



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

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



Volume 4

"A Soldier Once... And Always"

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**Commanders Corner:** Once again, the holidays are sneaking up on us; a busy time for all involved. I always enjoy getting with my family and friends over the holidays but, am always ready for them to end to get back to my normal life style (whatever that is). Trying to get together with everyone over the holidays becomes increasingly harder now that there are so many folks involved; seemingly every year there is a new branch added somewhere via a niece or nephews marriage or new kids popping out every year. Sometimes, just getting everyone in one place is a major accomplishment. It used to be I only had to accommodate my family and my wife's family. At times, I thought that was a hassle; not being Andre the Giant, I played hell putting down 2 Thanksgiving Day meals or 2 Christmas dinners in one day. Thank goodness for the football games to nap through and recover for dessert. Now, it's even worse, with so many members of the family committed to their extended families we've now moved some Holiday gatherings to the week before all the way through the holiday in order to accommodate everyone else's other commitments. Thanksgiving Day has become Thanksgiving Week and Christmas should start somewhere around Dec. 19<sup>th</sup> and end up on the 26<sup>th</sup>. No matter the time frame you have to adjust to, it's well worth it to have the chance to be with family and friends. A lot of these people you don't get to see very often throughout the year and its a great time to catch up on everything; even the grumpy old so-and-so that's always been that way and no one remembers them any differently or why they are that way. For me, it's also a time to reflect on the past year and all that has gone on. I'm grateful I've made it through the trials and trivialities we all go through in the normal course of day to day existence and the great people I have around me. I especially am thankful for all of you; for without your sacrifices and efforts, as well as all the men and women that proceeded you in the service of our country, these holidays might not be possible to enjoy with the complete freedom we have in this great country. Enjoy 'em while you can. On a lighter note, we need some stories or articles for the newsletter from you folks to help take the load off Rich, who spends a lot of time trying to dig up articles. It would be a lot easier to get this thing out if some more input was received from you all. You don't have to be a poet or an accomplished writer to submit an article; we can edit for anything to make it workable. Just jot it down and send it. Please note the change of the URL for accessing the Chapter website. It is at the top of this page.



**DOD Identifies 6 Missing Service Members:** The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of remains belonging to World War II and Korean War soldiers. Recovered are:

- **Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Jimmie D. Collins III**, 32, from Talladega County, Ala., copilot of a B-24H that was lost over The Netherlands on June 21, 1944. He was assigned to the 446th Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Army Cpl. Ronald D. Skeens**, of Johnson, Ky., was lost Sept. 4, 1950, in South Korea. He was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Army Staff Sgt. James L. Van Bendegom**, 18, of Kenosha, Wis., was lost July 12, 1967, in South Vietnam, and later died of his wounds in a POW camp. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.
- **Sgt. Michael J. Barra**, U.S. Army, Company C, 2nd Engineer Combat Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 20, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 23, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors in his hometown on a date yet to be announced.
- **Capt. Richard L. Whitesides**, U.S. Air Force, 19th Tactical Air Support Squadron, 34th Tactical Group, 13th Air Force, was lost March 26, 1964, in Vietnam. He was accounted for Oct. 21, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors in his hometown on a date yet to be announced.
- **Pfc. Anthony R. La Rossa**, U.S. Army, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, was lost Feb. 13, 1951, in North Korea. He was accounted for Oct. 20, 2014. He will be buried with full military honors in his hometown on a date yet to be announced..

**Doctors Find Shrapnel That Wounded WWII Vet:** A 94-year old World War II veteran who received his Purple Heart 70 years late this August underwent surgery recently, and doctors found a piece of the shrapnel that wounded him. Emanuel Mark was a Latvian immigrant who became an American citizen and enlisted in the Army in World War II. He was made a radioman, and during combat in Northern France, he was shot in the chest on Sept. 17, 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries, but didn't receive the actual medal until 70 years later. A few weeks later, he had surgery to install a pacemaker, and doctors found a piece of the shrapnel from that battle in France — exactly 70 years to the day after he was wounded.

