying dues. Hopefully, some of them will come around and renew their membership soon. Active members might check the list and, if acquainted with any of these guys, contact them. Our membership had a nice boom last year but, there are plenty of guys still out there we could recruit. If you know of any 2/1 guys who aren't members, lead them towards us. Also, if anyone is in contact with Dave Blanton, Co. B, 1969, we have not been able to contact him because our information seems to be out of date. If any of you know how to get in touch with Dave, please let us know. It is now time to make your reservations for the Annual ADVA Reunion in Huston, TX. See our WEBSITE for information. Many of our brothers attend the Annual Veterans Reunion during September and reserve camp sites for the event. For some reason this year, many past attendees have not received their camp site reservations forms from the Howard County Vietnam Veterans Organization. This is a great reunion event and draws around 40,000 visitors throughout the course of the event. There are also numerous hotel/motels available in the Kokomo, Indiana area and shuttles are provided to the reunion site. If you need a form to reserve a camp site, it can be printed from the following web page: http://www.hcvvo.org/hcvvo_010.htm. the general web site for the reunion is: <http://www.hcvvo.org/>. Deadline for mailing in camping forms is June 13th. Enjoy your summer!



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

Chuck



*He was just a common soldier and his ranks are Growing thin,
but his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part.
Is to clean up all the troubles the politicians start.*

*If we cannot do him honor while he's here to hear the praise,
then at least let's give homage at the end of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning for a soldier died today.*

Two POW/MIA Soldiers Identified: The Defense POW/MIA Office recently announced the identification of remains belonging to two soldiers who had been unaccounted-for since the World War II. Identified are:

- Army Pfc. William T. Carneal, 24, of Paducah, Ky., who will be buried April 25 in his hometown. In mid-June 1944, the 27th Infantry Division landed on Saipan as part of the Allied strategic goal of securing the Marina Islands. Carneal was reported killed in action on July 7, 1944.
- U.S. Army Air Forces 2nd Lt. Verne L. Gibb, 22, of Topeka, Kan., will be buried April 23 in Leavenworth, Kan. On Oct. 23, 1945, Gibb was piloting a C-47B Skytrain on a routine cargo mission from Burma to India. The aircraft, along with three other crew and two passengers, was never seen again.

Amputee at Golf Tournament: When Chad Pfeifer lost his left leg during his deployment with the Army in Iraq, he thought his days as a competitor were done. Once a college baseball player, Pfeifer simply wasn't mobile enough anymore in his prosthetic for baseball or basketball. Then, one day, while rehabbing at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, he stumbled upon golf. Fast forward seven years, and Pfeifer has climbed the ranks of top tournament players, having won the George W. Bush Presidential Center's Warrior Open three years running. The retired corporal's ascent in the golf world reaches a new level this summer. Pfeifer has been invited to play in the American Century Championship at Lake Tahoe, CA. He will be in the field of 80 professional athletes and entertainers competing for \$600,000 in prize money in the charity tournament's 25th anniversary year.

Army Deserter Caught 5 Years Later: Kentucky State Police Trooper Duane Foley found himself executing a felony warrant early Friday evening after making a routine traffic stop. At approximately 6 p.m. on Friday, Tpr. Foley witnessed Glen D. Turner, 32, driving in Keavy without a seat belt. While performing a basic interview and running Turner's information, the state trooper discovered Turner has been wanted for over five years. In mid-December of 2008, it was reported that Pvt. Glen D. Turner, out of the 551st Signal Company in the United States Army, became absent without leave (AWOL) from his enlistment in Knoxville, Tenn. The following January, Captain Duane Williams, also out of the 551st Signal Company, issued a desertion warrant for Turner's arrest. Turner was arrested for the execution of a bench warrant for desertion from the federal armed forces -- a felony offense. He was quickly extradited on Monday morning after spending the weekend at the Laurel County Detention Center.

If you help someone when they're in trouble, they will remember you when they're in trouble again.

