



388TH



Newsletter of the Carson Area Chapter - 388 of the Vietnam Veterans of America
 commobunker388@charter.net



WOMEN IN VIETNAM

It is estimated that approximately 11,000 military women were stationed in Vietnam during the conflict. Nearly all of them were volunteers, and 90 percent served as military nurses, though women also worked as physicians, air traffic controllers, intelligence officers, clerks and other positions in the U.S. Women's Army Corps, U.S. Navy, Air Force and Marines and the Army Medical Specialist Corps. In addition to women in the armed forces, an unknown number of civilian women served in Vietnam on behalf of the Red Cross, United Service Organizations (USO), Catholic Relief Services and other humanitarian organizations, or as foreign correspondents for various news organizations.

The great majority of the military women who served in Vietnam were nurses. All were volunteers, and they ranged from recent college graduates in their early 20s to seasoned career women in their 40s. Members of the Army Nurse Corps arrived in Vietnam as early as 1956, when they were tasked with training the South Vietnamese in nursing skills. As the American military presence in South Vietnam increased beginning in the early 1960s, so did that of the Army Nurse Corps. From March 1962 to March 1973, when the last Army nurses left Vietnam, some 5,000 would serve in the conflict. Five female Army nurses died over the course of the war, including 52-year-old Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham, who served as a military nurse in both World War II and Korea before Vietnam and suffered a stroke in August 1968; and First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane, who died from shrapnel wounds suffered in an attack on the hospital where she was working in June 1969. Lane was posthumously awarded the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Bronze Star for Heroism.

Early on, the U.S. Army resisted sending women other than nurses to Vietnam. The Women's Army Corps (WAC), established during World War II, had a presence in Vietnam beginning in 1964, when General William Westmoreland asked the Pentagon to provide a WAC officer and non-commissioned officer to help the South Vietnamese train their own women's army corps. At its peak in 1970, WAC presence in



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Richard Arnold
CEO

email rick@directdemocracy.com

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

ELECTED OFFICERS

Members of the Executive Committee

Tom Spencer	President
Dan Dirodoni	Vice President
Jack McQuirk	Treasurer
Lee Jackson	Secretary

APPOINTED POSTS

Chaplain	Parliamentarian	Sgt - at - Arms
Bruce Bertram	Darrol Brown	Frank Reynolds

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 Finance Committee**
 Community Services Committee
 Outreach
 Membership Affairs
 Government Affairs
 Adopt-a-Vet Dental Program
 Communications
 POW/MIA
 Health/Transportation
 Special Events
 Scholarship
 VSO
 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day
 Women's Affairs

CONTACT

Tom Spencer
 Tom Spencer
 Frank Reynolds
 Verne Horton
 Dan Dirodoni
 Darrol Brown
 Brenda Horton
 Verne Horton
 Darrol Brown
 Neal Davies
 Jack McQuirk/Larry Knack/Ron Moore
 Darrol Brown/Bruce Bertram
 Joe Matisohn
 Rick Arnold
 Lee Jackson

AD HOC COMMITTEES

As Called for by the President

** Membership established by Chapter By-Laws
Chapter President is a member of all Committees



388th is a monthly publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America - Carson Area Chapter 388 and is published solely for the education of and communication with it's membership and other interested parties. Not for Sale.

Verne R. Horton, Editor/Publishere

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 Chapter 388 Website: <http://vva388.com/>
 Chapter Facebook Page: VVA Chapter 388 Carson City Nevada
 Chapter President: Frank Reynolds: vva388@gmail.com

Chapter Meetings:

Veterans Hall - 2nd and Curry Streets, Carson City, NV 89701
1st Thursday of each month - 5:30 pm

Breakfast Meetings

Grandma Hatties Restaurant - 2811 So. Carson St., Carson City
Mid- Month - email vva388@gmail.com for specific date and time.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE IN THAILAND

Submitted by John Hussong

There were a few USAF units in Thailand as early as 1961. The first increase of resources began in June 1964 with the deployment of the first tactical aircraft. The Gulf of Tonkin incident in August of 1964, signaled the beginning of a period of significant growth.