Chuck

May the bands of battle never be broken:



**Health Care Benefits for Camp Lejeune Veterans and Their Families Starts:** Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, for at least 30 days between January 1, 1957, and December 31, 1987, will be able to receive health care for the 15 medical conditions associated with exposure to contaminated drinking water at the Marine Corps base. Eligible veterans may now enroll for VA care and receive treatment for any of the specified conditions without co pay. Family members who lived at Camp Lejeune during that time period also may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket medical expenses they incur for care related to the 15 conditions. Family members will continue seeing their community providers, and then apply for VA reimbursement for any costs not covered by their normal health plans. Family members may be reimbursed for expenses incurred on or after March 26, 2013, the day Congress began funding the program. To enroll in VA health care, veterans should contact their local VA facilities. [Apply online](#) or dial 1-877-222-8387 for help. Family members may [submit applications online](#) or by dialing 1-866-372-1144.

**Army Isolates General and Soldiers Returning from West Africa:** The two-star Army general and members of his staff who led the initial military efforts against Ebolain West Africa have been isolated on post as they returned to Italy, the Pentagon said. Maj. Gen. Darryl Williams, the commander of U.S. Army Africa, and 11 soldiers on his staff were taken to a building on the U.S. base at Vicenza, Italy, where they will be held in isolation for as long as 30 days on orders of the Department of the Army, the Pentagon said. Army Col. Steve Warren, a Pentagon spokesman, did not use the word "quarantine" to describe the status of Williams and his troops, but said they were undergoing "enhanced monitoring" and were not allowed to leave the building or have contact with family members. Other U.S. Army Africa troops returning to Vicenza later this week were also expected to be isolated, Warren said. In a statement, the Defense Department said that the isolation order from the Army came "out of an abundance of caution." So far, none of the soldiers have shown any Ebola symptoms, the deadly virus that has spread across the West African nations of Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. The Army's order went beyond the Pentagon's initial guidelines for troops returning from Operation United Assistance in West Africa.

**As Marines Depart Afghanistan, Legacy Lingers:** The Marines' handover of Camp Leatherneck to the Afghans is more than a signal that America's longest war is ending. It is a reminder that the Marines' battlefield gains were tempered by losses: 378 killed, nearly 5,000 wounded. Camp Leatherneck is the sprawling base in Afghanistan's Helmand province from which the Marines surged against the Taliban in 2009. The keys to Leatherneck were turned over to Afghan authorities Sunday in a ceremony that also marked the handover of Camp Bastion, an adjacent British-run airfield. Helmand province was the epicenter of President Barack Obama's surge against the Taliban. The Marines focused on it so completely that some dubbed the patch of desert "Marine-istan." It was the fight the Marines itched for after they switched their attention from Iraq's Anbar province, which by 2008 had grown so quiet that Marines complained of boredom.

**Good old Harry Truman was correct when he observed, "My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician. And to tell the truth, there's hardly any difference!"**

**Stories from you contain historical value for all who served. Please send your story to Editor, 2/1 Newsletter either by email [rheroux1@nc.rr.com](mailto:rheroux1@nc.rr.com), or by snail mail at 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525. (See page 6)**

**Recon (on Baldy).** We go out to the real place tomorrow. Will I ever get off detail?! This funky assed SP/5, fat, just like Hoskins [a man I used to work with that died driving drunk] was (RIP), smart (IQ), conceited. and he has a big mouth. Says he is in drawing "over 2 years pro pay". He says he may be a squad leader. I hope to hell I ain't in his squad, if I am I'll get out one way or the other. In recon platoon we will be about 1/2 mile from perimeter in look outs and if and if we see Charlie we will call in mortar, cannon, air strikes etc. and get back to the perimeter if we can. There is a big rock on a hill here painted "In memory of recon 12 May 68" and a picture of Snoopy. Lots of real war stories about battle at Cam ... (can't remember the name) but as I have said, I wasn't there so I cannot tell them. From here on out it may be difficult to keep a diary but I'll do as best I can. Rode out here on Huey slick. The real nitty gritty starts tomorrow and I hope I do a good job. We will not be carrying a ruc sack like the line platoons do, the bush beaters, we will have to travel light in case we hot foot it back to camp. besides we will not need as much eqpt. We will travel to and from outpost by Huey I think. Got off to a bad start this morning. Capt. chewed us out for being (in his words) smart assed. Think it was cause we gave a jeep driver a little hell (in jest) early this morning about getting some transportation to take us to E company. Later a Sgt came got us and we followed him down a path over a small hill. We didn't know it was that close.

