



**The**  
**Perimeter Guard**  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 17



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**Vietnam Veterans of America**

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Thank A Veteran For Their  
Service.

# VVA Chapter 17 *Perimeter Guard*

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF CHAPTER 17  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

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9:00 AM

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***And now a word  
from your  
President and  
Publisher...***



***Region 9  
Director Report  
By Dick  
Southern.***

Spring is finally in the air here in Las Vegas. Chapter 17 was proud to donate a \$5,000.00 check to the Las Vegas USO that finally opened their doors at the McCarran Airport. The money will be used to help the troops that are in transit. It will also assist the USO in staying open 24/7

JROTC awards are in the works and will be completed by the end of May. One Cadet from each of 17 Las Vegas valley high schools will be presented with the VVA award for academic achievement and community service. Along with the medal and ribbon, each cadet will receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond. Well done, Cadets.

Plans are underway for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual Fireworks Booth fundraiser. Many volunteer hours are required for this event and, in the past, our members have stepped up to the plate. We are hoping for record sales this year.

Preparations are being made for the Region 8/9 pre-convention meeting in June to be held in, of course, Reno, NV. Then, it's on to the convention in August.

Chapter 17 will be providing the marshals again, as we have done for the last 3 National Conventions. The guys and gals are getting pretty good at it too.

Hope to see you all at the convention this year.

## Tom George



Tom George proudly presents a check for \$5,000.00 to Doug Bradford the center director for the USO in Las Vegas during the March general meeting.

We are now well into our new fiscal year. Budgets have been established on all levels of the organization. Budgets that will include fundraisers so we can continue being in service to America and our communities. By the time you read this the chapter election process will be completed and you will have reelected or elected new officers and board of directors. All of these positions are important to insuring that a chapter is healthy and prospering. Since all of these are leadership positions, we look forward to experiencing their leadership. Get involved and make a difference.

I want to remind you that election reports and financial reports (with 990-N receipt attached) are due in to National and your State Council by July 15. This is important to the seating of your delegates for the convention.

The end of March saw the celebration of Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day throughout the Nation. Many events were planned in Region 9 to be held in the time between March 25 and March 30. These were celebrations that we never had at the end of the Vietnam War. They fill a void in our experiences and help to heal some bad memories.

I am planning ahead with the August 2011 VVA National convention coming to the Silver Legacy in Reno and so I have scheduled the Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference for June 11, 2011, at the Silver Legacy Resort Casino in Reno. This traditional event gives delegates to the convention and those interested in the convention activities a chance to hear the amendments and resolutions that will be presented at the convention and to speak with some of the candidates for the National Board of Directors that will be attending the conference. Mark your calendar now for the date and plan to attend the conference in preparation for the VVA National Convention. I would encourage chapters to do some fundraising to get all of their delegates to, at least, the National Convention. Remember, that as the hosting

Region for the convention, Region 9 will have up front and center seating. The best seats in the house!

In closing, I want to encourage you to keep up your recruiting and retention of members in VVA. It is the time for us to keep adding numbers to our membership totals.

As always, I am available on email at [southern@lodelink.com](mailto:southern@lodelink.com) or by phone at either 209-928-3848 or 209-768-9841 if needed for anything.

## ***Concussions Now Qualify for Purple Heart.***

The Army has announced a clarification in its guidelines for receiving a Purple Heart, with an emphasis on battlefield concussions being eligible for the medal. Official Army guidelines have long considered combat-sustained concussions a valid injury worthy of the Purple Heart, but in practice, it has been left to doctors or battlefield commanders to decide whether a blow to the head during combat warranted the medal.

With recent studies on brain trauma, however, the rules have been revised to state what constitutes a concussion, with symptoms including momentary loss of consciousness or memory, dizziness, headache, nausea or light sensitivity. Medical treatment, also required for the medal, is defined by the rules to include merely rest and Tylenol.

If you are a Soldier who suffered a concussion and feel you may not have been appropriately recognized for a Purple Heart, the Army urges you to re-apply through your chain of command. Veterans can call 888-276-9472 or email [hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil](mailto:hrc.tagd.awards@conus.army.mil).