By the end of 1964, there were over 6,000 USAF personnel in Thailand. The Royal Thai Air Force bases at *Udorn, Korat, Takhli, Ubon* and *Don Muong*, all "hosted" USAF units.

At the close of 1966, 26,000 personnel, 416 USAF aircraft were based in Thailand. By December of 1967, two more bases: *Nakhon Phanom (NKP)* and *U-Tapao* were added, bringing the number of USAF aircraft to 505 that were conducting operations from Thailand.

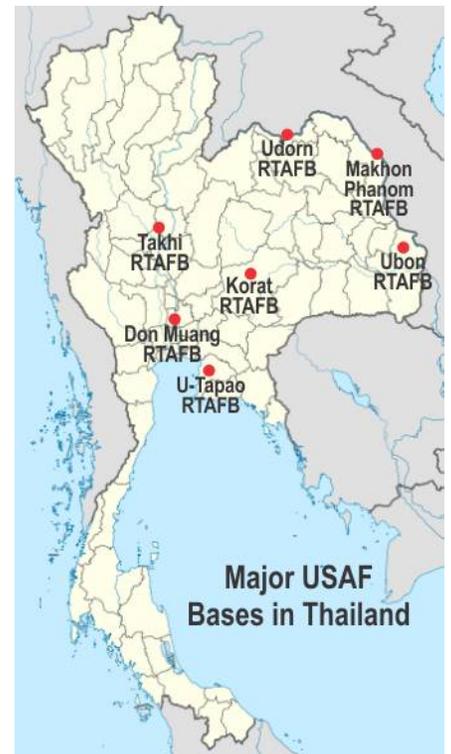
In 1968, President Johnson ordered a halt to the bombing of North Vietnam and subsequently, USAF forces in Thailand were gradually reduced. Operations ceased altogether at Takhli Royal Thai AFB and by 01Apr72, there were only 317 tactical aircraft in all of Thailand and those included 42 B-52 bombers and 35 KC-135 refueling tankers at U-Tapao RTAFB.

The North Vietnam invasion of South Vietnam in 1972 resulted in the Temporary Duty (TDY) deployment of additional USAF units to Thailand. By 24May72, the United States response to the communist invasion had increased USAF forces to 537 tactical aircraft to include 52 B-52's and 62 KC-135 tankers plus, 29,118 military personnel. Probably the most spectacular example of the deployment took place at Takhli RTAFB - by 24May72, Takhli RTAFB was reopened to USAF units - there were 74 F-4D Phantom fighter/bombers and 16 KC-135 refueling tankers. The U.S. Department of Defense press releases revealed that several, if not all remaining USAF units stationed in the Republic of South Vietnam would be deployed to Thailand.

"The threat to our resources at the Thai bases has materially increased since 01Apr72. The buildup since then, has made them more lucrative targets and the importance of these bases, in the interdiction of the current offensive, is not lost to the North Vietnamese."

SAPPER (*Dac Tong*) attacks on Thai bases:

1. 26Jul69 - Udorn
2. 29Jul69 - Ubon
3. 13Jan70 - Ubon
4. 10Jan72 - U-Tapao
5. 04Jun72 - Ubon



Major USAF
Bases in Thailand



On April 2nd, Chapter 388 celebrated national "Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day" by, again hosting its "Welcome Home" Ceremony at the Nevada State Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Mills Park - Carson City.

After an invocation by Chaplain Bruce Bertram and a Moment of Silence for POW-MIAs, President Frank Reynolds read a proclamation from Nevada Governor Sandoval. Remarks by Bob Crowell, Mayor of Carson City, Vietnam Veteran and member of Chapter 388 followed after which all Vietnam and Era veterans were massed while Taps was rendered for all our Brothers and Sisters who have gone before.

Immediately following the Ceremony, everyone was invited to a reception at the Gold Dust West Hotel/Casino.





