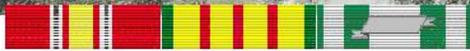
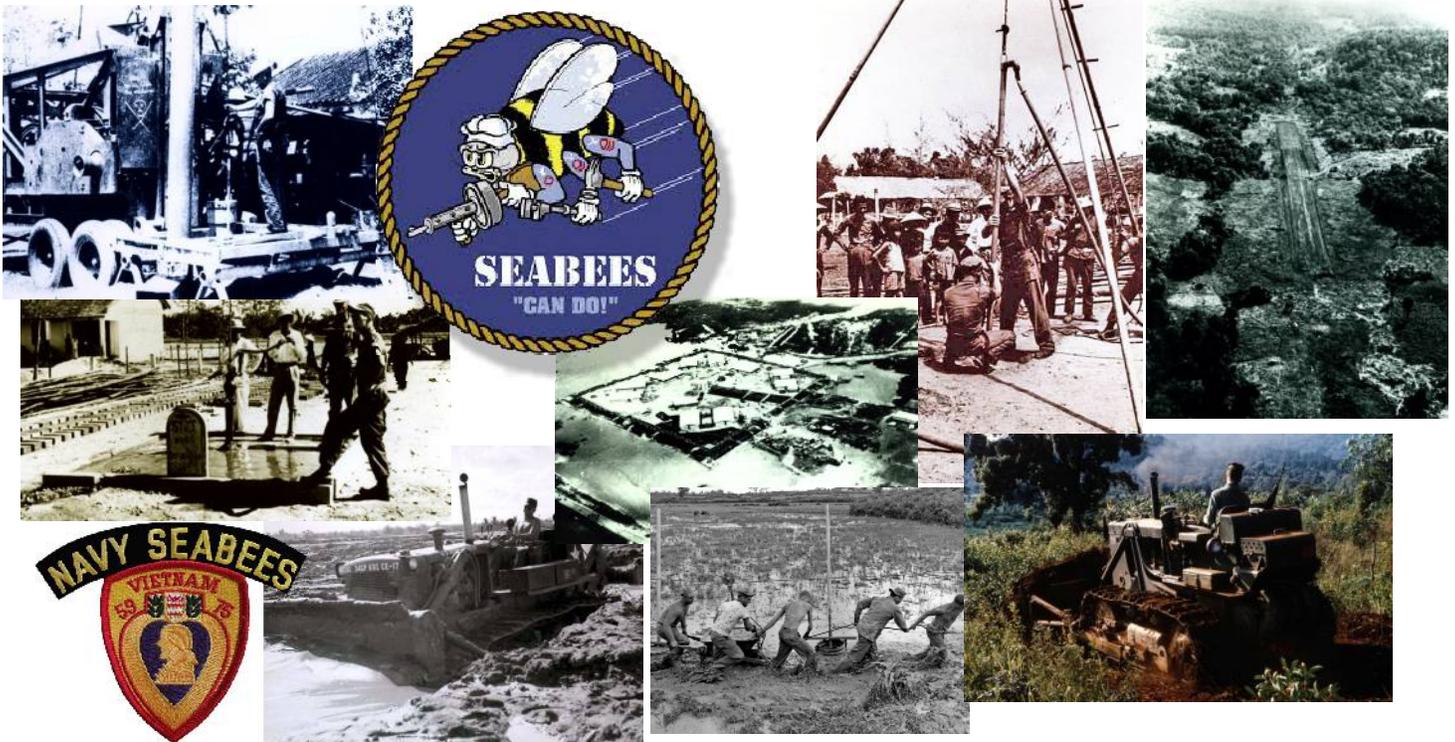




388TH



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



SEABEES IN VIETNAM

by Larry DeVries, CAPT CEC USNR (Ret.)

The story of the Navy Seabees in Vietnam is one that stretches over a number of years and includes many, many accomplishments. The first Seabees were deployed there as Navy Seabee Technical Assistance Teams, (later named Seabee Teams) at the behest of the State Department for civic action as early as 1956. Other Seabee teams followed, but without a continuous presence, during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Seabee teams (officially called naval construction units) arrived again in South Vietnam in January 1963, first in support of U. S. Army Special Forces and later in support of U. S. Agency for International Development. They worked to construct small, fortified camps for Army Special Forces and to assist Vietnamese civilians living in rural areas. Special Forces personnel worked in remote sections, training and advising Civilian Irregular Defense Groups in guerrilla tactics; thus, they needed stronger base camps that could withstand Viet Cong ground and mortar attacks.