Dozens Denied Access to Navy Installations on East Coast: Dozens of transportation workers have been denied access to Navy bases on the East Coast because of their criminal histories since more stringent rules were put in place following a fatal shooting aboard a destroyer in Virginia, according to figures provided by the Navy. A civilian truck driver with a criminal record shot and killed Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Mayo aboard the USS Mahan in March after driving onto Naval Station Norfolk, walking onto a pier and onto the ship's quarterdeck. The Navy said Jeffrey Tyrone Savage disarmed a sailor guarding the ship and used her weapon to fire the fatal shots at Mayo, who jumped between the disarmed sailor and Savage. Savage was later shot and killed by Navy personnel in a shootout aboard the ship. The Navy said Savage possessed a valid Transportation Worker Identification Credential that could have gotten him access to the base, although he lacked proper paperwork indicating he had a legitimate reason to be there. The credential Savage had the night of the shooting is issued by the Transportation Security Administration to people such as truck drivers who need unescorted access to ports and military installations. Those who commit certain crimes are prohibited from having a TWIC card, but the crimes Savage committed didn't fall under any of them. Savage's criminal record included pleading guilty to voluntary manslaughter in Charlotte, N.C., in 2008 for shooting a friend in a car and leaving his body on the side of an interstate. Prosecutors originally charged Savage with murder and intended to seek the death penalty if he didn't plead guilty to the lesser charge. Savage's criminal history also includes possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. After the shooting aboard the Mahan, the commander in charge of Navy installations for most of the East Coast issued new rules prohibiting anyone with a felony in the past 10 years from using a TWIC card to get onto base. Under the new rules, Savage would not have been allowed onto Naval Station Norfolk.

VFW Slams Times Op-Ed Linking Vets to Hate Groups: The Veterans of Foreign War is responding to a New York Times column linking military service to right-wing extremist groups by asking its nearly 2 million members to flood the paper with emails relating "good stories" about their experiences in the military and as veterans. The op-ed piece by a Northwestern University professor used FBI data to argue that war-returned veterans have historically played a part in a resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan and similar groups. Kathleen Belew, a history professor at Northwestern, wrote the piece after Frazer Glenn Miller, 73, a former KKK leader and a Vietnam veteran, shot and killed three people at a Jewish community center and a Jewish retirement community in Overland Park, Kan. "The First Amendment protects the free speech and expression rights of this young author, and the rights of the New York Times to publish it, but it also protects my right to disagree with the message," VFW National Commander William A. Thien said. Thien, who served in Vietnam, said the piece by Belew conjures classic stereotypes of the ticking timebomb Vietnam veteran that became part of pop culture during the 1970s. "The 'crazy Vietnam veteran' label isn't talked about much these days, yet despite 40 years of moving on with our lives and successfully reintegrating into our communities, we all know the potential is just another headline away," Thien said. Thien is asking VFW members to send their comments directly to the Times, not Belew, and to make them "positive."

**DROVE TOO LONG, DRIVER SNOOZING
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT IS NOT AMUSING
Burma Shave**

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.

I remember being hit with mortars just after dusk on more than a few nights, while out on the Island! There are dozens of events like these that happened nearly every day! I still know several names of casualties from the two companies (walking in 6 columns abreast) when the gunboats started shooting across all 6 lines with those 40mm armor piercing rounds (Called Bunker Busters)! They each sure kicked up a bunch of sand, on impact too!!!! We were laid out in those furrows, and I saw more than one of those rounds cutting across the one I was laying in less than fifteen feet ahead of my position. And, I never crawled so fast in my life, to get out of that kill zone either! I think that may also have been the same outing when we were faced off with a Marine Tank across the river from that "hooch" that an enemy soldier was located. We finally were able to reach the marines by radio transfer, and later there was some Newbie who was straight from AIT who was asked to fire that LAW at the bunker next to the hiding place. BANG!!! first shot went right into the entrance hole! Really would like to know who that Grunt was today? He made one hell of a shot!!!

And wasn't it always amazing how one small fox-hole could hold so many men? Anybody that lasted a whole year in combat and wasn't jammed up with a bunch of guys in the same foxhole, on numerous occasions, damn sure wasn't in the Infantry!!!!!!

But those were all good days.... when we didn't lose anyone!!!!