Carson Area Chapter 388 - Vietnam Veterans of America

2003 Pontiac Grand Am Give-Away Winner!



(l to r) Incoming Chapter Vice President, Dan Dirodoni, Dan's Grandson Daniel, and incoming Chapter President, Tom Spencer

The winning ticket was drawn during the "Welcome Home" reception at the Gold Dust West Hotel Casino on April 2nd. Incoming Chapter President, Tom Spencer announced that the winner was none other than our Incoming Vice President Dan Dirodoni!! After the raucous (but good natured) cries of "Fraud" and "Corruption in High Places" had died down, Dan was called up to accept the keys. After his "acceptance speech", Dan called his Grandson, Daniel now 15 years old, to the podium where upon he announced that the car would be his the minute he had a valid driver's license!

The raffle of the car was a success for the chapter netting us approximately \$4,000! Our sincere thanks to all who sold and bought tickets. A special thanks goes to the family of member George Lipps, who passed away on March 15, 2015, for donating the car to the Chapter for use as a fundraiser.

Our Congratulations to Dan and Daniel!!

2016 - 2017 CHAPTER OFFICIALS

ELECTED OFFICERS

Members of the Executive Committee

Tom Spencer President

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(775) 721-4423 jmcquirk@charter.net

Lee Jackson Secretary

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APPOINTED POSTS

Chaplain Parliamentarian Sgt - at - Arms
Bruce Bertram Darrol Brown Frank Reynolds
(775) 790-0411

Cont'd from Page 1

Vietnam numbered some 20 officers and 130 enlisted women. WACs filled noncombat positions in U.S. Army headquarters in Saigon and other bases in South Vietnam; a number received decorations for meritorious service. No WACs died during the conflict.

Members of the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps also played an important role in the conflict beginning in 1963. Five Navy nurses were awarded the Purple Heart after they were injured in a Viet Cong bombing of an officers' billet in downtown Saigon on Christmas Eve 1964; they became the first female members of the U.S. Armed Forces to receive that award in the Vietnam War. Apart from nurses, only nine Navy women—all officers—served in Vietnam, including Lieutenant Elizabeth G. Wylie, who worked in the Command Information Center on the staff of the Commander of Naval Forces in Saigon beginning in June 1967; and Commander Elizabeth Barrett, who in November 1972 became the first female naval line officer to hold command in a combat zone.

Women also served as members of the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps and the Women's Air Force (WAF) during the Vietnam conflict. Captain Mary Therese Klinker, one of the eight military women killed in Vietnam, was the flight nurse on the U.S. Air Force C-5A Galaxy that crashed April 1975 near Saigon. (The plane had been on a mission for Operation Babylift, which placed Southeast Asian orphans with families in the United States; some 138 people were killed in the crash, including many Vietnamese children and a number of female civilians working for U.S. government agencies.) Klinker was posthumously awarded the Airman's Medal for Heroism and the Meritorious Service Medal. The U.S. Marine Corps had a more limited female presence in Vietnam, as until 1966 only 60 female marines were permitted to serve overseas, with most of those stationed in Hawaii. From 1967 to 1973, a total of 28 enlisted Marine women and eight officers served in Vietnam at various times.

In addition to the U.S. military women who served in Vietnam, an unknown number of female civilians willingly gave their services on Vietnamese soil during the conflict. Many of them worked on behalf of the American Red Cross, Army Special Services, United Service Organizations (USO), Peace Corps, and various religious groups such as Catholic Relief Services.

Other American women traveled to Vietnam as foreign correspondents for news organizations, including Georgette "Dickey" Chappelle, a writer for the National Observer who was killed by a mine while on patrol with U.S. Marines outside Chu Lai in November 1965. According to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation, 59 female civilians died during the conflict.



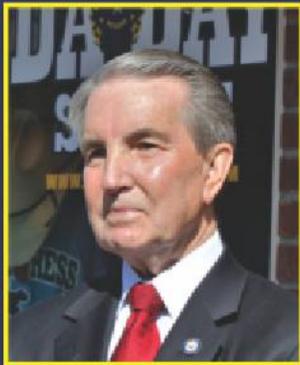
Army Sgt. 1st Class Alan L. Boyer, 22, of Missoula, Montana, was assigned to the Command and Control Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group, when lost in Laos on March 28, 1968. He has been returned home and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location to be announced.