ACB-1, assigned under the Amphibious Command of the U. S. Navy's 7th Fleet, was the first commissioned unit to land in South Vietnam in April 1964 in Da Nang. They remained there until May 1965.

The major expansion in U. S. military engagements began in 7 May 1965 when the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at Chu Lai, Republic of South Vietnam (the Seabee Camp there was later named Camp Shields). That landing force was the largest since Inchon, Korea, and included MCB-10, with 24 Officers and 738 Enlisted authorized but manned at about 500 men, including nearly 200 Reservists. Their deployment was from 7 May 1965 and would last, with several redeployments to homeport, until 16 September 1970.

Action in June 1965 resulted in the only Seabee to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor when Seabee Team 1104 and a U. S. Army Special Forces unit were assaulted by the Viet Cong. The battle occurred at the crossroads village of Dong Xoai (pronounced Swy) on June

(Cont'd on Page 3)



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Tom Spencer	Vice President
Jack McQuirk	Treasurer
Lee Jackson	Secretary

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 Community Services Committee
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 Membership Affairs
 Government Affairs
 Chaplain's
 Adopt-a-Vet Dental Program
 Communications
 POW/MIA
 Health/Transportation
 Special Events
 Scholarship
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 Welcome Home
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 Darrol Brown/Bruce Bertram
 Joe Matisohn
 Rick Arnold
 Lee Jackson

AD HOC COMMITTEES

Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day	Rick Arnold
Wreaths Across America	
Veterans Day Committee	
Others (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/Publisher

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388th Newsletter Email: commobunker388@charter.net



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.

VA SAYS, NO AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE COMPENSATION FOR BLUE WATER SAILORS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has once again turned down an effort by Navy veterans to get compensation for possible exposure to Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

In a document released February 5, 2016, the VA said it would continue to limit benefits related to Agent Orange exposure to only those veterans who set foot in Vietnam, where the herbicide was sprayed, and to those who were on boats in inland rivers.

Advocates for some 90,000 so-called Blue Water Navy veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam have been asking the VA for more than a decade to broaden the policy to include them. They say that they were exposed to Agent Orange because their ships sucked in potentially contaminated water and distilled it for showering, drinking, laundry and cooking. Experts have said the distillation process could have actually concentrated the Agent Orange.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims last April struck down VA rules that denied compensation for sailors whose ships docked at certain harbors in South Vietnam, including Da Nang. Those ports, the court determined, may have been in the Agent Orange spraying area.

"Environmental health experts in VA's Veterans Health Administration have reviewed the available scientific information and concluded that it is not sufficient to support a presumption that Blue Water Navy Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange," the VA said in a fact sheet.

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), the ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, criticized the VA's decision.

"Rather than siding with veterans, VA is doubling down on an irrational and inconsistent policy," he said in a statement. "Young sailors risked their lives during the Vietnam War, unaware that decades later, they and their children and grandchildren would still feel the toxic effects of exposure. Veterans who served offshore and in the harbors of Vietnam were exposed and deserve the presumption of service connection for Agent Orange-related diseases."

A 2011 Institute of Medicine report said there was no way to prove Blue Water vets were exposed to the chemicals, but it identified plausible routes that Agent Orange could have traveled out to sea and into a ship's distillation system.

The VA said it is working with veterans groups to "initiate a groundbreaking study of Blue Water Navy Veterans health outcomes. We hope to have data gathered and analyses published in 2017."

Veterans called the VA's decision a betrayal. John Wells, a Louisiana lawyer who has spent more than a decade advocating for Blue Water veterans, said his group would continue challenging the VA and push for legislation that would mandate coverage for the Blue Water veterans.

Blue Water vets - so named to set the sailors apart from their Brown Water Navy counterparts, who patrolled the murky rivers of South Vietnam — were initially deemed eligible for compensation under the Agent Orange Act of 1991, only to have the VA change its interpretation a decade later.