Written by **J. Dan Hollins' 1968**

**VA Expands Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) Contracts to Provide Access to Primary:** VA announced recently that primary care has been added to the services available to Veterans through VA's Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) contracts, a key and evolving part of the non-VA medical care program. Eligible Veterans are already able to access inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care and limited newborn care for female Veterans following childbirth under PC3. "With the addition of primary care services, VA Medical Centers can now use PC3 to provide additional types of care in order to reduce wait times," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "This modification is another example of how we are working to ensure Veterans get the care they need, when they need it and where they want to be seen." VA Medical Centers have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for Veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. This additional option is available to purchase non-VA medical care when required Veteran care services are unavailable within the VA medical facility, or when Veterans benefit from receiving the needed care nearer to their homes. In addition, VA is reviewing how PC3 may be used to help implement the newly enacted Veterans.

**Editor' Note:** The 2/1 Infantry Chapter ADVA has a new feature designed to enhance the communications between and for members. Everyone has embraced the new communications concept known as "FACEBOOK" Well not to be outdone your Chapter now has a "FACEBOOK" account. You can access the page by using the following URL; [www.2-1-196th.com](http://www.2-1-196th.com). Anyone can join in to the page and use it to express your views and make comments. But please remember to keep the comments civil and appropriate.

**US to Increase Security at Some Federal Buildings:** Security will be increased at various federal government buildings in Washington and other major American cities, the Homeland Security Department announced Tuesday in what it described as a "precautionary step." The move came one week after a gunman in Ottawa fatally shot a soldier as he stood as a ceremonial guard at Ottawa's National War Memorial, then stormed the Parliament building. Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper called the shooting a terrorist attack. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson would not identify the buildings where there will be an increased security presence or disclose the specific security measures to be taken by the Federal Protective Service, which protects more than 9,500 federal facilities visited daily by roughly 1.4 million people. But he said "prudence dictates a heightened vigilance" to protect government buildings and workers.

**Navy Falls Behind on Maintenance, Deployments:** The Navy's recent decision to swap two scheduled aircraft carrier deployments revealed a problem plaguing the service: After years of conflict in the Middle East, its aging fleet of warships has been over tasked and under-cared for, leading to a growing maintenance backlog that threatens its ability to respond to future threats. Of the warships that entered private and public shipyards for repairs and upgrades last year, fewer than half rejoined the fleet on time and on budget, according to the Navy's own analysis. The factors contributing to the delays and overruns are many, and although the Navy has a plan to correct the problem, digging out of the hole will likely take years. Adm. Jonathan Greenert, chief of naval operations, explained last week how delayed maintenance can have a cascading effect across the fleet, leading to extended deployments, rescheduled or canceled departures -- and uncertainty for sailors and their families.

**Army Says Only 30% of Americans Could Join:** The U.S. Army now says that seven out of 10 young people between the ages of 17 and 24 are ineligible to become soldiers. The alarming reduction in the pool of prospective soldiers worries Army brass and they largely attribute it to three issues: obesity or health problems; lack of a high school education; and criminal histories. "There's a reliance on an ever-smaller group of people to serve and defend the country," said Maj. Gen. Allen Batschelet, commanding general for the U.S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Ky. "What do we do about that and how do we address that concern? "That's the big national security question that I'm struggling with today." Facing challenges like more restricted access to schools and technological changes that require hiring for positions with very specialized skills like cyber warfare, the Army is preparing for a recruiting offensive using new tools and techniques to re-define the 21st century soldier. "I would say it's modernizing, or defining in a more precise way, what is considered quality for soldiers," Batschelet said. The current state of Army recruiting remains solid. Influenced by budget cuts and the drawdown of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, along with a still sluggish economy, the Army has been able to tighten requirements while still meeting its manpower needs.

Among the things that are quite easy, even simple for a child to operate, are the grandparents.

**Operation Homefront:** Operation Homefront provides direct services to alleviate a military family's or individual's actual/complete emergency financial burden, as well as counseling and/or recovery support. Emergency financial assistance is in the form of checks paid directly to mortgage lenders, auto mechanics, contractors, hospitals, doctors, dentists and other providers. Other emergency funding assistance, which an applicant receives within 24 to 72 hours, can include emergency food, emergency home repairs, critical baby items, furniture and household items, home and appliance repair, local moving assistance, Wounded Warrior transitional family housing, and community events. For more information, visit the [Operation Homefront website](#).