## ***From AVVA Region 9:***



*Together Always*

Hello Everyone! I would like to let all of the AVVA members know about our upcoming events, in Region 9. The first is our Region 8/9 Conference, which will be held in Reno, at the Silver Legacy Hotel/Casino, on June 10 through 12. The AVVA Regional meeting will be held on June 11, after opening with the VVA group, at approximately 1:30 pm. Right after the lunch break. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Nevada members to meet and talk with AVVA members from the entire region.

AVVA will also be holding our 2011 National Leadership Conference this summer, in Reno, August 16 through 20, 2011. It will also be held at the Silver Legacy Hotel. Information can be best obtained through the VVA website, [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org). Or by emailing me at [avva2003@cox.net](mailto:avva2003@cox.net). It should be a great opportunity for meeting and greeting, going to seminars, and just generally having some fun with all your VVA and AVVA brothers and sisters.

Project Friendship this year will be on behalf of the Reno Veterans Guest House. They do a lot of work to help veterans and their families when the veteran needs medical care and in other hard times. You can find out more about them, along with seeing a list of their most immediate needs on their website at [www.veteransguesthouse.org](http://www.veteransguesthouse.org). AVVA, Nevada donated \$200.00. They are a worthy cause!

AVVA Nevada held its 2011 State elections on April 9 in Las Vegas. Your NV State officers listed on page 2 will continue to do everything they can to keep our projects going.

I hope to see many of you at our summer events! As always, we must do everything we can to help further the causes faced by all veterans and their families.

*Joanna Henshaw*  
AVVA Region 9 Director

### ***Here's A Thought***

Life is a coin,  
you can spend it anyway you wish,  
but you can only spend it once.



# Cellphone Radiation May Alter Your Brain. Let's Talk.

By KATE MURPHY

In a culture where people cradle their cellphones next to their heads with the same constancy and affection that toddlers hold their security blankets, it was unsettling last month when a study published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association* indicated that doing so could alter brain activity.

The report said it was unclear whether the changes in the brain — an increase in glucose metabolism after using the phone for less than an hour — had any negative health or behavioral effects. But it has many people wondering what they can do to protect themselves short of (gasp) using a landline.

“Cellphones are fantastic and have done much to increase productivity,” said Dr. Nora Volkow, the lead investigator of the study and director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse at the National Institutes of Health. “I’d never tell people to stop using them entirely.”

Yet, in light of her findings, she advises users to keep cellphones at a distance by putting them on speaker mode or using a wired headset whenever possible. The next best option is a wireless Bluetooth headset or earpiece, which emit radiation at far lower levels. If a headset isn’t feasible, holding your phone just slightly away from your ear can make a big difference; the intensity of radiation diminishes sharply with distance. “Every millimeter counts,” said Louis Slesin, editor of *Microwave News*, an online newsletter covering health and safety issues related to exposure to electromagnetic radiation.

So crushing your cellphone into your ear to hear better in a crowded bar is probably a bad idea. Go outside if you have to take or make a call. And you might not want to put your cellphone in your breast or pants pocket either, because that also puts it right up against your body. Carry it in

a purse or briefcase or get a nonmetallic belt clip that orients it away from your body.

Some studies have suggested a link between cellphone use and cancer, lower bone density and infertility in men. But other studies show no effect at all. Given the mixed messages and continuing research, Robert Kenny, a Federal Communications Commission spokesman, said in an e-mail, “As always, we will continue to study this issue and coordinate with our federal partners.”

The phone used in Dr. Volkow’s study was a Samsung Knack, model SCH-U310, a flip phone that was in wide use when she began planning her experiments two and half years ago. But today’s ubiquitous smartphones emit even more radiation as they transmit more, and more complex, data.

You can get an idea of the relative amounts of radiation various cellphone models emit by looking at their SAR, or Specific Absorption Rate. This number indicates how much radiation is absorbed by the body when using the handset at maximum power. A cellphone cannot be sold in the United States unless an F.C.C.-approved laboratory says its SAR is below 1.6 watts per kilogram. In Europe, the maximum is 2 watts per kilogram.