(Cont'd. from page 1)

10, 1965. CMA3 Marvin G. Shields, USN, died in the assault and was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.

The Seabee era for units could be said to include the period from 1964 to 1973, when the last unit left Vietnam, or about nine years. The extended period, including Seabee Teams, would be from 1956-1973, or 17 years.

The Chiefs of Navy Civil Engineers and Heads of the Bureau of Yards & Docks during the Vietnam era were: RADM Peter Corradi, CEC, USN, from 12 February 1962 to 31 October 1965 and RADM Alexander C. Husband, CEC, USN, from 1 November 1965 to 29 August 1969. The change in title was made and the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command was RADM Walter M. Engler, CEC, USN, from 29 August 1969 to 11 May 1973.

In the spring of 1965 there were 9,400 Seabees on active duty at various sea and shore locations. Most of the Seabees were assigned to ten peace-time (reduced) strength MCBs. They were split between Atlantic Seabees, Davisville, RI & Gulfport, MS, and Pacific Seabees, Port Hueneme, California, and their deployment sites.

A major training and logistics base for the Pacific Command was at Subic Bay in the Philippines where the Navy and the Bureau of Yards and Docks (later, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, renamed in 1969) had maintained a significant presence in the Far East dating back to the Korean Conflict buildup and basing of regiments and mobile construction battalions.

During the Vietnam era the total Seabee force grew from 9,400 in mid-1965 to 14,000 in mid-1966, to 20,000 in mid-1967, and finally, to more than 26,000 at the peak in 1968 & 1969. In 1969 the strength in Vietnam was about 11,000 consisting of units of all types (below). To help meet the great need for personnel the Navy recruited skilled construction workers at advanced pay grades. The direct procurement Petty Officer program was reminiscent of early World War II started in early 1966. Recruiting efforts proved highly effective both in terms of total numbers recruited (more than 13,000) and quality of input.

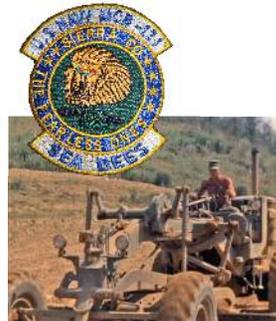
Two Reserve Seabee battalions were to make history as attention turned in 1967 to potential reserve battalion call-up planning. Of the eighteen reserve battalions, MCB-12, located in Davisville, Rhode Island, and MCB-22, located in Dallas, Texas, received orders in the month of June 1967 to prepare for recall to active duty.



They reported aboard Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi. They served for about seven months each in Vietnam returning in July and August 1969.

In all, the following commissioned Seabee units served in Vietnam:

- MCB-1, -3 through -11, 12, 22, 40, 53, 58, 62, 71, 74, 121, 128, & 133,
- 3d Naval Construction Brigade,
- 30th Naval Construction Regiment,
- 32nd Naval Construction Regiment
- CBMU-301 and CBMU-302, and
- ACB-1 & ACB-2.



Seabee details, of various sizes but normally 50 men or less, were working in many places away from the parent unit throughout Vietnam. Seabee Teams were normally about 15 men with a CEC officer were normally engaged in USAID projects. Seabee Teams also operated from Thailand. Other units included CBPAC Det RVN and CBPAC Det Thai (Bangkok) which provided support to teams and units. Seabee equipment overhaul support was provided at Guam, Okinawa, and Yokosuka, Japan, as well as state-side at Treasure Island and Port Hueneme, California.

In addition there were two thousand plus Seabees assigned to Naval Support Activities (NSA) and their detachments throughout the country.

Units were generally on an eight-month deployment and a return to home port for six months before deploying again.

The strength of the Seabees decreased from 1969 until 1973 during the period of the Nixon Administration's policy of Vietnamization, announced on 8 June 1969, until the last unit, CBMU-302, left South Vietnam in 1973. Two years more would elapse before the North Vietnam invasion force's Final Offensive overwhelmed the South Vietnam military in April 1975.

