



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



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

Volume 7

“A Soldier Once And Always”

July 2017

Commanders Corner: Wow, I just realized this is my 70th column for the newsletter since I officially became commander of this great chapter; only 5 more to go before our new commander takes over. That’s a good thing because I’m quickly running out of words and ideas. I’m sure my former English teachers would be amazed since I was voted from grade school on as the student least likely to grasp a command of the English language. It’s been a great pleasure to write this column and serve our members. Our member response regarding attendance to the Americal reunion in Minnesota has been really terrible so, if you haven’t contacted us on your status, get with it so we can ensure we have a hospitality room that will be large enough. To those of you having already responded, I want to thank you. Our upcoming election will be an important one and we’d like to have as many chapter members attending our annual chapter meeting as possible. I hate to be redundant but, as mentioned before, it’s our election year and we would like to have your input on nominees for the offices of Commander, Vice-commander and Secretary/Treasurer. We still are in need of nominees and would hate to wait until the last minute before someone steps forward. Our chapter is only as effective as our membership makes it and takes an active participation to make it work. The officers have recently reviewed our Chapter By-laws and may now extend invitations to all current and former veterans of the 2nd of the 1st Infantry Regiment to become members of our chapter. This proposal has been run by the ADVA and we are able to extend this to non-Americal veterans. We think it is appropriate that we honor all veterans of 2/1 to enable us to extend the future of our chapter well beyond the time when we old grizzled “Nam” vets are no longer around to keep it going. Last but not least; get your butts busy and send some articles in for Rich to put into the newsletter. Please observe the pictures of the newly constructed ADVA monument placed at Fort Sill, OK at page 6 and the article containing pictures of the auction of the 2d Bn 1st Inf quilt sewn by Rene Hicks.



2017 ADVA National Reunion Bloomington, MN – August 23-27

Attendees will stay at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America hotel at 3800 American Blvd E, Bloomington, Minnesota 55425. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Hilton at 952-854-2100 or on the web at <http://group.hilton.com/americaldivisionveteransassociation>. Use the reunion Group Code: ADVA. The reunion room rate is \$114 per day plus 15.25% tax. The group rate will be offered three days before and three days after reunion dates. Call in your room reservation if you plan to use the extended dates or have any problems with the Hilton web site. There is free Hilton shuttle service from the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP) to the nearby reunion hotel. We have teamed up again with Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR). AFR will provide web based reunion registration, pre-selected banquet seating with your friends, and on-site reunion support. You may register for the reunion, tours, and banquet by completing the online form and pay by credit card at afr-reg.com/americal2017. For more details visit the Americal Division Website; Americal.org/reunion, or 2/1 Inf Chapter website; b-2-1-196lib.com/reunion events.

Honoring Another Chapter Member: Once again at our 2017 Chapter Reunion and annual membership meeting we will select another worthy member from our ranks to be the caretaker of the Company B, ornament. This trophy has been passed down to one of our member to be retained and displayed for one year. Pictured below is a photo of our 2016 holder Ernie Rodriquez. He is shown with one of his sons.



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

Chuck



My Grandparents are funny, when they bend over, you hear gas leaks and they blame their dog.

Teen Accepted at All 5 Military Academies: Red Wing's David Howe chose to aim high when he applied to all five U.S. military service academies. It paid off. Howe, a 2017 Red Wing High School graduate, gained acceptance into each academy -- the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy -- West Point, U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. "Everybody we've talked to said they've never heard of that before," said John Howe, David's father. "It's extremely difficult to get into one." Applicants must be interviewed and nominated by a senator or representative as part of the admission process. "He has just demonstrated really good leadership ability, and he's always willing to help other kids that either need help with schooling or just help in general," John Howe said. David was a three-sport athlete who was consistently one of the top students in his class, John Howe said. "He graduated with a 4.0 GPA for his high school career," he said. "We've known David has been a special kid." After careful consideration, David Howe will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, where he will report for duty on June 29. After college, David will enter the Air Force with the rank of second lieutenant, and will be required to serve a minimum 10-year term of active duty. His goal, he said, is to eventually become a pilot. "I'm excited for all of the opportunities," David Howe said. Red Wing High School Principal Todd Herber said he expects David's academic and athletic background to carry him toward future military success. "David is one of those quality kids you hope to run into as many times as you can in your career," Herber said.