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- Mayor Bob Crowell



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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

by John Hussong

Commendation Medals

The Commendation Medal is a mid-level U.S. military decoration which is presented for sustained acts of heroism or meritorious service. For valorous actions in direct contact with an enemy, but of a lesser degree than required for the award of the Bronze Star Medal, a Commendation Medal with "V" device or Combat "V" (Navy/Marine) is awarded; the "V" device may be authorized for wear on the service and suspension ribbon of the medal to denote valor. Each branch of the United States Armed Forces issues its own version of the Commendation Medal, with a fifth version existing for acts of joint military service performed under the Department of Defense.



Five Commendation Medals are awarded by branch or service. From left to right: Joint Service, Air Force, Army, Navy & Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Awarded by United States Department of Defense

Type: Military medal (Decoration)

Eligibility: Military personnel only

Awarded for: Heroism, Meritorious Achievement, or Meritorious Service.

Established:

Navy & Marine Corps - 1943

Coast Guard - 1943

Army - 1945

Air Force - 1958

Joint Service - 1963



Five Commendation ribbons are awarded by branch or service.

Top row: Joint Service, Army.

Bottom row: Air Force, Navy & Marine Corps, Coast Guard.

JOE HOOPER (MEDAL OF HONOR) VIETNAM



Joe Ronnie Hooper enlisted in the United States Navy in December 1956. After graduation from boot camp at San Diego, California he served as an Airman aboard USS Wasp (CV-18) and USS Hancock (CV-19) and he was discharged in July 1959, shortly after being promoted to Petty Officer 3rd Class.

Hooper reenlisted in the United States Army in May of 1960 as a Private First Class and

attended Basic Training at Fort Ord, California. After graduation, he volunteered for Airborne School at Fort Benning, Georgia and then was assigned to Company C, 1st Airborne Battle Group, 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and was promoted to corporal during this assignment. He then served a tour of duty in Korea with the 20th Infantry in October 1961 and shortly after arriving he was promoted to sergeant and was made a Squad Leader. He left Korea in November 1963 and was assigned to the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas for a year as a Squad Leader. He was promoted to staff sergeant in September 1966 and volunteered for service in Vietnam. Instead he was assigned as Platoon Sergeant in Panama with the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, first with HQ Company and later with Company B.

Hooper couldn't stay out of trouble and suffered several Article 15 hearings, being reduced to Corporal in July 1967. He was promoted once again to Sergeant in October 1967 and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell and deployed with the division to Vietnam in December as a Squad Leader. He returned from Vietnam and was discharged in June 1968. Reenlisting in the Army in September, Joe served in Panama from July 1969 to August 1970. He managed to "finagle" a second tour in Vietnam and from April to June 1970 he served as a Pathfinder with the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and from June to December 1970 he served as a Platoon Sergeant. In December of 1970 he received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant and served as a Platoon Leader with Company A, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) until April 1971. Upon his return to the United States he attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course and was then assigned as an instructor at Fort Polk, Louisiana

Despite wanting to serve twenty years Hooper was forcibly retired in February 1974 as a First Lieutenant, mainly because he barely had a GED and had taken only a handful of college courses. As soon as he was released from active duty he joined a unit of the Army Reserve's 12th Special Forces Group (Airborne) in Washington state, as a Company Executive Officer. In February 1976 he transferred to the 104th Division (Training), also based in Washington. He was promoted to Captain in March 1977.

Joe Hooper died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Louisville, Kentucky May 6, 1979 at the age of 40.

Captain Joe R. Hooper holds a place with SGT Alvin York, MAJ Audie Murphy, and COL Robert L. Howard as one of the most decorated soldiers in US Military history. Captain Hooper is buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Section 46, adjacent to the Memorial Amphitheater.