The SAR number is not displayed when you compare cellphones at your local wireless store, and trying to find it in the fine print of your user manual is an exercise in frustration. The F.C.C. maintains that SAR values “do not provide sufficient information” to reliably compare cellphone radiation emissions because certain phones might rarely operate at maximum power. Still, the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit organization, has a comprehensive list of the SAR values for most cellphones available from major carriers on its Web site. (For instance, the Apple iPhone 4 is listed at 1.17 watts per kilogram, the Motorola Droid at 1.5 and the LG Quantum at 0.35.)

But more important than looking for a low-SAR phone is how you use it. Many cellphones emit the most radiation when they initially establish contact with the cell tower, making their “digital handshake.” To reduce exposure it’s best to wait until after your call has been connected to put your cellphone next to your ear.

During the ensuing conversation, it’s advisable

to tilt the phone away from your ear when you are talking and only bring it in close to your ear when you are listening. That bit of teeter-totter works because the emission of radiation is “significantly less when a cellphone is receiving signals than when it is transmitting,” said Lin Zhong, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at Rice University in Houston.

Moreover, your cellphone emits less when you are stationary because when you are moving rapidly — say, in a car or train — it must repeatedly issue little bursts of radiation to make digital handshakes with different towers as it moves in and out of range. (More cause to hang up when you buckle up.)

Want another reason to complain about your carrier’s poor coverage? Any situation where your cellphone has a weak signal indicates it has to work harder and thus will emit more radiation. “Fewer bars means more radiation,” said Om Gandhi, professor of electrical engineering at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Inside buildings and elevators, in rural areas, the Grand Canyon — these are not good places to make a call if you’re trying to reduce your exposure to radiation.

Of course, parents using their iPhones to pacify cranky kids might want to reconsider rattles. Children’s developing brains and tissues are thought to be most vulnerable to cellphone radiation. Health authorities in Britain, France, Germany and Russia have all issued warnings against allowing small children to use cellphones for extended periods, if at all.

There are cellphone attachments that purport to shield users from radiation, and most are “hoaxes,” said Mr. Gandhi. Beware of pendants that sellers claim snatch radiation from the air. Pong Research offers a cellphone case for iPhones and BlackBerrys that it says has been shown by an F.C.C.-approved testing lab to redirect radiation from the phone’s antenna away from the head.

While the manufacturer says it reduces radiation more than 60 percent, some electrical engineering experts question whether the case may have the opposite effect at orientations where your head is in the way of the cell tower because your phone may have to increase its transmission strength somewhat to compensate for the redi-

rected signal. The company disputes this. Nevertheless, the net effect of using the device throughout the course of the day may be a reduction in total exposure.

Texting, instead of talking, might be safer. “The whole trend toward texting instead of talking on cellphones is probably a good thing,” said Mr. Slesin at Microwave News.

That is, if you don’t rest your cellphone against your body while typing out your message.

## ***Female Vets Frustrated With VA Health Care.***



Stars and Stripes  
by Leo Shane III

WASHINGTON — Female veterans still face significant frustration getting medical care, even in Veterans Affairs facilities with female-specific services, according to a new survey released by the American Legion.

One in four female veterans said the availability of gender-specific health care was poor within the VA system, and more than half felt the sexual trauma services at those facilities were inadequate, according to the report.

Legion officials said those perceptions could discourage other females from using the VA system — or from seeking medical help at all.

“Too many times, women veterans who seek help at a VA hospital are mistaken as civilian wives,” said Jimmie Foster, commander of the American Legion. “Too many people still think that veterans are men and not women.”

Legion officials noted that the 1.8 million female veterans in America today make up just under 8 percent of the total veteran population, but that percentage is increasing.

According to Defense Department statistics, women make up about 12 percent of the 2.2 million troops who have been deployed in support of the recent conflicts overseas. Females make up 14 percent of the current overall active-duty force.

Since 2001, 108 women have been killed in Iraq and 24 killed in Afghanistan, according to sta-

tistics from icasualties.org. Defense Department officials said more than 750 women have been wounded in action in the two wars.

The Legion's report surveyed more than 3,000 female veterans. In addition to the dissatisfaction found with other aspects of care, the research found that nearly one-third of female veterans surveyed were unhappy with the work of their Women Veterans Program Manager, assigned to VA facilities to deal with gender-specific issues and questions.

