



# LOCK & LOAD



## From the Presidents Desk:

Thanks to all who attended the March meeting. Always remember that our members are our greatest asset.

I understand that the March meeting was well attended and a lot of work was accomplished. Maybe I will leave town more often. Thanks to all who stepped forward to help with the Rifle Raffle and Poker Run.

What a great success the 'Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home' Pizza and Beer party was. I was able to meet several Members that I not met before along with several possible members. We consumed of 29 Pizzas along with an unknown quantity of beer. I have received several emails from members thanking Mike and I for coming up with this Welcome Home get-together.

If you receive this newsletter before the 16th, keep in mind that our chapter is constructing a wheelchair ramp for Mr. Unruh at 313 S. Palm. We will be meeting at Mr. Unruh residence a 9am, so grab your hammer and saw and lend a hand for a fellow veteran.

That's all for this month. See you all at the April meeting.

*John H. Howe*

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V.V.A. Chapter 750 Board Members: John H Howe, Mike Isbell, Rod Kutz, Marie Mayo, Bob Hart, Fred Collins and George White.

**THE NEXT CHAPTER 750 BUSINESS MEETING: APRIL 21ST, 1900 HOURS (7 P.M.), AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST ON SOUTH STREET.**

This newsletter was printed and distributed by **THE UPS STORE**, 14th St., Ponca City.



**CONTINUED:**

Marie Mayo read a letter about a bill for widows of 100% disabled veterans to receive a tax exemption. Mike Isbell made a motion for the chapter to send a letter to the state representative to show our support. Mike will draft a letter and will ask President John Howe to send it.

Charles Tingley gave the chapter a POW flag donated by the Deer Creek post office. It will be used as a poker run prize.

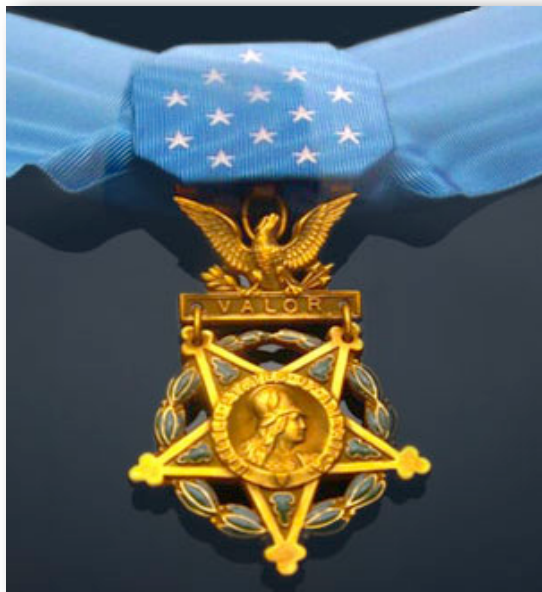
Bill Mauntel made a donation to the chapter. He said that another VVA chapter had given plaques and belt buckles to returning troops. He wanted opinions from chapter

members about what we should do for our National Guard troops when they return in about a year. A lengthy discussion was held. Several members are going to check and see what can be done. More will be discussed at the April meeting.

Everett Dowell spoke about a Vietnam Veterans Day awareness bill currently in Congress. He said that the end of May is to be declared Vietnam Veterans Day.

Motion to adjourn made by Larry Grantz. 2<sup>nd</sup> by David Harris. Motion passed.

Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> of April. Bring a new member or guest.



BARBER, WILLIAM E.

Rank and organization: Captain U.S. Marine Corps, commanding officer,

Company F, 2d Battalion 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division (Rein.).

Place and date: Chosin Reservoir area, Korea, 28 November to 2 December 1950.



**CONTINUED:**

Entered service at: West Liberty, Ky.

Born: 30 November 1919, Dehart, Ky. from Yudam-ni to Hagaru-ri, Capt. Barber took position with his battle-weary troops and, before nightfall, had dug in and set up a defense along the frozen, snow-covered hillside. When a force of estimated regimental strength savagely attacked during the night, inflicting heavy casualties and finally surrounding his position following a bitterly fought 7-hour conflict, Capt. Barber, after repulsing the enemy gave assurance that he could hold if supplied by airdrops and requested permission to stand fast when orders were received by radio to fight his way back to a relieving force after 2 reinforcing units had been driven back under fierce resistance in their attempts to reach the isolated troops. Aware that leaving the position would sever contact with the 8,000 marines trapped at Yudam-ni and jeopardize their chances of joining the 3,000 more awaiting their arrival in Hagaru-ri for the continued drive to the sea, he chose to risk loss of his command rather than sacrifice more men if the enemy seized control and forced a

renewed battle to regain the position, or abandon his many wounded who were unable to walk. Although severely wounded in the leg in the early morning of the 29th, Capt. Barber continued to maintain personal control, often moving up and down the lines on a stretcher to direct the defense and consistently encouraging and inspiring his men to supreme efforts despite the staggering opposition. Waging desperate battle throughout 5 days and 6 nights of repeated onslaughts launched by the fanatical aggressors, he and his heroic command accounted for approximately 1,000 enemy dead in this epic stand in bitter subzero weather, and when the company was relieved only 82 of his original 220 men were able to walk away from the position so valiantly defended against insuperable odds. His profound faith and courage, great personal valor, and unwavering fortitude were decisive factors in the successful withdrawal of the division from the deathtrap in the Chosin Reservoir sector and reflect the highest credit upon Capt. Barber, his intrepid officers and men, and the U.S. Naval Service.