Bo Borysiak 68-69



LZ Ross, Que Son Valley, Vietnam 1968 - 1969

Let us be sure
the right point
of view is
placed on
Memorial Day
2014



Hagel Orders Overhaul of POW/MIA Identification Agencies: Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel recently announced that he's ordered an overhaul of the Pentagon agencies responsible for recovering and identifying the remains of America's war dead. The reorganization seeks to consolidate the mission, improve efficiency and increase the number of remains identified by the two key agencies charged with POW-MIA accounting efforts -- the Defense Prisoner of War Missing Personnel Office and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, Hagel told a Pentagon news conference. "These steps will help improve the accounting mission, increase the number of identifications of our missing, provide greater transparency for their families and expand our case file system to include all missing personnel," Hagel said. An armed forces medical examiner working for the yet-to-be-named agency will be the sole DOD identification authority and will oversee operations of the central identification laboratory in Hawaii as well as those in Omaha, Neb., and Dayton, Ohio. "By consolidating functions, we will resolve issues of duplication and inefficiency and build a stronger, more transparent and more responsive organization," Hagel stressed. In explaining why the reorganization was necessary, Lumpkin told reporters it had become clear that the department needed a "paradigm shift" from what some have called "outdated, institutionalized thinking and behavior that didn't deliver the number of remains accounted for that we had hoped." "As of next year, Congress has mandated the department have the capacity to identify up to 200 sets of remains a year, but last year the DOD agencies only identified 70 sets," he said. Lumpkin said the new agency will maintain a single database of records related to missing Americans instead of the multiple databases currently in use. In addition, he said, proposals will be developed for expanding partnerships with private organizations already working to recover and identify remains to "fully embrace progressive science." No date has been set for when the new agency will be stood up, but the undersecretary said it would be led by a civilian appointed by the president.

Guantanamo Trial Delays Frustrate 9/11 Relatives: Frustration simmered into suspicion as relatives of Sept. 11 victims attending stalled hearings accused a jealous Justice Department of conducting an FBI probe of 9/11 defense lawyers to derail the long-awaited war crimes tribunal. "These things just don't happen. It's not some rogue FBI agent. This had to be approved from the highest level of the FBI to do this," said Don Arias of Panama City, Fla., a former Air Force officer and New York City firefighter whose brother Adam was killed at the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. His sister Lorraine added: "It looks like a well-orchestrated snafu. We're going to stall now for them to all be investigated. A reappointment process could drag it out another year or more." The 10th round of hearings stalled on the revelation that two FBI agents questioned a security officer on one 9/11 defense team, then had him sign a nondisclosure agreement, an incursion into attorney-client confidentiality that defense lawyers called "chilling." The war court was dark after the judge, Army Col. James L. Pohl, issued a bench order to anyone who ever served on the defense teams of the Sept. 11 case, past and present, to admit if he or she was "contacted or interviewed by agents of any federal government agency," regardless of any nondisclosure agreement. At issue for the FBI, apparently, is who gave The Huffington Post and a British TV channel an unclassified 36-page jailhouse commentary "Invitation to Happiness" by the alleged 9/11 mastermind, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. It skewers American values and society.

VA Disability Claims Backlog Drops by 44 Percent: One year after the backlog of pending disability compensation claims peaked at over 611,000 in March 2013, the Department of Veterans Affairs has reduced that number by approximately 44 percent to 344,000 claims -- a reduction of more than 267,000 -- while at the same time improving the accuracy of the decisions being made on veterans' disability claims. Additionally, on average, veterans are waiting 119 days less for a decision than they were at this time last year. "No veteran should have to wait to receive earned benefits. Through a combination of transformation initiatives and the hard work of our employees, we are making significant progress toward our goal of eliminating the claims backlog in 2015," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "We still have more work to do, and no one is more committed than our Veterans Benefits Administration employees, over half of whom are veterans themselves." The current backlog, defined as claims pending more than 125 days, is at its lowest point since March 2011, when the backlog spiked in part because of the need to re-adjudicate 150,000 previously decided cases involving exposure to the Vietnam-era defoliant, Agent Orange. The re-adjudication of these claims was mandated under the Nehmer court decision and followed the Shinseki's decision to add ischemic heart disease, certain leukemia's, and Parkinson's disease to the list of conditions presumed to be related to exposure to Agent Orange. During this same time period, VA also received and processed over 100,000 new claims for these three conditions from Vietnam veterans and survivors newly eligible for VA benefits as a result of this decision. "We knew taking care of this 'unfinished business' for veterans of previous wars would initially drive up the number of claims in our system. But it was the right thing to do," said Shinseki said. Since establishing the goal in 2010 of processing all disability claims within 125 days at a 98-percent accuracy level, VA developed and is implementing a plan that transforms the decades-old, manual paper claim approach into a state-of-the-art electronic process to reduce processing time and input errors. These procedures allow 56 regional benefits offices to exceed monthly production records four times in fiscal year 2013. At the same time, the accuracy of rating decisions continues to improve. VA claims processors continue to prioritize disability claims for homeless veterans, those experiencing extreme financial hardship, the terminally ill, former prisoners of war, Medal of Honor recipients, and veterans filing fully developed claims. Regardless of the status of their compensation claims, veterans who have served in combat since Nov. 11, 1998, are eligible for five years of free medical care from VA for any illness associated with their service. Veterans can learn more about disability and other veterans benefits on the joint Department of Defense/VA web portal, eBenefits.