Verna Jones, director of the Legion's rehabilitation commission, said the results show a combination of a lack of understanding about available services and a lack of awareness of women veterans needs at the veterans hospitals.

Foster said VA leaders need a culture change to address the issue, saying that the department has already begun outreach efforts but needs to speed that process.

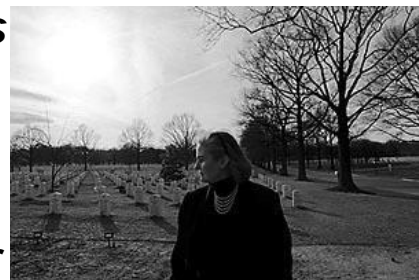
"VA health care needs to be more reliable, responsive and competent in its treatment of women," he said. "Women need to feel welcome, to feel comfortable, in any VA facility across America."

VA officials said they've made efforts in recent years to address female veterans issues but acknowledged more work needs to be done. In a blog post, Patricia Hayes, the VA's chief consultant for women veterans health, said officials recognize that more needs to be done in areas such as maternity care and sexual trauma response.

"Every time I see articles in the news or on the Internet about how something didn't go well for a woman veteran, I think about all the women veterans who need health care, who don't have insurance or can't find or afford care," she wrote. "I want them to try VA. And I want them to know that we are working as fast as we can to make positive changes and will continue to improve."

This article is provided courtesy of Stars and Stripes, which got its start as a newspaper for Union troops during the Civil War, and has been published continuously since 1942 in Europe and 1945 in the Pacific. Stripes reporters have been in the field with American soldiers, sailors and airmen in World War II, Korea, the Cold War, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Bosnia and Kosovo, and are now on assignment in the Middle East.

## ***Arlington's Grave Mix-Ups Will the Army Ever Fix the Problem?***



By Mark Benjamin

On a recent, unusually warm late-winter day, a young woman sat quietly at the foot of a white headstone at Arlington National Cemetery, among a cluster of graves of troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The woman, maybe 25 years old, sat in the grass, hugging the headstone.

The question is not why she was doing that (that's easy to understand); the question is whether the headstone she was hugging was the right one. Last summer, an Army inspector general's investigation confirmed that the Army had effectively lost control of its sacred ground, the national resting place of John F. Kennedy, Audie Murphy and 330,000 others who faithfully served their country. The Army probe played down reports of misplaced or lost remains, but the revelations prompted congressional hearings and howls of disgust from veterans' organizations. In an unusual departure from the Army's normal reflexes, Army Secretary John McHugh pushed out the superintendent of Arlington and his deputy and installed a new boss to make things right on its hallowed site.

But it appears likely that the problems at Arlington are far worse than the Army has acknowledged, and the new chief, Kathryn Condon, admits the service may never be able to identify all the missing remains on the immaculate 624-acre (250 hectare) site. The Army now plans to make only educated guesses about the identity of remains rather than digging in the dirt to be sure. That means that the true location of some remains may be a mystery forever.

### **Mistaken Identities**

The Army has known for months that it may have a massive case of mistaken identity on its hands — but has been reluctant either to admit it

or to learn exactly how widespread the burial errors are. Through the Freedom of Information Act, TIME obtained the raw transcripts of interviews that cemetery workers gave in 2009 and 2010 to the inspector general. In contrast to the tepid report the IG released last June, the transcripts show how workers repeatedly found unidentified remains while digging in what were supposed to be empty graves. “We went into a grave site, which we assumed was empty,” one worker recalls. “Dig down ...and, uh ... whoops! Another coffin.” Another worker guessed that “one time out of 10,” a headstone at Arlington sits above the wrong grave.

The idea of workers’ unexpectedly coming across remains where none were supposed to be is troubling, but at least those remains can be identified. Many caskets buried at Arlington carry exterior identification tags. And for those that do not, rapid advances in DNA identification technology provide hope that almost any mystery can be solved.