**Decorated Soldier From 'Black Hawk Down' Battle Dies at 52:** A decorated soldier who participated in the Somalia battle immortalized by Hollywood blockbuster "Black Hawk Down" was reportedly found dead in his Georgia home earlier this month. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Gallagher, 52, died of natural causes as a result of a heart condition, Army Times reports. He served as the command sergeant major for the Army's Wounded Warrior Program, but had extensive experience in major combat operations, including Operation Just Cause in Panama and with Task Force Ranger in Mogadishu, Somalia, which was later made famous by the 2001 film. "You know, I don't say this lightly, but Bob is probably one of, probably the best soldier I ever served with, retired Col. Greg Gadson told the newspaper. "That man really cared about soldiers." Born in Bayonne, N.J., Gallagher joined the Army in 1981 and later earned several awards and decorations, including a Silver Star, two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. He earned the Silver Star in 2002 during Operation Iraqi Freedom as troops advanced from Kuwait to Baghdad, when he suffered a leg wound but continued to direct his men. "The best day and worst day of my life was when I served in Mogadishu, Somalia, on October 3, 1993, as part of Task Force Ranger," Gallagher said in 2010. "It was the worst day, because we lost 18 soldiers and 84 others, including myself, were wounded.

**Green Berets Reportedly Criticize Performance of Afghan Troops:** Elite Army troops have disparaged the fighting capability of Afghan troops to military investigators probing the deaths of five soldiers in a friendly fire incident earlier this year, according to a published report. The Washington Times claims that several Green Berets have described how Afghan soldiers have refused to fight and hidden among trees and behind rocks when coming under fire. The criticisms came to light on the same day that the last unit of U.S. Marines in Afghanistan concluded its combat mission, handing the base known as Camp Leatherneck to Afghan troops. The comments by the Green Berets were made to investigators from U.S. Central Command during discussions of an incident from this past June, when five U.S. soldiers and an Afghan sergeant were killed when a B-1 bomber mistakenly dropped two bombs on their position during a battle against Taliban forces in southern Afghanistan.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, *'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.'* (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

**A VETERAN'S COMMENTS, VETERANS' DAY 2014** You may have served in Combat or in non-combat. You may have retired out or you may have served for a short time. You may have been a draftee or a volunteer. You may have served in the Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Marines, BUT YOU SERVED. YOU DID YOUR JOB HONORABLY and for that I am PROUD to call you Brother. You may have served during Korea , WWII, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan, But you served, you did not run. You have a DD 214 with those words "HONORABLY DISCHARGED" two of the most noble words in the world. Again I am proud to know each and every one of you. "Today is Band of Brothers' Day"; send this to all your brothers, fathers, sons and fellow veterans you know. Happy Brothers' Day! To the cool men that have touched my life: Here's to you!! I am thankful and proud to have served among them . A real Brother walks with you when the rest of the world walks on you. Send to all your Band of Brothers.

### Ole and the Doctor!

A doctor in Duluth, Minnesota wanted to get off work go hunting, so he approached his assistant. "Ole, I am goin' huntin' tomorrow and don't want to close the clinic. I want you to take care of the clinic and take care of all my patients." "Yes, sir!" answers Ole.

The doctor goes hunting and returns the following day and asks: "So, Ole, How was your day?" Ole told him that he took care of Three patients. "The first one had a headache so I gave him TYLENOL."

"Bravo, mate, and the second one?" Asks the doctor.

"The second one had stomach burning and I gave him MAA-LOX, sir," says Ole.

"Bravo, You're good at this and what about the third one?" asks the Doctor.

"Sir, I was sitting here and suddenly the door opens and a woman enters. Like a flame, she undresses herself, Taking off everything including her panties and lies down on the table and shouts: 'HELP ME - I haven't seen a man in over two years!!'"

"Tunderin' Lard Yeezus, Ole, What did you do?" asks the doctor.

"I put drops in her eyes!!"

If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union Speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven.

~Will Rogers~

NO MATTER THE PRICE  
NO MATTER HOW NEW  
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE  
IN THE CAR IS YOU  
Burma Shave



"The Sands" I corps South Vietnam



Caption taken from 196th Journal 1969