Common entertainment 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.*'



Gerry Hughes taking a much deserved moment rest while serving in Que Son, South Vietnam in 1969.



And yet, today, Gerry is still a leader in his Key West city helping veteran (Wounded Warriors) 2014.

DoJ Cross on War Memorial Should Stay: The Justice Department says a 29-foot war memorial cross on a San Diego mountain is not an unconstitutional promotion of Christianity and should remain on federal property. The Obama administration said an appeals court ruling declaring the cross on Mount Soledad a violation of the constitutional separation of church and state undermined an act of Congress and conflicted with recent Supreme Court decisions. But, in a filing last week to the nation's highest court, it said an appeal should first be considered by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals because there is no imminent risk that the cross is removed. Last month, the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association asked to skip the appeals court and go straight to the U.S. Supreme Court, saying it wanted to hasten resolution to a legal dispute that began in 1989. The brief by Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said "additional time for reflection" may cause the 9th Circuit to reconsider its position. It says the Justice Department will appeal to the Supreme Court if it loses. The 9th Circuit has been an unfriendly venue to advocates of the cross, ruling in 2011 that it was unconstitutional because it sits on federal property and sending the case back to U.S. District Judge Larry Burns to consider alternatives.



Army Pulling Helos from National Guard: Army leaders are reaching out to the National Guard after Guard leaders and lawmakers criticized the Army over its plan to retire 798 aircraft and transfer AH-64 Apaches from the Guard to active duty units. The Army told Congress the plan is to increase readiness in light of the budget crunch that has forced the service to find cost savings and part of those savings involve moving 48 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from Reserve units to the active force. The overall restructure plan, designed to finish by 2019, will streamline existing systems, said Col. John Lindsay, director of aviation in the Army's operations headquarters.

May the garden of your heart bloom with even the smallest of kind acts, giving your life the gift of divine purpose.

JCS to Tell Congress: Allow Pay Curbs or Harm Readiness: Sen. Carl Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is giving the Joint Chiefs of Staff an unusual and potentially powerful opportunity to persuade senators they risk a readiness crisis if they don't take significant steps this year to slow growth in military compensation. All seven of the nation's top four-star officers are to testify May 6, a rare event. They are expected side by side to urge support for pay and benefit curbs. The scene will be in sharp contrast to pleadings for higher pay by service chiefs during earlier times of crisis for the all-volunteer military. The Joint Chiefs hope to make clear the dilemma Congress has created by trying to shield compensation from the effects of the Budget Control Act of 2011, with its deep cuts to overall defense spending and its automatic enforcement tool of sequestration. The chiefs have said their budgets for 2015 and beyond offer a balanced approach to absorbing those cuts because they include \$2.1 billion in compensation curbs next year and \$30 billion in pay and benefit savings over five years. If Congress won't back those, or offer alternative offsets, then the arbitrary across-the-board defense cuts of sequestration kick in.

Sr. Enlisted Support Pay Cap and TRICARE Changes: The armed services personnel subcommittee asked the top enlisted leaders how military quality of life would be impacted if Congress votes to cap the annual pay raise again, and also to dampen housing allowance increases, allow commissary prices to jump and raise medical fees for families and retirees. In the face of looming sequestration driven budget chaos, the answer was simple -- "get on with it."

NYPD Cuts Muslim Surveillance Program: The New York Police Department will be discontinuing the activities of the Zone Assessment unit, a program that spied on Muslims after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. NYPD Chief Bill Bratton announced the end of the unit that has been spying on Muslim-Americans in their own communities. The unit has been largely inactive since January but had previously been active since 2003 in an effort to spot potential terrorists.