The transcripts, however, show that an unknown number of cremated remains were placed in urns that are lost forever. The problem stems from Arlington’s policy of burying spouses on top of each other. When a veteran or his loved one died and the remains were cremated, the urns were interred just 3 ft. (1 m) below ground. When Arlington workers returned later to prepare the grave site for a coffin burial of a spouse, they generally removed 7 ft. (2 m) of fill. Workers complained in the transcripts that they were sometimes not alerted that an urn was already in a grave before they dug there a second time. Urns were sometimes scooped up by backhoes and dumped into a landfill, where workers would occasionally come across them later by chance. “That happens a lot,” one worker said. “Nobody knows until somebody happens to see it in the landfill and says, ‘Oh, my God, man. We just screwed up.’”

And then there is Arlington’s Civil War–era style of record keeping. Years after other massive cemeteries computerized all their burial records, Arlington still tries to track about 30 burials a day with bits of paper recording the names and locations of remains. (This antiquated system has persisted years longer than it should have because the previous Arlington leaders paid millions aimed

at computerizing Arlington to a group of friendly contractors who did almost nothing in return.)

Graves at Arlington are generally numbered sequentially and grouped into sections that often consist of several thousand burial sites each. TIME has reviewed records and inspected headstones for more than a dozen of these sections, from brand-new burials to graves that date from the late 1800s. It is clear that burial errors are spread throughout the hundreds of thousands of graves at Arlington. In section 64, for example, the headstone for Army Specialist Chin Sun Pak Wells, who died at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, sits above grave No. 4642. But according to internal cemetery documents obtained by TIME, her grave card — one of two pieces of paper that show where her headstone should be — says she is in grave 4672. Similarly, the records for section 64 put the remains of Navy Commander Russell K. Wood Jr., Army Sergeant First Class Ernest F. Freeman and Air Force Lieut. Colonel Arthur Rolph in two separate graves each.

Mistaken identity at the cemetery takes still other forms. Arlington’s paperwork, for example, says that in 2005, in that same section, Army Sergeant First Class Irving Havenner Jr. and Air Force Colonel George Drury were both buried in the same grave, No. 2605.

Kathryn Condon, the new Arlington boss and a career Army executive, won’t acknowledge the scope of the problem but doesn’t really deny it either: “I can’t tell you if the problem is massive yet until we see where we have our discrepancies.” Since taking over nearly a year ago, she says, she has implemented strict, six-step chain-of-custody standards for keeping track of remains buried today. Thanks to those steps, she says, the headstones erected since her arrival stand over the right graves.

As for past errors, Condon described an ambitious, years-long project to probe for potential mistakes. Hundreds of thousands of burial records will be digitized and compared with overhead images of the headstones in each section. Workers will then load into that database photographs of the front and back of each numbered headstone. Potential problems should pop up once all that data is compared. “That will tell us where we might have potential discrepancies,” Condon explains, “or not.”

But Condon also revealed a critical incongruity in her plans to “fix Arlington.” She admits that the burial paperwork is an unreliable mess, yet at the same time she insists there is enough correct information in the documents to figure out the likely location of remains with some degree of accuracy — and without digging to make sure. Condon calls this the “presumption of regularity” in the paperwork. What she means is that when documents show one person buried in two places, for example, the cemetery could use ground-penetrating radar to figure out whether a particular grave contains remains or not. “When the headstone matches the records and we probe [with radar] and it all matches, you have to have a presumption of regularity that that is a correct grave site,” she says.

The problem with this is that radar will tell the Army only if there is a casket in the ground, not who is in it. Condon admits that such judgments about who is buried where may turn out to be wrong. “The only way you are ever truly going to find out is to physically excavate,” she acknowledges. Where cemetery records suggest that there are remains in two places, the Army could decide that the grave with the headstone that matches the name on the paperwork is probably the correct one. “We can validate through the records process,” Condon explains.

Condon’s strategy is to rely on the records and noninvasive tools to figure out the most likely identity and location of remains. She says she has already used this method to identify the remains in three mystery graves during her 10-month tenure. She cannot dig to confirm those judgments, she says, unless next of kin absolutely insist.

### **Leaving Some Behind**

Condon knows from experience that digging sometimes leads only to new confusion. Last August, a skeptical widow steadfastly insisted that Arlington disinter the remains of her husband, an Army staff sergeant, from a grave in section 66 — even though the Army’s records showed that her husband’s remains were safely in that grave. His headstone also sat atop that site.