VVA CHAPTER 388 OFFICER ELECTIONS

The election of Chapter Officers for the fiscal years 2016 and 2017 will be held during the Chapter's up-coming April meeting - April 7, 2016.

Nominated candidates are:

for Chapter President - Tom Spencer

Chapter Vice President - Dan Giridoni

Chapter Secretary - Lee Jackson

Chapter Treasurer - Jack McQuirk

Nominations were accepted and closed by Election Committee Chair, Darrol Brown who will conduct the election on the 7th. Officers elected will be installed and begin their term of office in May, 2016.

CARSON SHERIFF PROPOSES VETERAN SUPPORT STRUCTURE

Carson City Sheriff Ken Furlong has identified a problem in the state capital, and he has proposed a way to solve it.

“There are a ton of veterans in this town that no one knows they’re here,” Furlong told a panel of community members, making specific note of the problem of homelessness among Carson City’s veteran population.

“Veterans should not be homeless,” Furlong said. “But it’s a repetitive problem we often hear.”

The panel consisted of veterans and veteran organization leaders, veteran support personnel, representatives from the local media.

Noting the absence of a Veterans Administration presence in Carson City, Furlong said the biggest problem for veterans here is the fragmentation of services, which makes finding the right one for a veteran’s needs difficult.

“We’re not well connected in Carson City,” Furlong said. “It’s a sad state that we are in a city where the mayor is a veteran, the city manager is a veteran, and the sheriff is a veteran, and we don’t know where to go for services.”

But using the State of Nevada’s Green Zone Initiative as a model for implementing a centralized network of service providers, Furlong hopes to change all of that.

“I have this vision of an Internet link on the Carson City government web site,” he said, “that takes you to a hub or wheel that has the answers.”

There are veteran resources for employment, education, housing and health care that already exist, and service providers who deliver them.

But the problem is connecting them all onto the same wheel to better serve veterans.

The members are in place for a structure, Furlong said, but they need to be connected by a proper and strong foundation that holds them together.

Furlong’s idea would have all veterans’ needs flow through a central hub where communication is shared among service providers to accomplish the goal of helping veterans meet their needs.

What the initiative is not is more government, Furlong said. Rather, it’s the same government pooling its resources together with community stakeholders to improve service delivery for veterans.

Furlong assured Wednesday’s panel that both the mayor and the city manager are fully on board with this concept.

“I’m asking government to endorse a link to services,” he said. “We need to reach out and get all of the stakeholders in this community together.”

Military veterans have a hard enough time amalgamating back into civilian life, Furlong said, and we owe it to them to make their lives a little bit easier.

“Veterans struggle with services, and I’m sympathetic to that,” he said. “I think we can create a door that opens veterans to the world.”

The Carson Area Chapter 388 of the Vietnam Veterans of America presents the

2016

WELCOME HOME!



VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

April 2, 2015 - 5:00PM

At the Nevada Vietnam Memorial,
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are invited to attend the 2016

“Welcome Home Ceremony”

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Vietnam Veterans Memorial - East End of Mills Park

A no-host reception will follow from
5:30PM to 8:30PM. Vietnam Veterans
and the public are invited to attend.