Soldiers Stuck in Backlogged Disability System: Sgt. Chris Peden is stuck. The Joint Base Lewis-McChord soldier is spending his last months in the Army too damaged to be the gung-ho paratrooper of his first Iraq deployment but not ill enough to be cut loose from his enlistment with his Stryker brigade. He's in the limbo of a disability system the Defense Department created seven years ago with good intentions. It was designed to make sure wounded service members smoothly enroll for veterans benefits and start receiving checks within a month of leaving uniform. For Peden, the downside comes in the hundreds of days he's had to continue showing up at battalion headquarters even though he can't concentrate, struggles with mood swings and has physical injuries that slow him. "I can't do what I used to do. I'm not capable," said Peden, 32, a Tacoma resident diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and who endured several head injuries early in his military service. A year and a half ago, he was sent home early from a Stryker tour in Afghanistan. "My brain literally just doesn't work the way it used to," he said. He is among about 700 soldiers in Lewis-McChord's 7th Infantry Division who are leaving the Army for medical reasons through a joint Defense Department and Veterans Affairs program known as the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. The IDES process is supposed to take 295 days from the time the Army begins considering a soldier for an early medical retirement to the day that soldier starts receiving VA benefits. The military and the VA have yet to hit the deadlines they set in 2007. The average time soldiers spend in the system sits just shy of 400 days longer than the target.

Former Army Sergeant to Receive The Medal of Honor: On May 13, 2014, President Barack Obama will award Kyle J. White, a former active duty Army Sergeant, the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry. Sergeant White will receive the Medal of Honor for his courageous actions while serving as a Platoon Radio Telephone Operator assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, during combat operations against an armed enemy in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan on November 9, 2007. Sergeant White will be the seventh living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Iraq or Afghanistan. He and his family will join the President at the White House to commemorate his example of selfless service. Former Sergeant Kyle J. White separated from the Army on July 8, 2011. He currently lives in Charlotte, NC, where he works as an Investment Analyst. Sergeant White enlisted in the Army in February 2006 as an Infantryman. After completion of training at Ft Benning, he was assigned to Vicenza, Italy, with 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry "The Rock" as a grenadier and rifleman which included a combat tour to Afghanistan from May 2007 until August 2008. Following Italy, Kyle was assigned as an opposing forces Sergeant with the Ranger Training Battalion at Ft Benning. Sergeant White deployed in support of the War on Terror with one tour to Afghanistan. At the time of the November 9, 2007 combat engagement, then-Specialist White was a Platoon Radio Telephone Operator assigned to C Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. His heroic actions were performed during a dismounted movement in mountainous terrain in Aranas, Afghanistan.



Active-Reserve Debate Shifts from Cost to Quality: The battle over the future role of the active and reserve components has fundamentally shifted in recent months after the Pentagon quietly acknowledged that part-time troops are, in most scenarios, substantially cheaper than those on active duty. The Defense Department has finalized a long-awaited report to Congress outlining publicly for the first time a cost comparison of active and reserve units for all four services. It concluded that:

- Reservists in dwell status cost only about 15 percent as much as active-duty troops.
- A fully mobilized reservist costs taxpayers "about 80 – 90 percent as much as an {active Component} service member."
- The cost of maintaining a reserve unit and preparing it for deployment is about 50 percent to 74 percent of the cost of a similar active-duty unit.

The differences are in part due to money saved on reservists' lower dwell-time compensation, the more generous retirement benefits provided for active-duty troops and the frequent change-of-station moves that active-duty troops make, the report said. The new report could influence decisions about the active and reserve force structure as the overall size of the military shrinks during the next several years. Meanwhile, the debate shifts to raising questions about the quality of reserve units. Reserve units can require substantially longer preparation time before deployment. Leaders emphasize that full-time troops can respond best to immediate crises.

Force Cuts Mean Army Can't Fight Two Land Wars: The U.S. Army and the Marine Corps could fight a war with North Korea, but not without exhausting their combined ground forces leaving nothing in reserve, senior Army and Marine officials told Congress during recent testimony. With the threat of more sequestration cuts in 2016, service leaders have been warning Congress that the U.S. military -- particularly the Army -- will become too small to handle a combined fight like Iraq and Afghanistan in the future. The Pentagon's fiscal 2015 defense budget will reduce the active force from 490,000 to a force size of 440,000 to 450,000 by 2019. But sequestration cuts scheduled to occur in 2016 will likely force the Army to reduce the active end strength to 420,000. Lawmakers pressed senior leaders to elaborate on the risks of those cuts at a Wednesday hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee's Readiness and Management Support subcommittee.