Arlington workers dug and found the remains not of the Army sergeant but of Jean Koch, wife of retired Air Force Colonel Bill Koch. And when

Arlington workers dug under Jean Koch’s headstone, which stood one grave to the left of the Army staff sergeant’s headstone, they found no remains at all. So from Koch’s headstone, they moved two graves over to the right. The headstone sitting there was marked as being for the wife of an unrelated Navy commander. They dug and found that Navy commander’s wife’s remains — along with the remains of the Army staff sergeant that officials were looking for in the first place.

It was a horrifying, domino-like series of burial mistakes, and it supports what people familiar with the cemetery’s operations have long said: each burial error at Arlington might represent several related burial mistakes. Paul Bucha, who earned a Medal of Honor in Vietnam and who spends considerable time on veterans’ issues, railed at the notion that Arlington would not determine beyond any shadow of doubt the correct identity and location of remains at the cemetery. “The question is, Which family will you look in the eye and swear that you know their loved one is buried there?” he asks.

Settling for an educated guess on the identity of remains, veterans say, flies in the face of the military’s sacred leave-no-one-behind battlefield ethos. From the lowly Army private to the top Pentagon brass, the military has long stopped at nothing to bring a service member’s remains home for honorable burial. Some 350 Pentagon employees work tirelessly in a program to track down combat remains wherever they may lie around the world. To help identify those remains, the Pentagon runs the largest high-tech forensic laboratory in the world, in Hawaii. “If you don’t know who is in the ground,” Bucha says, “how do you say no one is left behind?”

Bill Koch had previously visited the headstone of his wife Jean in section 66 only to learn last summer that her grave was empty. Contacted by TIME in Raleigh, N.C., Koch noted the irony of the military’s pulling out the stops to identify a finger bone from the jungles of Vietnam but being reluctant to use a backhoe at Arlington. “They are never,” he said, “going to fix the problem.”



## ***Bags of American flags dumped in Port St. John.***



***At least 10 bags of old and damaged flags have been found in Port St. John.***

**By Stephanie Coueignoux & Margaret Kavanagh**

PORT ST. JOHN — A Port St. John family is defending themselves after neighbors became upset after finding bags of discarded American flags in a wooded area.

The Miller family told News 13 they think someone set them up. They said they did dispose of the flags, but the bags weren't ripped at the time.

They said they come from a military background and love their country and their flag.

Arnold Miller is a retired Air Force master sergeant.

"You can burn it. You can bury it. You cannot throw it in a landfill. That is not a landfill. We are putting it in there and it's basically composting itself back to the ground," Miller said.

Now a current local Boy Scout leader, Miller said people need to read up on the issue.

"That's the problem," Miller said. "There is not enough education. There is nothing wrong with this."

Miller said the flags are left over from a previous burn ceremony. His family regularly helps out organizations like the American Legion and Boy Scouts to dispose of them.

It's a tradition he has passed down to his son, Andrew, who hopes to one day join the military.

In response to whether he feels he did anything wrong, Andrew said, "I feel like I gave my best respects to the flag and I treat the flag with 100 percent respect."

The Millers said because of a burn ban in Brevard County, they couldn't finish burning the flags. Until the ban is lifted, they felt it was safe to keep them stored in bags outside.

Pam Miller began to cry when explaining her feelings on the issue.

"We would never, never do anything to harm our flag," Pam said. "My son said we are patriotic, we are a military family and there is no way on God's green Earth that we would allow anything bad to happen because it hurts us as people."

Neighbors News 13 spoke with didn't want to go on camera, but said they are appalled. They wonder even if this is accepted and is it still OK.

The Millers said the flags are on their own private property and are upset that someone would trespass to open the bags and take a look. They said they will not be pressing any charges.

Meanwhile, the Millers told News 13 they hope to work with the American Legion and build a box to store the flags.

## ***Drug may slow growth of early prostate cancer; could make 'watchful waiting' more appealing.***



**By MARILYNN MARCHIONE,  
AP Medical Writer**

A new study suggests a way to help men with early, low-risk prostate cancer avoid being overtreated for a disease that in most cases will never threaten their lives. It found that a drug can slow the growth of these tumors in men who opt to be monitored instead of having treatment right away.