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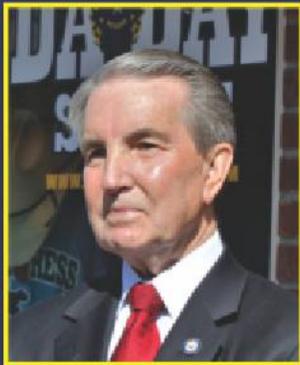
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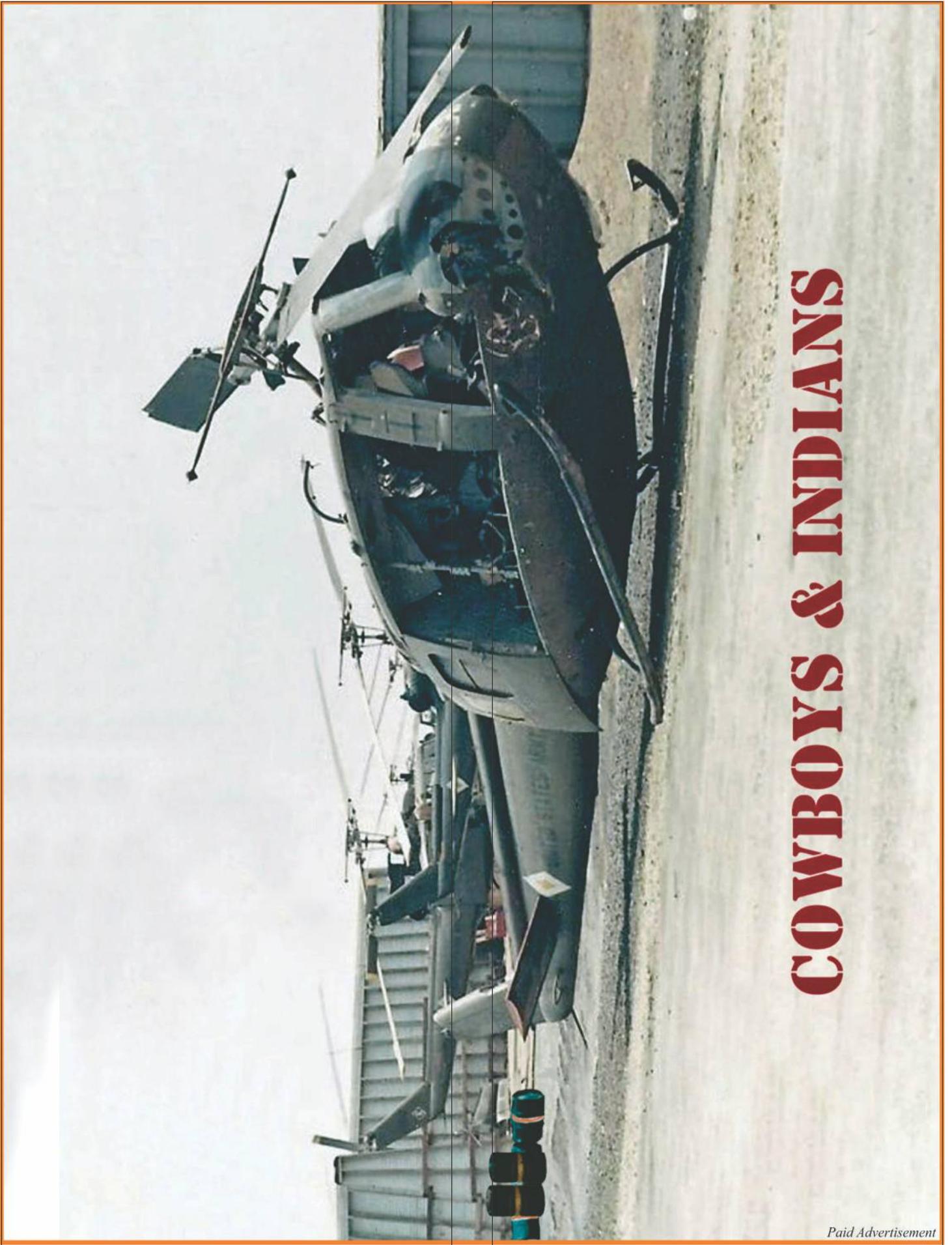
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AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Bronze Star (BSM)

by John Hussong



The Bronze Star Medal was originally established by Executive Order (E.O.) 9419 on February 4, 1944. Since then, it was superseded by E.O. 11046 on August 24, 1962 and then amended on February 28, 2003 by E.O. 13286.

The BSM may be awarded by the secretary of a military department or by the Secretary of Homeland Security (with regards to the U.S. Coast Guard) or by such military commanders as the secretary may designate.