Message from VA Secretary: Good Afternoon/evening Everyone, During his White House press conference, VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin also announced the "soft launch" of President Trump's promised White House hotline for veterans' complaints. The hotline opened yesterday and is expected to be fully operational by Aug. 15. The hotline's phone number is [855-948-2311](tel:855-948-2311). An automated greeting welcomes callers to the "White House-VA veteran complaint hotline." It is currently only operational weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, and is closed on federal holidays, but is expected to be manned 24/7 by mid-August.

This is For Your Information;

I called in today. It switched over to the VA Headquarters in Washington, D. C. I was able to talk to a real person. I waited for 12 minutes. They will ask questions, and if you have a case number. Hope this in time will help ALL veterans, family, and caregivers.

Sincerely,

Gene Crego

Vietnam Veterans of America

Arizona State Council President

Military Exchange Shopping (What we used to call the PX): Here ya go guys, this could be a nice little benefit, should be able to save some money. Hope this works for everyone, check it out!

The Army, Air Force and Navy exchange will start allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop online, (Think Amazon, but only cheaper with no taxes.) The target start date is Veterans Day, November 11, 2017. but you must register first. registration begins June 1, 2017. you must call 1-844-868-8672, after June 1 to register.

GUYS, SEND THIS TO ALL OF YOUR VETERAN FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

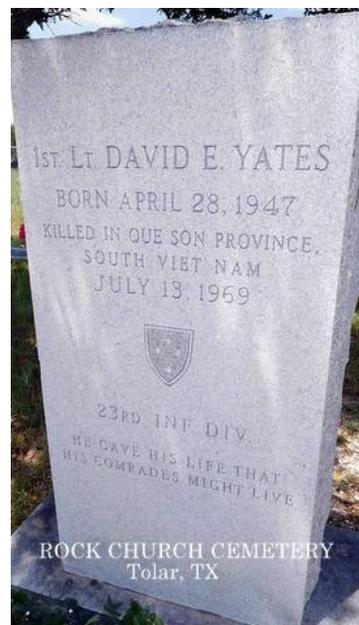
The Passing of Thomas F LaZear: It is with great sorrow that we forward the announcement of the passing of Thomas F. LaZear. The passing occurred following surgery early June 11, 2017. He was 69. Tom served his country as a member of Company B, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division during 1968-1969. He always remained a proud soldier. Tom's last twenty years were spent improving the lives of recovering veterans. Words can not adequately express the depth of his love for family and friends. Rest in Peace, Comrade.



Warrior's Place of Repose Located: After several unsuccessful attempts to locate the place of internment of 1LT David E. Yates who died from injuries sustained on July 13, 1969, Quang Nam Province just off Landing Zone "BALDY". Lt Yates entered the U.S. Army following his graduation from Texas A & M. He was from Chesapeake, Virginia, Vietnam Wall Panel W21 Line 115. We were informed by the Army that his remains were buried at Fort Hood, TX; however, attempts to locate the grave-site turned out unsuccessfully. Did you know there are over 20 cemeteries on Fort Hood? A photo showed up recently on the Americal "Facebook" site a reference to a grave belonging to Lt David E. Yates. It was posted by an Americal Division veteran living in the Fort Worth area James Moss. For the past seven years James Moss has been taking care of the cemetery surrounding his grave in the Rock Church Cemetery in Tolar, TX. Approximately 20 miles from Fort Worth. Yearly Jim decorates the plot with American flags on Memorial Day to honor his service to our country. . James has sent several pictures of his head stone. Jim is not a member of our Chapter but is an Americal Veteran.