HOOPER'S MILITARY DECORATIONS AND AWARDS INCLUDE

Medal of Honor

- Silver Star with one bronze oak leaf cluster
- Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device and one silver oak leaf cluster
- 8 Purple Hearts
- Air Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Navy Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with one silver and one bronze star
- Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army & Air Force Presidential Unit Citation
- Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation
- Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation
- Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Master Parachutist Badge

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Brenda Horton, HLM

VVA-388/Adopt a Vet Dental Program Volunteer Case Manager

Unfortunately, the Adopt a Vet Dental Program has had to close their Wells Clinic which has placed the pre-screened veterans awaiting treatment at the clinic back on the general waiting list. But, the good news is that the Carson Area has gained 2 new participating dentists and there's hope for a third one. The first one is Randy Wright, DDS who is a general dentist and the second is Chris Lingard, DDS who is an endodontist (root canal specialist).

There are, presently, 14 veterans undergoing some stage of their treatment and 4 veterans awaiting acceptance by a dentist.

Recently, there have been some changes within the structure of the Reno office, but they have had little effect on the Carson Area at this time. One positive thing we've been attempting to do this year is meet on a monthly basis which has greatly improved the communication between AAVD headquarters and our Carson Area operation.

On another note, I have been in contact with the Carson Valley Middle School National Junior Honor Society and the students have agreed to bake cookies and then assist in nicely plating them for distribution to the Carson Area AAVD participating dentists and dental labs as appreciation for their service in providing better dental health for veterans. Distribution is set for April 20th & 21st.

The date for the Adopt a Vet Poker Run has been set for Saturday, August 6th commencing at Battle Born Harley Davidson in Carson City! The Run pins have been designed and I am in the process of ordering this year's pins. Shortly, we plan to contact the 'Stop' locations to insure their participation again this year. Posters/Flyers are designed and are being printed and will be available for distribution soon. Solicitation letters seeking raffle prizes have been prepared and are available for those who wish to help in this important area. I have already began receiving chapter members' commitment to man stops for the Poker Run, but more volunteers are needed. I appreciate everyone's effort in this event, for all of the profit goes to the AAVD program and is earmarked specifically for the Carson Area.

This is the fourth annual AAVD Poker Run and we expect 100 bikers. The cost for registration is \$35 biker - \$15 rider for pre-registered participants and \$40 biker - \$20 rider for "Day of Event" registration. The Best Poker Hand, again, wins \$500 in cash! As in previous years, live music and lunch will be included and we'll be raffling off some great Raffle Prizes.

As always, I appreciate all the Chapter members who help make this event great and to those members throughout the year that lend a hand in providing dental service to veterans.

The column on the right is a list of our current Dental Professionals who selflessly donate their time, their skills and those of their staffs to improve the quality of life of needy veterans in our area by providing "pro bono" dental care. Please join us in personally thanking them when the opportunity arises.