Air Force General Backs A-10 Retention: A top Air Force official had one word to describe the proposed cuts threatening to ground the A-10 fleet. "Heinous." Rep. Ron Barber relayed the comments from Gen. Michael Hostage, the commander of the Air Combat Command, shortly after the pair toured Davis-Monthan Air Force Base to discuss the fate of the iconic attack aircraft known as the Warthog. The commander of the Air Combat Command, Hostage oversees the 355th Fighter Wing at Davis-Monthan which flies more than 80 A-10s. Barber, flanked by community leaders, asked Hostage to come to Tucson to see the overwhelming community support for the air base and the A-10.

DOD Releases 2012 Suicide Event Report: The Department of Defense (DOD) released its latest summary of fatal and nonfatal suicide events that occurred in 2012. The data shows that 319 service members who were on active duty, this includes reserve and Guard members on active duty orders, committed suicide in 2012, and that 203 members of the Guard and reserve who were not on active duty orders also committed suicide over the same time period. The report also indicated that those at greatest risk for suicide are males age 17-24, who are married and at the pay grade of E1 to E4. In the report you can find factors that appear to be associated with suicide, like legal and financial issues and failed relationships. The statistic that may surprise readers the most is that only 13.5 percent of service members who committed suicide had a military combat history. DOD also noted it is changing the way they report suicide by standardizing practices across the services which previously had responsibility for summarizing and releasing their own statistics. The new procedure will help align suicide rates consistent with those used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, allowing for better comparisons across the services and against a U.S. population adjusted for demographics similar to those of the military.

If you or someone you know is at risk for suicide please reach out to military and veteran crisis line at 1 (800) 273-8255 press 1, or you feel like you just need someone to talk to reach out to vets4warriors at <http://www.vets4warriors.com/> . These resources are available to active duty military, veterans and their family members.



What do you call two Medics walking side by side down a sidewalk?
 A paradox;
 (get it a pair of Docs)

The Creation Of Vietnam Vets

When the Lord was creating Vietnam veterans,
He was into His 6th day of overtime when an angel appeared.
"You're certainly doing a lot of fiddling around on this one."
"And God said, "Have you seen the specs on this order?"

A Nam vet has to be able to run 5 miles through the bush with a full pack on, endure with barely any sleep for days, enter tunnels his higher ups wouldn't consider doing, and keep his weapons clean and operable. He has to be able to sit in his hole all night during an attack, hold his buddies as they die, walk point in unfamiliar territory known to be VC infested, and somehow keep his senses alert for danger. He has to be in top physical condition existing on c-rats and very little rest. And he has to have 6 pairs of hands.

"The angel shook his head slowly and said, "6 pair of hands....no way."
"The Lord say's "It's not the hands that are causing me problems.
It's the 3 pair of eyes a Nam vet has to have."
"That's on the standard model?" asked the angel.



The Lord nodded.

"One pair that sees through elephant grass, another pair here in the side of his head for his buddies, another pair here in front that can look reassuringly at his bleeding, fellow soldier and say, "You'll make it" ... when he knows he won't.

"Lord, rest, and work on this tomorrow."

"I can't," said the Lord.

"I already have a model that can carry a wounded soldier 1,000 yards during a firefight, calm the fears of the latest FNG, and feed a family of 4 on a grunt's paycheck.

"The angel walked around the model and said, "Can it think?"

"You bet," said the Lord. "It can quote much of the UCMJ, recite all his general orders, and engage in a search and destroy mission in less time than it takes for his fellow Americans back home to discuss the morality of the War, and still keep his sense of humor.

"This Nam vet also has phenomenal personal control. He can deal with ambushes from hell, comfort a fallen soldier's family, and then read in his hometown paper how Nam vets are baby killers, psychos, addicts, killers of innocent civilians.

"The Lord gazed into the future and said, "He will also endure being vilified and spit on when he returns home, rejected and crucified by the very ones he fought for.

"Finally, the angel slowly ran his finger across the vet's cheek, and said, "There's a leak... I told you that you were trying to put too much into this model."

"That's not a leak", said the Lord. "That's a tear."

"What's the tear for?" asked the angel. "It's for bottled up emotions, for holding fallen soldiers as they die, for commitment to that funny piece of cloth called the American flag, for the terror of living with PTSD for decades after the war, alone with it's demons with no one to care or help."

"You're a genius," said the angel, casting a gaze at the tear.

The lord looked very somber, as if seeing down eternity's distant shores.

"I didn't put it there," he said.