Front View

Back View



Band Proposal Extends IVF, Adoption Help for Injured Veterans:

The funding bill for the Department of Veterans Affairs approved by a House committee gives the agency approval to continue funding in-vitro fertilization after the current 2018 expiration. A 2016 law lifted a longtime ban on the coverage but is set to expire at the end of 2018 if Congress takes no further action. The bill also extends the VA's authority to provide the same adoption reimbursements for veterans that active-duty troops receive through the Defense Department. The VA began coverage for in-vitro fertilization, which can cost up to \$12,000 per attempt, in mid-January with the publication of a set of coverage rules in the Federal Register. VA adoption expense reimbursement, however, has yet to start because the department has not issued a coverage policy. Officials said they are in the process of creating that rule.

"An interim final rule on reimbursement of adoption expenses has been drafted and is being circulated through VA's internal concurrence process with a request for expedited review," Randal Noller, a VA spokesman, said in a statement. The law establishing the VA adoption benefit says it should mirror the DoD's adoption reimbursement program. That means when the policy is final, it will reimburse qualifying veterans for up to \$2,000 in expenses per child, with a limit of \$5,000 per calendar year. The process for being reimbursed, as well as other details, will likely be addressed in that VA policy. Before becoming law, the funding proposal must be approved by the Senate and then signed by the president, a process likely to stretch into this fall. The bill does not include a specific funding level for the benefits. To qualify for VA fertility or adoption help, veterans must have sustained service-connected injuries that leave them unable to have children. That means the treatment is not open to veterans who qualify for general health care through income or disability rating but who do not have a service-connected reproductive injury. The VA gives other fertility help to those who qualify for care but don't necessarily have service-connected reproductive injuries. Those treatments include infertility counseling, blood testing, vasectomy and tubal ligation reversals, and medication, the final IVF rule states.

Army to Expand Arlington Cemetery: Arlington National Cemetery is moving ahead with plans to expand by roughly 50,000 spaces, extending the cemetery's life beyond 2050. For several years, military officials tried to negotiate a land swap with Arlington County that would allow the cemetery to expand and accommodate the county's needs. The land cited for expansion is on the cemetery's southern border, in and around the Air Force Memorial. The cemetery also will acquire about 5 acres from Arlington County and 7 acres from the state of Virginia. Congressional legislation passed last year gives the Army the leverage to move ahead without exchanging any land. Arlington County and the Army had been negotiating land exchanges for the better part of a decade. The most recent proposal was held up in large part because of Army concerns that the county would use the land it obtained in a swap for transit maintenance and bus storage. The Army was concerned about such a facility's compatibility with what it considers sacred ground. The county tried to provide assurances that its use of the land would not intrude on the cemetery. The county said it will now focus on negotiating a fair price for the land that Army intends to purchase. "While we are disappointed that Arlington County will not receive any land in this area for county needs through a land exchange agreement, we are committed to working with the cemetery to support one of our nation's most cherished and hallowed sites," Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz said. In a report issued earlier this year, the Army estimated that the southern expansion will add 40,000 to 60,000 spaces to the cemetery, and extend the life of the cemetery by 10 to 15 years, beyond the year 2050.

Almost 70K Veterans Apply for Online Exchange:

More than 67,000 veterans have applied to shop on the military exchange store websites under a recently released benefit. The benefit clears the way for honorably discharged veterans from any era to shop at the exchange stores online. In the past, the shopping benefit both online and at brick-and-mortar locations was limited primarily to active-duty troops; National Guardsmen, reservists and their dependents; and retirees and their dependents. The benefit, which is set to officially begin on Nov. 11 -- Veterans Day -- rolled out June 5 for a group of "beta testers" randomly selected from those who applied to use the system via the new VetVerify.org web portal. That system allows veterans' information to be verified with the Defense Department so they can be cleared to use the online exchange stores. About 57,000 veterans have been verified through the system since the June 5 start, said Christopher Ward, a spokesman with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, which is managing the program. About four percent of those verified have been selected as beta testers, he said. When selected as early users, veterans will receive either a message at the time of application letting them know that they can shop immediately or an email notification later. Early users are being added on a rolling basis, Ward said. The verification site, VetVerify.org, asks users to input their first and last names, last four digits of their Social Security number, birth date, email address and service branch. Veterans will then be notified whether they are ineligible, are already eligible to shop, that they will be eligible on the official Nov. 11 launch date, or that they have been randomly selected to be a beta tester. Early users will also be sent additional emails asking about their experience. "You have been randomly granted early access to all of the online exchanges as part of the Veterans online shopping benefit. This means you can create an account, explore the sites and start shopping today!" the email announcing early selection for the site states. "As part of this beta test, you will periodically receive surveys regarding your experience shopping with the exchanges," it states. "Your feedback will help us meet your needs as well as address any concerns you may have."