This is the first time that a drug for treating enlarged prostates also has been shown to help treat prostate cancer in a rigorous study. It may persuade more men to choose active surveillance, or "watchful waiting," instead of rushing to have treatments that can leave them with urinary or sexual problems, doctors say.

However, the results also show that most of these men do very well with no treatment at all.

"We're identifying men who are not likely to need even a pill," said Dr. Maha Hussain, a University of Michigan cancer specialist. But

Americans fear cancer so much that they want some kind of treatment and underestimate the financial and medical risks of treating low-risk cases, she added.

She is program chair of a cancer conference in Florida where the study was presented. Results were released in a telephone news conference sponsored by the American Society for Clinical Oncology.

Roughly half of the 218,000 men diagnosed each year in the United States with prostate cancer have low-risk disease \_ PSA blood levels under 10 and low tumor aggressiveness scores.

“The American view of cancer” is that it’s always best to treat, so about 80 percent of these men choose to have that right away, said Dr. Otis Brawley, a prostate cancer expert who is chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

In Europe, though, most choose watchful waiting \_ close monitoring and treatment only if the cancer progresses or causes pain or other problems.

Doctors know that drugs that shrink the prostate \_ GlaxoSmithKline PLC’s Avodart and Merck & Co.’s Proscar \_ can help prevent prostate cancer. But federal health advisers recently recommended against taking them for this purpose because of potential risks.

The new study tested Avodart “not to prevent cancer, but to prevent the progression” of it in men who already have the disease, which may be a much better use of such drugs, said the study’s leader, Dr. Neil Fleshner of University Health Network and Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto.

“We know the vast majority of these men are not destined to die from that cancer,” and wanted to see if Avodart could make “watchful waiting” safer, Fleshner said.

The study enrolled about 300 men in the United States and Canada with low-risk cancer that was confirmed by a biopsy. They were given daily Avodart or dummy pills and new biopsies 1 1/2 and three years later.

Prostate cancer got worse in 38 percent of men taking Avodart and 49 percent of those on dummy pills. Final biopsies showed no signs of cancer in 36 percent of men on Avodart versus 23 percent of those on dummy pills. Doctors say this last result shows how tiny many of these cancers

were to start with, that they couldn’t even be found when new biopsies were done.

Doctors don’t think Avodart can cure cancers, but it seems to suppress it, said Dr. Howard Sandler, a prostate cancer specialist at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He had no role in the study but is involved with the cancer conference.

Researchers gave no details on Avodart’s side effects, but said no new ones appeared in the study. Avodart and Proscar are known to cause sexual problems for some men, but many men over 50 have this anyway and only about 5 percent more do when taking these drugs, said Brawley, who helped test Avodart for cancer prevention.

The new study was sponsored by Avodart’s maker, GlaxoSmithKline. Avodart and Proscar cost about \$4 a pill; generic versions of Proscar are available for about \$2. Proscar is similar to Avodart but has not been tested for treating early cancer as this study did.

Sandler said Avodart might relieve some men’s anxiety about monitoring their disease and may make them more comfortable not having immediate treatment.

“If it was me, I’d choose active surveillance,” he said. Avodart “has the potential to be an important help.”



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### Things To Think About

I may be schizophrenic, but at least I have each other.

I plan on living forever. So far, so good.



## **Former game show host Bob Barker donates \$2 million to Semper Fi Fund Marine charity.**

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) – Former TV game show host Bob Barker is donating \$2 million to a charity that helps injured members of the military and their families.

The former host of “The Price is Right” donated to the Semper Fi Fund, which assists Marines, soldiers, sailors, and Air Force and Coast Guard members who are injured during service.

A press statement says the donation was made Wednesday, March 9th at a ceremony in Hollywood.

Barker is a former World War II fighter pilot. He’s also an animal rights activist and last year donated \$2.5 million to help People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals open a new location in Los Angeles.

## **Illegal Immigrants Arrested in Uniform**



Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — At first glance, the white van seemed full of clean-cut Marines in uniform — not necessarily an unusual sight near the Border Patrol’s desert checkpoint along Interstate 8.

But a plainclothes Border Patrol agent who had served in the Marine Corps wasn’t fooled, especially when the driver didn’t know the birthday of the Marine Corps — something every Marine is taught.