The BSM may be awarded to any person who, while in service to: the Army, Navy, USMC, USAF or USCG of the United States after December 6, 1941 who distinguishes or has distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement (not including aerial flight):

- while engaged in action against an enemy of the U.S.
- while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing force
- while serving with friendly forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing force



The BSM with the "V" device denotes heroism and is the 4th-highest military decoration for Valor and 9th-highest in order of precedence in the U.S. Military. Only one "V" device may be worn on a suspension and service ribbon, however, additional awards of the BSM are as follows:

Army & USAF - oakleaf cluster



USN, USMC, USCG - 5/16" star



The Bronze Star Medal is awarded only to service members in combat who are receiving "imminent danger pay" (for us old timers, that would mean: hazardous duty pay or being in a combat zone)



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Brenda Horton, HLM

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

This month brings the start of the 4th year of the Chapter's involvement with the Adopt a Vet Dental Program. The beginning of the month brings the memory of those early months when AAVD had 4 general dentists and 2 specialty dentists in the Carson Area. We've seen the program change and grow. There are presently 29 dentists donating their time, supplies, and effort in contributing to those veterans so much in need of dental care.

A summary of the services provided are:

- Presently 29 veterans are in some stage of dental treatment
- 23 veterans have been scheduled for pre-screening
- The 'waiting' list is gone for all veterans are in some stage of processing.
- The waiting period is now 0 months versus the 2.5 years in 2013.
- A total of **64** veterans from the Carson Area have completed their dental treatment...an average of 21.3 veterans per year!
- Average treatment value is estimate at \$6500 - \$8000
- 0 waiting acceptance by dentist, paperwork completed
- There are only 12 dentists not participating in the Carson Area. Recently we are attempting to contact these dentists to ascertain if they are now interested.

I am in the process of organizing the 4th Annual Poker Run event. The proceeds goes directly to the AAVD – Carson Area to help offset the cost of the dental lab fees. With the re-opening of Battle Born Harley-Davidson (Carson City) I have set a firm date for Saturday, August 6, 2016 for the Poker Run in which we estimate 100 bikers and riders. I've contact the band and food will again be provided by Grandma Hattie's. We hope to surpass last year's donation to the AAVD of \$2,400. All members are asked to help with this event, either at registration, manning a “stop”, and/or soliciting raffle prizes.

I discovered another avenue of spreading the word about Adopt a Vet Dental by you informing your non VA physician. They often see veterans that are in need of dental care. Each Chapter member is asked to inform low-income veterans in need of dental treatment of the program and to continuously thank those dentists who provide their generosity. Please give either my phone number, e-mail me at bmhorton@charter.net, or the main office which is 870-4358 in Reno.

I appreciate your support with the AAVD program.



JOHN F. WARDEN, JR

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JOHN F. WARDEN JR.

Certified Public Accountant

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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 2	Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	Mills Park/
April 7	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
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 31	MEMORIAL DAY	
June TBA	Outreach	
June 2	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
June 11	Carson Valley Days Parade	Minden
June 13	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
July TBA	388 Summer Sizzler BBQ	Carson City
August TBA	Outreach	
August TBA	Adopt a Vet Poker Run	Carson City
August 4	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
August 20	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
September TBA	Dayton Valley Days	Dayton
September TBA	Outreach	
September 1	Chapter Meeting	Carson City
September 16	POW/MIA Recognition Day	TBA
September 17	Breakfast 9AM	Grandma Hattie's
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

Raleigh Patterson	Mar 1	Don Kemp	Apr 5
Robert Winter	Mar 4	Bob Murdock	Apr 6
Joe Matisohn	Mar 12	Eric Lydic	Apr 12
Dan Howard	Mar 18	Roger Diez	Apr 22
Stu Miller	Mar 22		
Al Keller	Mar 28		
Chuck Sanicola	Mar 28		
Geneva Arnold	Mar 30		
Steve Lauritzen	Mar 31		

MARCH FACTOID

A total of 9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

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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

- Online Publication, News, Benefit Info

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

- Events, Photos, Interactive Timeline

Local Veteran Services

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Healthcare for Homeless Veterans

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US Veterans Employment Services

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Western Nevada College Veterans Resource Center

Western Nevada College
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(775) 445-3000



State of Nevada Department of Veterans Services

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



Veterans Service Officers

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Office: 775-321-4880
Fax: 775-321-4848

Fallon- 458 W. B Street, Ste. 103
Fallon, NV 89406
Office: 775-428-1177
Fax: 775-423-9371



Joe Matisohn, Veterans Service Officer
(775) 835-3181 email: benefits.al@gmail.com



Caleb Cage, Director of Military and Veterans Policy - Nevada Governors Office
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