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**I was too young for Korea and too old for Vietnam.**

**- Stephen Ambrose**

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## VA Changes Billing Process for Third Party Pharmacy

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a new billing process for charging third party insurers for outpatient prescription medications provided to Veterans for conditions unrelated to their military service. This change will not affect Veterans' co-payments for prescriptions.



"This is a simple change that makes sense for delivering Veterans' health care," said Gary Baker, chief business officer of VA's Veterans Health Administration. "VA should recoup from insurers the actual costs for prescriptions provided to Veterans rather than a flat fee that is the average of all medication costs."

Starting March 18, VA began charging third party insurers of Veterans for the full costs of prescription medications plus an administrative fee of \$11.40, rather than the flat fee of \$51 that is currently billed.

The rule change, published in the Federal Register on Oct. 6, 2010, will contribute to VA's mission of providing exceptional health care that improves health and well-being. The new billing process will be similar to how the private sector bills for prescription medications.

Veterans who receive prescriptions through VA for illnesses that are not related to their disabilities resulting from military service, currently pay a maximum of \$9 in co-pay per 30-day prescription, with many Veterans paying no co-pay at all.

Veterans with questions about their health care benefits can call the VHA Health Resource Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or visit <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/>.

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

- General MacArthur -

## *Vietnam War Resources*

### *VIETNAM - ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT VIETNAM AND A WHOLE LOT MORE*

Someone emailed me this site and I promptly ignored it. I get so many emails that are crap and that I have gotten to the point that I just don't bother with them. But for some reason I didn't delete this one and I am so glad.

I have am amazed with the amount of data collected by the gentleman. I

blame him for the amount of sleep that I have missed these past weeks.

Please check it out when you get the chance.

<http://www-static.cc.gatech.edu/fac/Thomas.Pilsch/Vietnam.html>

Your "Lock and Load" Editor

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## *VA Begins Process to Create Open Source Electronic Health Record*


### *Formally Announces Request for Proposal & Implementation Schedule*

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) aimed at forming an Open Source community around its ground-breaking VistA (Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture) electronic health record (EHR) system. When award is made under a planned RFP for a custodial agent, VA will commit to deploy the Open Source version of VistA to all of its facilities, and will contribute all non-security essential modifications to the product it makes or pays for directly to the Open Source custodian. VA will also commit to participate in Open Source VistA with other public and private sector participants.

"VistA is an important asset for VA, and for the Nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "As

we work to ensure that we provide Veterans with the best in health care, modernization of VistA is absolutely critical. This move towards Open Source welcomes private sector partners to work with us to improve VistA, and is an important part of our strategy to ensure that VA clinicians have the best tools possible, and that Veterans receive the best health care possible."

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**Member of VVA Chapter 750**

**CONTINUED:**

VA expects to begin conversion to an Open Source version of VistA by this summer. A key step in this process will be the selection of a custodial agent to perform all aspects of operating the Open Source community. On Feb. 18, 2011, VA released a Request for Information(RFI) asking for information from stakeholders and potential offerors for a custodial agent. Concurrent to this announcement VA issued a draft RFP for custodial services.

The VistA system is widely viewed as the most extensively used electronic health record system in the Nation. It is currently used in 153 major VA hospitals and more than 800 community based outpatient clinics across the U.S. It forms the basis of the Resource and Patient Management System (RPMS), the EHR system used by the Indian Health System, as well as the basis of installations in more than 50 hospitals globally. A vibrant community outside VA already uses VistA.

"Over the past year, we have followed a deliberative process to examine the implications of Open Source for VistA, and we are convinced that this is the best approach for VA, Veterans, and taxpayers," said Roger Baker, VA assistant secretary for information and technology. "Our primary goal is to re-

ignite the innovative processes that made VistA such a great EHR system. We also want to ensure that vendors of proprietary products can easily and confidently integrate their products with VistA to make them available for VA to

*DEAN'S HOME IMPROVEMENTS*

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purchase and use in our facilities." VA expects that other organizations may commit to VistA Open Source, and welcomes their participation in the development, use and governance of VistA.