DFAS: New Feature to Update Mailing Address:

AskDFAS" is fast, convenient way to make sure your mailing address is correct. Doing this will help you receive your tax documents and other important account information in a timely manner. Avoid going through the 1099-R reissue process. So, don't wait! Use link below and follow these steps: <https://corpweb1.dfas.mil/askDFAS/ticketInput.action?subCategoryID=13824>

1. Agree to the DOD consent pop up
2. Provide your first and last name
3. Enter your e-mail address
4. Enter a passcode to gain future access to your ticket
5. Enter your social security number
6. Enter your new mailing address
7. Answer all four identity questions
8. Enter prior zip code
9. Click "submit" to send your request to a customer service representative.

Shell Shock and the Remedy: World War I trench warfare was loud, with artillery rounds exploding over the heads of doughboys creating noise levels of 140 decibels or higher. This was why the U.S. Army introduced audiology care at the end of World War I to help returning soldiers from what was called "shell shock" because of noisy shell explosions.

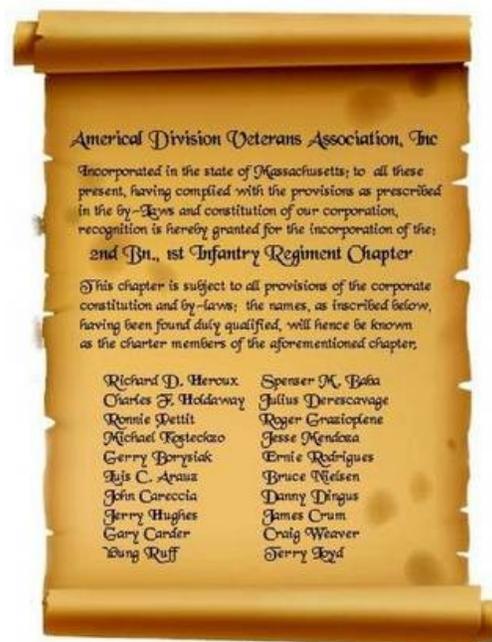
Needing Troops, Army Offers Up To \$90K Bonuses To Re-Enlist: Struggling to expand its ranks, the Army will triple the amount of bonuses it's paying this year to more than \$380 million, including new incentives to woo reluctant soldiers to re-enlist, officials told The Associated Press. Some soldiers could get \$90,000 up front by committing to another four or more years, as the Army seeks to reverse some of the downsizing that occurred under the Obama administration after years of growth spurred by the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. The enlistment campaign was driven by Congress' decision late last year to beef up the size of the Army, echoing the spirit if not quite the extent of President Donald Trump's campaign promises to significantly increase military staffing and firepower. Last fall, Trump unveiled a plan that would enlarge the Army to 540,000 soldiers. Army leaders back the general idea, but say more men and women must be accompanied by funding for the equipment, training and support for them.

Teamwork Provides the Energy for Annual SMART Ride:

