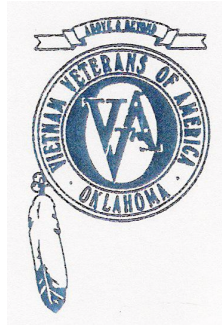


Vietnam Veterans of America



A Monthly Newsletter

June 2007

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From the Presidents Desk:

Thanks to all that showed up for the May 17th meeting. Our chapter depends on your continued participation. The more people attending, the fresher the ideas.

I want to thank all who participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies. It was a little short notice but you stepped up and represented our chapter with pride.

I also want to thank everyone involved with helping get the Econo Lodge set up for the State Council meeting. It was a complete success and our chapter earned \$143 in the Door Prize raffle. We all want to thank Branch Hardware and Bartlett's Lumber for the donation of those Door Prizes. And we don't want to forget the food! Thanks go out to the Blue Moon, Domino's Pizza, Snyder's Grocery, Dougan's BBQ, United Supermarkets (4th St) and of course Peggy Dowell for the wonderful spread.

And a special thanks to all chapter members for the hard work over this past year that earned us Oklahoma Chapter of the Year.

The next Chapter 750 business meeting: will be held at the American Legion Hall on South Street June 21th at 1900 hours (7pm). Your attendance is greatly appreciated.

Region 7 Member of the Year

Be sure and congratulate Everett the next time you see him for being awarded the VVA Region 7 Member of the Year. I'm not going to write a big article about this as we ALL don't want Everett to get a big head.

Congratulation Everett!

The pioneers of a warless world are the youth that re- fuse military serv- ice.

[Albert Einstein](#)

Garage Sale

Ok, you know as well as I do that you have several items laying around your house/garage that you don't use, don't want and don't plan on passing down to your kids in your will. Well the VVA Chapter 750 Garage sale is a good way of getting those items out of your house/garage and also allowing YOUR chapter to earn a few bucks. Setup for this monstrous event will take place around 7 am (0700 for you still stuck in a time warp) on June 23 in the American Legion parking lot. The

SALE is scheduled for 8 to 2 but if paying customers are still about, who knows. Contact Everett if you have any questions.

VA Prosecutes Defraud- ers of Veterans

Nicholson: "Full Force of Law" to Protect Earned Benefits

WASHINGTON (June 12, 2007) – Continuing a long-standing campaign to identify and prosecute those who defraud veterans of their rightful benefits, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently highlighted several successes by its Inspector General in investigating people who mishandle the finances of veterans and family members unable to manage their own affairs.

"VA is committed to protecting our veterans, especially our most vulnerable veterans. We will investigate and help bring charges against anyone suspected of defrauding veterans of the disability compensation or any other assistance they have earned," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jim Nicholson. "Fiduciary fraud is a heinous crime. We will bring the full force of law against offenders."

Among recent cases successfully prosecuted as a result of investigations by VA's Office of the Inspector General:

* Los Angeles resident Anne Chavis pleaded guilty to perjury and forgery in embezzling \$1 million from veterans who were too disabled to handle their own financial matters. She is awaiting sentencing.

* The daughter and son-in-law of an elderly Alaskan veteran with Alzheimer's disease diverted about \$500,000 from the veteran to make personal purchases while failing to pay the veteran's bills. Phyllis Talas was sentenced to 60 months' probation, and Frank Talas to six months' incarceration and 36 months' probation.

* A Washington state woman overseeing her niece's VA benefits pleaded guilty to misappropriating funds and was sentenced to 36 months of probation. Christina May diverted to her personal use funds from VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation awarded to her under-age niece.

From January 2005 through April 5 this year, VA's Office of Inspector General investigated 61 cases of alleged fiduciary fraud. Twenty-seven people were indicted on related charges, of whom 19 have been convicted so far. Resulting penalties have included \$1.9 million in court-ordered restitution for veterans or their estates, 191 months' imprisonment and 838 months of probation.

To report suspected fraud involving veterans benefits, other crimes, fraud, waste or mismanagement in the VA, please contact the Office of

Inspector General Hotline at 1-800-488-8244 or email at

vaoig.hotline@forum.va.gov.

POW/MIA Update:

June 2, 2007

AMERICANS ANNOUNCED AS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are now 1,784 US personnel listed by the Department of Defense as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The identification of the remains of two American previously listed as MIA in Laos was recently announced. Those identified are Major Donald E. Westbrook, USAF, from Texas, listed MIA March 13, 1968, remains repatriated September 3, 1998 and identified February 14, 2007. The second person was Sergeant First Class John T. Gallagher, USA, from Connecticut, listed MIA January 5, 1968, remains repatriated March 15, 2002 and identified November 13, 2006. The accounting for these two Americans brings to 799 the number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Over 90% of the 1,784 still listed as missing were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam's wartime control.