VA Chief Technology Officer Peter Levin, who helped lead the Open Source initiative, said, "This is a terrific example of what the Administration means by Open Government: transparent, collaborative and truly participatory. This is a historic moment for health care informatics. By moving towards standards-based systems that incorporate health records and the best that industry and government can offer, VA will remain at the vanguard of electronic health care delivery."

## ***TAPS Organizers Hope Thousands Will Post Thank You Notes, Photos & Videos Before Memorial Day***

Express your gratitude and support for the families of our fallen military. The Give a Thousand Thanks project aims to collect thousands of messages, photos and videos to remind those left behind that America appreciates the service and sacrifices their families have made. The messages, photos and videos will be displayed at the TAPS National Military Survivor Seminar & Good Grief Camp in

Washington, DC over Memorial Day weekend, where they will be seen by hundreds of surviving families of our fallen military. Postcards can also be mailed in and will be displayed at the event. For more information, go to [www.GiveAThousandThanks.org](http://www.GiveAThousandThanks.org). For more information about TAPS, go to [www.taps.org](http://www.taps.org) or call toll-free 800.959.TAPS.

## ***TBI and PTSD Aided by Technology***

Smartphone applications and upgrades designed to aid in the treatment of Traumatic Brain Injury and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder are coming in April, providing new options for service members and their families. Users monitor anxiety, stress, depression, brain injury, post-traumatic stress or general well-being, and the results are charted over time. The goal is to gain better understanding of emotions and the events they are linked to or caused by, and provide health care professionals with better data for diagnostic planning and the treatment analysis.

Developers at T2 are making an upgraded version of the software also available for iPhone and iPad through the iTunes store. Coming in April is a new app called "Breathe2Relax," a portable stress management tool.

Visit their website: <http://t2health.org/>



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***I see light at the end of the tunnel.***

***--Walt W. Rostow,***

***National Security Adviser, Dec. 1967***

## **VA Extends Post-Incarceration Health Care Measure Would Help Reduce Repeat Offenses**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will extend health care to eligible Veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing under a new program aimed at cutting

A long-standing rule has barred VA from providing health care to Veterans for whom another federal, state or local government has an obligation to provide health care. Frequently, that means inmates of prisons and jails.

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back on repeat offenses.

"There's hard evidence that lack of access to health care, including mental health care, for newly released inmates is a factor in people becoming homeless or returning to prison and jail," said Jim McGuire, director of VA's Veterans Justice Outreach Programs. "These are Veterans who otherwise qualify for VA health care."

Under the changed rule, that prohibition would be amended and VA would be allowed to provide health care to Veterans in halfway houses and other temporary, post-incarceration housing.

An Urban Institute study in 2008 found that good health care in the first months of community reentry played a key role in easing readjustment and reducing recidivism.

About 29,000-56,000 Veterans are released annually from state and federal prisons, and at least 90,000 Veterans are released each year from city and county jails, according to Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics.

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## **Predator Friendly Fire Kills 2 US Troops**

A U.S. Marine reservist and a Navy corpsman were killed April 6 in a drone airstrike in Afghanistan, in an apparent case of friendly fire.

Marine Staff Sgt. Jeremy Smith and Navy Corpsman Benjamin Rast reportedly were killed by a Hellfire missile fired from an Air Force

Predator, NBC News first reported Monday.

Smith and Rast were part of a Marine unit moving in to reinforce Marines under heavy fire from enemy forces outside Sangin in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan.

**CONTINUED:**

The Marines who were under fire saw “hot spots,” or infrared images, on streaming video relayed to them from a Predator overhead and mistakenly identified the “hot spots” as enemies, according to the NBC report.

It's believed that this is the first time that U.S. service members have been killed by a Predator in a friendly fire incident.

Smith, 26, of Arlington, Texas, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, out of Houston. Rast, 23, was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division out of San Diego.

The U.S. military is investigating the incident, but according to several reports, the families have been told that the deaths are being looked at as a “possible fratricide.”

Robert Rast told The Associated Press that he's been given the impression his son was killed by a Hellfire.

His son joined the Navy about a year ago, and had been in Afghanistan about a month, AP reported.

In a telephone interview with the Houston Chronicle, Rast said his son was “brave beyond belief” and cared deeply about his fellow Marines and fellow sailors.

“I'm trying to be strong for him because he'd want me to be strong,” the father said.

Smith's father, Jerry Smith, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Monday night that he was aware of the likely reason for his son's death but didn't know many details.

But he isn't interested in recriminations right now.

“Whoever that young man or woman was, they didn't send that drone over there to kill my son or Doc Rast,” Smith said. “If it was a royal screw-up, it was a royal screw-up. Make corrections, because I don't want another family to have to go through this. But trying to put a bigger burden on that person who fired the missile is not something I would do.

“I guarantee you,” Smith told the paper, “if he was standing in front of me, he'd be asking for forgiveness, and I would give it to him.”



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