Few exemplify it better than Karen Frank-Noll, 62, and Jerry Hughes, 70, TSR from Miami to Key West, Florida. There are no awkward pauses when you talk to Karen and Jerry. Enthusiasm precedes every anecdote, careful consideration underscores every point they make. Karen first joined The SMART Ride in 2006, when she joined AIDS Help, Monroe County's first, and only, beneficiary from the very first SMART Ride. "I didn't even have a bike at that time," she recalls, laughing. "I knew not one participant. I walked into a room of complete strangers...plus I had to raise \$1,250 to participate." It wasn't the 165-mile trek from Miami to Key West that was most daunting; it was asking for money. Now it's the easiest. "I never counted on people understanding the importance and open their checkbook, but when you ask with passion, people embrace it." She helmeted up, "prepared harder than I probably ever have since" and, by journey's end, "I was hooked." Karen's not boastful, so it's Jerry who speaks with pride of her subsequent participation in three rides within the same calendar year: a 350-mile ride in Wisconsin, a 7-day, 545-mile fundraiser from San Francisco to Los Angeles and TSR. Jerry, as witness to Karen's commitment in 2006, joined the effort in 2007 as part of a Sweep Team – following the course and providing transport in the event of injury, mechanical problem or exhaustion. Personal experience with HIV/AIDS also lent a personal reason: Jerry's youngest brother died from the disease in 1992 after a 1989 diagnosis. "It's both moving and motivating." Jerry's involvement evolved in 2016, shifting into a broader transport: Keys riders to and from home. He's seen personal frustration and weather-related SNAFUs...and he's also seen perseverance. "The goal is 100 miles that first day, and I watched a fellow with a flat tire determined to make it to Hawk's Kay on his own," Jerry recalls. "And he did." It's esprit de corps that spills over into fishing expeditions and Sunday practice runs to a local Coffee Shop. For 2017, Karen serves as co-captain of the Lower Keys' Mile Markers team with Donald Gene Dotzauer (the team's top fundraiser for the last two years raising \$12,415 of the team's combined \$105,585). "Many first-timers come aboard as a kind of a Bucket List thing. We had a 70 year-old join last year," Karen states. "When we reflect on the race, it is very emotional. It's no longer a race to them. It's a ride for a cause." "And that 70 year-old woman is returning this year," Jerry adds.



Formation of 2/1 Infantry Chapter: Many of you might be interested on what prompted the establishment of the 2/1 Infantry Chapter of the Americal Division Veterans Association. Here is the background. Many had wanted to break away from the ADVA reunions and have a simple reunion for just the members of the 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry. The attending group of members at the 2000 ADVA reunion in Chicago, while attending a graveside ceremony for Raul (Heavy) Perez who lost his life in May 1969 during a combat assault at Tien Phouc, RVN. Because of the complications involved with establishing and running a reunion, it was decided to piggy-back with the ADVA. The ADVA already had the mechanism in place for conducting a large reunion, it just made sense that we tag along with ADVA. A vote was taken and it was decided to establish a 2/1 Infantry Chapter. In order to complete the organizational requirements an Executive Board composed of the leadership of the Chapter. Chuck Holdaway was elected Commander, with Rich Heroux, as Senior Vice Commander, and Don Hicks as the Secretary/Treasurer; another 2 members are selected by the Commander to serve as an advisory capacity was elected. A charter was drafted and a logo designed to represent the Chapter was drafted. Following the administrative requirements were met, the Executive Committee started to recruit new members and printing a monthly Newsletter to keep everyone informed of what is going on and other articles of interest to the members. Today, annual membership meetings are conducted in conjunction with the annual ADVA reunions. Our Chapter started with 20 members and we now stand with 121, representing every company in the 2/1 Battalion. Fees were established to cover stamps, printing, purchasing refreshments for our reunion, and fees for our 2/1 WEBSITE. Dues require the collecting of \$5.00 per member each year or \$50.00 for a lifetime membership. As our members started leaving, many of the spouses desired to continue receiving information about the 2/1 Chapter and attending the reunions; a proposal was adopted to make them associate members. The Chapter currently has seven Associate members. Officers are nominated from the floor and elected for two year terms during the annual meetings. In 2017, the membership will once again elect the three officers according to the By-Laws that will continue to administer the Chapter's affairs. It is anticipated that we will once again select from our membership those people that will aspire to offer leadership advancing not only the membership, but also the activities bringing about an exchange of ideas to promote information exchange for all. Anyone with these desires are welcome to step up to the plate. The Chapter is looking for new leaders to bring fresh new ideas for the membership.



2/1 Infantry Chapter Silent Auction

Come on comrades get your offers in early to acquire this beautiful hand sewn quilt. The quilt was on display at the 2016 reunion in Albuquerque, NM. We have had some bids on the quilt but decided to hold off until this years reunion to see if we can get some more exposure and bids. If you want to place a bid on this quilt and you are not going to attend the 2017 ADVA Reunion in Minneapolis, MN, send your bids to the Secy/Treas. Jesse Mindosa via phone call or email.