UPDATE ON OPERATIONS:

The 99th period of Joint Field Activities (JFA) in Laos, the third 30-day JFA this year, began April 30th and is expected to conclude June 5th. Comprised of some 50 US personnel, one of the four teams is

pursuing information on ten cases, and the three other teams are focusing on excavating incidents related to a burial site, a ground loss and three aircraft losses. The 100th JFA in Laos will take place June 26 – July 31st and consist of four recovery teams. The 88th JFA in Vietnam took place March 8th-April 21st, a longer period of time (45 days) and with a larger team than in Laos or Cambodia. That JFA was extended to include an underwater survey and investigation team, comprised of US members from JPAC and the Navy's Mobile Diving Salvage Unit #1 (MDSU1) that was completed on May 4th. The underwater survey was conducted in two provinces along the coast of northern Vietnam, though without participation by the USN ship as earlier agreed. Reportedly, bureaucratic obstacles impeded inter-ministerial coordination required by Vietnam for using the US Navy's hydrographic ship on the POW/MIA accounting effort. On worldwide operations, a survey and investigation of a WWII loss on the island of Iwo Jima will take place June 17-27th; and an investigation team will work in South Korea June 1-30th. In addition, a JPAC historian returned June 2nd to Hawaii after a brief visit to the Netherlands to observe salvage operations of a possible US aircraft and conduct interviews related to a WWII incident.

Navy Takes Aim at Roadside Bombs



ABOARD THE USS NIMITZ IN THE GULF - A secret aircraft that debuted in Vietnam and usually protects U.S. fighter jets is getting a new type of task over Iraq - trying to stop the scourge of roadside bombs by jamming ground signals from mobile phones and garage door openers.

The [EA-6B Prowler](#) is thought to be one of the most effective U.S. weapons against the bombs, the biggest killer of American service members in Iraq. But no one can be sure: Even supporters say its effectiveness is hard to measure. The aircraft debuted at the tail end of Vietnam and was used in Kosovo and the 1991 Gulf War, escorting U.S. attack jets while jamming hostile radars, air defense batteries and military radios aimed at them.

These days the Prowler focuses its jammers on smaller signals: those of mobile phones and garage door openers that are used to trigger roadside bombs in Iraq, said U.S. Navy Capt. David Woods, 49, of Ogden, Utah.

Often, it's hard to prove that a roadside bomb failed to explode because of Prowler jamming signals, Woods said. Still, he's confident the plane is making a difference against the bombs, which the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

"When it's flying we have greater success and fewer IEDs going off," Woods said. "It's kind of an insurance policy."

Woods, the commander of Carrier Air Wing Eleven and one of the Navy's most experienced Prowler pilots, says few people understand the EA-6B's mission, which is to control the electromagnetic spectrum so allies can use it - but not enemies.

The Prowler and its electronic warfare system is so valuable it has never been exported - even to close allies. Details about the training of crew members are secret. The Prowler is a homely plane, hung with torpedo-shaped pods and covered in tumor-like bumps packed with a bewildering array of computers, transmitters, antennae and receivers that can analyze and block ground transmissions. A sinister-looking prong protruding from its nose is a refueling nozzle. The EA-6B's bulbous nose cradles a crew of four: a pilot and three electronic countermeasures officers who operate the jamming gear.

Outside experts say the Prowler remains the world's most effective electronic warfare aircraft, but the aging U.S. fleet of about 120 aircraft is overworked.

Still, the Pentagon considers the Prowler critical enough to ensure no U.S. aircraft carrier heads to battle without four or five. There are two squadrons now at sea in Mideast waters: one aboard the carrier USS John C. Stennis, the other aboard the Nimitz.

Another two land-based Prowler squadrons are in Iraq, Woods said. In 1999, Serb air defenses shot down an Air Force F-117 stealth fighter probably because it strayed too far from the jamming beam of its Prowler escort, said Loren Thompson, a military analyst with the Washington-based Lexington Institute.

On the Nimitz, which operated inside the Persian Gulf in recent days, Prowlers could be seen screaming off the deck along with packs of F/A-18 Hornet fighters, heading to Iraqi airspace.

Over Iraq, the fighters fly patterns above U.S. ground operations, waiting to be called to drop 500-pound bombs, if needed.

The Prowlers fly between 20,000 and 30,000 feet, Woods said, steering invisible waves of electromagnetic signals over areas where insurgent bombs may be waiting for U.S. convoys.

According to outside experts, receivers inside the Prowler's tail collect radio signals from the ground, which are analyzed by an on-board computer. As threats are identified, the plane's crew floods the area with electromagnetic energy that blocks the signal.