Jason Acevedo, DDS

Minden

Gary Aglietti, DMD

Carson City

Michael Almaraz, DDS

Carson City

Daniel Budd, DDS

Minden

Greg Carmen, DMD

Carson City

Ryan Coombs, DDS

Carson City

Bruce Dow, DDS

Hawthorne

Richard Dragon, DDS

Gardnerville

Stuart Drange, DDS

Gardnerville

Steven Draper, DDS

Yerington

Celeste Eckermann, DDS

Minden

Julio Escobar, DDS

Dayton

William Holmes, DDS

Carson City

Ben Horgan, DDS

Carson City

Douglas Karwoski, DDS

Dayton

Jeremy Keener, DDS

Winnemucca

Richard Klein, DDS

Carson City

Larry Leonakis, DDS

Carson City

Chris Lingard, DDS

Carson City

Richard Lusby, DDS

South Lake Tahoe

Timothy Pinther, DDS

Gardnerville

Drew Robison, DDS

Carson City

James Seyfried, DDS

Minden

Ben Syndergaard, DMD

Carson City

Ron West, DMD

Carson City

Randy Wright, DDS

Carson City

Frederick Young, DMD

Carson City

2016 TENTATIVE CALENDAR

The below events and dates with the exception of Chapter Meetings, Breakfasts and National Holidays are tentative and subject to change.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 16	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
May TBA	Outreach	
May 5	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
May 21	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
May 21	ARMED FORCES DAY	
May 30	MEMORIAL DAY	
June TBA	Outreach	
June 2	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
June 11	Carson Valley Days Parade	Minden
June 18	Carson City Airport Open House	Carson City
June 14	FLAG DAY	
June 18	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
July 4	INDEPENDENCE DAY	
July 7	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
July 16	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
August TBA	Outreach	
August 4	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
August 6	Adopt a Vet Poker Run	Carson City
August 20	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
September TBA	Outreach	
September 1	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
September 11	388 Summer Sizzler BBQ	Carson City
September 16	POW/MIA Recognition Day	TBA
September 17	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
September 17 & 18	Dayton Valley Days	Dayton
October 6	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
October 15	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
October 29	Nevada Day Parade	Carson City
November 3	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
November 11	Veterans Day Parade	Virginia City
November 19	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
December	Christmas Party	TBA
December 1	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
December TBA	Christmas Shopping for Families	Walmart -Topsy Ln.
December 17	Wreaths Across America	Fernley



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Don Kemp	Apr 5	Roy Place	May 3
Bob Murdock	Apr 6	Randy Roth	May 4
Eric Lydic	Apr 12	Al Bond	May 10
Roger Diez	Apr 22	Harry Wheeler	May 14
		John Trammell	May 22
		Bill Lepore	May 27

A limited number of VVA POW-MIA Challenge Coins are available for a \$10.00



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USEFUL CONTACTS

Carson Area Chapter - 388, Vietnam Veterans of America website www.vva388.org ; email: vva388@gmail.com

Websites

VVA www.vva.org

- Programs, News, Forms, Services, Applications
- Benefits, Publications/Forms, LSO Listings
- 1-877-222-8387 (Help Line)
- 1-800-237-8255 (Crisis Line)
- 1-877-424-3838 (Homeless)

Service Records www.archives.gov

Memorial Wall Research www.virtualwall.org

Agent Orange Website www.lewispublishing.com

- FAQ's, Maps, VA Compensation & Claims

General Military www.military.com

- Benefit Info, News, Stories, Buddy Finder

Nevada Dept. of Veteran Services www.veterans.nv.us

- Benefit Info, News

Army Times www.armytimes.com

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

Navy Times www.navytimes.com

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Marine Corps Times www.marinecorpstimes.com

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

Air Force Times www.airforcetimes.com

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50th Anniversary - Vietnam War www.vietnam50th.com

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Local Veteran Services

F.I.S.H.

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Carson City, NV 89706
Office: 775-992-3474
email: www.info@nvfish.com



Reno Veteran Center

5580 Mill Street
Reno, NV 89502
Office: 775-323-1294
Fax: 775-322-8123



Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

350 Capitol Hill
Reno, NV 89502
Office: 775-324-6600



US Veterans Employment Services

500 E 3rd Street
Carson City, NV 89713
Office: 687-4632



Nevada Job Connect

775-4684-0456
1929 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701



Veterans Employment Services State Dept. of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation

1933 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
Office: 775-684-0400



Northern Nevada Veterans Resource Center

Reno 419 W. Plumb Lane
Reno, NV 89509
775-284-8387



Veterans Healthcare USA

145 Esmeralda Drive.
Washoe Valley, Nevada 89704
Office: 887-338-8807



Carson City 305 N. Carson St., Suite 201
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 283-4838
(775) 360-2157 - fax

Western Nevada College Veterans Resource Center

Western Nevada College
Cedar Building 327
2201 West College Parkway
Carson City, NV 89703
(775) 445-3000



State of Nevada Department of Veterans Services

Katherine Miller, Director - millerk@veterans.nv.gov



Veterans Service Officers

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Fax: 775-321-4848

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Fallon, NV 89406
Office: 775-428-1177
Fax: 775-423-9371



Joe Matisohn, Veterans Service Officer
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Caleb Cage, Director of Military and Veterans Policy - Nevada Governors Office
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