The quilt was sewn by Rene Hicks in 2016. Pictures do not provide justice to the quilt's appearance. You have to see it to get the full beauty of the craftsmanship that is contained in the quilt's design and appearance. It's a knockout.



Don't let this one get by you.

Get your bids in early to ensure you are on the list of bidders.

Fort Sill, Oklahoma



Dedication Ceremony Americal Division Artillery Monument Constitution Park



*"Dedicated as a
Permanent Memorial to
All Artillery Branch Veterans
of the Americal Division"*

World War II

Cold War

Vietnam War



Our thanks to Ronnie and Linda Pettit for their efforts to bring us this article.

Identity Theft – What to do if you’re a victim

By Mary Benzinger, Army Legal Assistance Attorney, Joint Legal Assistance Office

“Identity theft” generally involves someone fraudulently using your name, social security number or credit cards without your permission. There are many forms including using your social security number for employment, taking out loans and credit cards in your name, renting apartments, filing a false tax return to obtain a refund and even giving your name and social security number when arrested for a crime.

Being the victim of identity theft can be a very frustrating and scary event. Someone out there is pretending to be you.

Placing an initial 90-day fraud alert on your credit report with one of the national credit reporting companies (Experian, Transunion, and Equifax) is the first thing you should do if you believe you are the victim of identity theft. You can do all three or just one. (Once you place with one, the others will be notified.) The initial fraud alert notifies potential new creditors that they must take extra steps to ensure that they are dealing with you and not someone pretending to be you. The creditor will usually call you or contact you by mail. This alert stops thieves from committing more fraud.

You can place a 7-year extended fraud alert on your report. To do this, you must file a police report or a report with the Federal Trade Commission regarding the identity theft incident. The initial fraud alert entitles you to one additional free credit report per year, and the extended alert gets you two additional reports per year.

You can also establish a security freeze on your credit report. Unlike the fraud alert, you must contact all three credit reporting agencies individually. This freeze prevents potential creditors from accessing your credit report without your express permission. Typically, creditors check your credit report before extending credit, so the freeze effectively stops anyone pretending to be you from opening new accounts. If you are the victim of identity theft, placing the freeze is usually free. If you’re not a victim, then there may be a nominal charge for placing a freeze. Forty-seven states have rules for how to place a freeze. The credit reporting company can help you navigate those rules.

Once you have the report, you should closely examine all accounts listed, check addresses and names listed, review credit inquiries from companies and verify the accuracy of all other information on the report.

If you find errors on your report, you may file a dispute, free of charge, with the three major credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Transunion, Experian). You can file a dispute online at their websites or by mail at the designated address of each company. If you find an error on one report, you should check the reports from the other two companies and file a dispute with each of them if a similar error exists. If a creditor is involved (like a credit card you do not recognize), you should contact that creditor as well. Typically, your dispute should include the details of the nature of the error (unknown name listed for you, unknown address for you, name of the creditor, account number, dollar amount disputed and any date associated). You may also submit your dispute through the Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov> or the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov and they will forward your dispute to the appropriate credit reporting bureau.

Then the credit reporting bureau performs an investigation of your complaint usually within 30 days. This may include them contacting the creditor in dispute. Once the investigation is complete, the credit bureau may update the status of the disputed information if it is deemed correct or delete the disputed item from your file if incorrect. If the disputed information is found to be correct, you may request that a statement of explanation be added to your file regarding the disputed item.

If you do find an account opened in your name that wasn’t opened by you, consider putting a “freeze” on your credit report account. The creditor bureaus will “lock” your credit report. That way any prospective new creditor cannot pull a credit report on you without your express permission to the credit bureau.

Active duty or retired Servicemembers and their ID card holder Family Members may be eligible for free legal assistance. To find a legal assistance office near you, call your nearest military installation or go to http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit_Library/Federal_Benefits_Page/Legal_Assistance_Services.html?serv=148.