The plane's computer is loaded with a "threat library" of hostile

signals, which are used to match those on the ground. The jammers can block transmissions across wide range of frequencies, everything from TV and radio signals to mobile phones and the Internet. But its jamming gear has no effect on bombs that are hard-wired to their triggers, Woods said.

Ex-Sergeant Named Calendar Cover Girl



e is not going to go away until the federal government rolls up its sleeves and takes SAN DIEGO - Operation Calendar, producers of the "CAMOUFLAGE: PIN-UP" calendar announced that Playboy model and actress Michelle Manhart will be the cover girl for their third annual calendar, set to be released later this year. Manhart was featured in Playboy magazine's February 2007 issue while active in the U.S. Air Force. Reactions to her pictorial garnered national media attention and ultimately resulted in her Honorable Discharge.

"The men and women of the Armed Forces give so much and I want to give back, said Manhart." "This is one small way I can help."

Manhart joined one of the 2008 models, Janica, in the announcement today from San Diego. Janica was on hand to serve as the human canvas for the work of world-renowned body painter Filippo Ioco. "I've painted many models all over the world, but being a part of this effort is truly special," said Ioco.

Award winning photographer Monique Feil will continue to take the pictures that have garnered so much attention among veterans and customers who have purchased previous calendars. "I'm proud to be back and doing my part," said Feil.

The calendar is the brainchild of San Diego model Manuela Mezzadri, who came up with the idea more than three years ago after conversations with veterans.

"I started out hoping to just make a small contribution as a way of saying thanks, and now I am thrilled to know that thanks to the dedicated people who help make it happen, the calendar will be even better than it has been," said Mezzadri. "Of course the real thanks goes to our men and women in uniform, which is what Operation Calendar is all about." A portion of the proceeds from the 2008 calendar sales will be donated to non-profit organizations that provide much needed services to wounded Veterans and their families. Pre-orders for 2008 are now being accepted at OperationCalendar.org.

**Every gun that is made,
every warship launched,
every rocket fired signifies,
in the final sense, a theft
from those who hunger and are not fed,
those who are cold and not clothed.**

[Dwight D. Eisenhower](#)

Wounded Troops Use Wii to Help Recover



Wii Being Used as Therapy Tool for Wounded Troops

LANDSTUHL, Germany — Army Spc. Shawn Roberts must play video games.

It's doctor's orders.

Every week he goes to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and plays games on the Nintendo Wii to help him recover from injuries sustained in a vehicle accident in Kuwait last April.

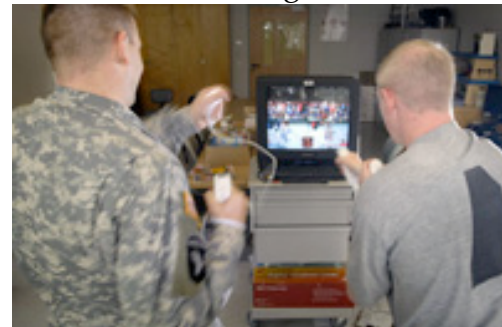
The Army hospital is experimenting using the popular video game console as a physical therapy tool for wounded servicemembers.

Playing the game makes the often painful and boring therapy session fun, Roberts says.

The alternative is squeezing a ball of putty.

"I wasn't expecting much out of it," said Roberts after using the game. "You know, it's a video game. How much could it really do? But you don't notice it while you're doing it because your mind's on the game. But then when you're done? I was sore."

Military occupational therapists came up with the idea of using the video game before the system debuted on store shelves last year. Unlike other home video game systems, Wii (pronounced "we") uses motion-sensing controllers.



The fact that players have to move the controller in different directions to play the game is why therapists saw some benefit of introducing it to patients. The department didn't have the money to buy the console, but a Navy hospital corpsman deployed to the hospital loaned them his game because he was attending school and he figured it would distract him from his studies.

Roberts, who is assigned to the 581st Signal Company in Kuwait, volunteered to use the game as part of his therapy routine. He

broke his wrist and elbow and partially tore his rotator cuff when the vehicle he was in rolled over. He couldn't move his wrist for more than a month because of the implanted screws.

He started using the game about a month ago. He plays games tailored to his therapy. For example, he has played the tennis game because it involves using his wrist and elbow.

"I do all the same exercises," Roberts said. "But with the Wii, your mind's off of it, and you do it a lot more. It's more fast-paced and that kind of thing."

**Happy Birthday
Army (June 14th),
232 years old and
you look better
than ever! May
there be MANY
more.**

Membership

Please support VVA Chapter 750 by renewing you membership today.

Thanks

Rod Kutz, Memebership

<p>Membership Renewal Options</p> <p>1 Year \$20</p> <p>3 Years \$50</p> <p>A DD214 is requested for all memberships and is required for Life Memberships.</p> <p>Life Membership Schedule</p>	<p>Make checks Payable to:</p> <p>VVA Chapter 750</p>
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