Another agent later noticed that passenger Jose Guadalupe Ceja Jr., a suspected smuggler,

didn’t seem to understand English, and he and the driver both had nametags reading “Lopez.”

A closer look revealed 13 of the people were actually illegal Mexican immigrants and two were suspected U.S. smugglers trying to make it through the checkpoint in camouflage fatigues.

It was a shocking new tactic even for migrant smugglers known to go to great lengths — from stuffing illegal immigrants into the trunks of cars to transporting them in vehicles painted to look TV news trucks and Border Patrol vans — to dodge authorities patrolling the border.

Mexican smugglers often don that country’s military uniforms to try to get their illegal loads past authorities. In a 2006 incident that strained U.S.-Mexico relations, traffickers dressed as Mexican soldiers crossed the Rio Grande and were seen helping suspected drug smugglers elude U.S. law enforcement during a chase.

But the use of Marine disguises appears to be one of the first cases of smugglers and immigrants posing as U.S. military.

Former Marine Capt. David Danelo, a senior fellow at Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia who has authored a book about the U.S.-Mexico border, says smugglers had the unfortunate luck of running into well-trained Border Patrol agents with military experience.

“Should we punish these guys by sending them through four years of basic training?” he joked about the suspects. “The troubling reality and the real question here is, has this ever succeeded before? That’s an answer we just don’t know.”

Indeed, the brazenness raised a host of troubling, still unanswered questions: How did they get the uniforms? Were the uniforms only to trick immigration authorities or did the immigrants have more serious, military intentions?

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service — the investigative arm of the Navy, which includes the Marine Corps — has teamed up with the Border Patrol to find out.

“If people are pretending to be Marines for criminal reasons, we’ll want to know why,” said Ed Buice, spokesman for the Navy’s investigative arm, known as NCIS.

Buice, however, said he couldn’t discuss details of the investigation.

“I’m sure they were hoping agents would just see military people in a white van with govern-

ment plates and just wave them through,” Border Patrol spokesman Michael Jimenez said.

The immigrants and smugglers weren’t that lucky.

A criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in San Diego said the van with a government plate caught the eye of a Border Patrol agent identified only as S. Smith who was driving an unmarked vehicle down the interstate on the night of March 14.

The van with the words “U.S. Government, For official use only” on the license plate seemed suspicious. What’s more, one of the numbers reflected light differently when Smith’s headlights shined on it.

Smith sped up and passed the van to get a better look: The driver was wearing a military uniform and he could see others in the back wearing Marine Corps caps.

Smith called his colleagues at the nearest checkpoint and told them to do a close inspection of the van when it arrived. He followed and asked the driver during the inspection where they were headed. “Joint Service Base” was the answer.

Smith didn’t buy it, especially after seeing one of the numbers on the license plate of the van had been changed from a 0 to an 8.

Another agent, identified only by his last name Robinson, also a former Marine, noticed other anomalies: Some of the group were wearing desert camouflage uniforms and others were wearing urban camouflage uniforms.

He asked Ceja directly if he was a Marine, and he admitted he was not, according to the complaint.

Agents later tracked down Guadalupe Garcia, another smuggling suspect, who was apparently scouting out agents, at a checkpoint outside Jacumba, Calif., according to the complaint. Marine Corps insignias were found under a passenger seat in his car, authorities said.

Arturo Leyva, another suspect, told authorities he had been asked to smuggle drugs by a man he met at a bar in the border town of Calexico but had backed out, the complaint said. Authorities say he later ran into the man at a bar across the border in Mexicali and agreed to smuggle immigrants.

He was given a cell phone and called on March 14. He was told a taxi would be taking him from

his home in El Centro to Calexico.

From there, the men and immigrants went to a trailer park, where a man arrived with a military style duffle bag full of uniforms, the complaint states. The man coached Ceja on how to talk to the Border Patrol and say they were coming from Yuma Air Force base.

It was unclear where the uniforms had been obtained. Marine Capt. Brian Block at the Pentagon said the official attire is the property of servicemembers who buy it when they enter the military and it’s up to the individual to keep track of it after they are discharged.

Block said the services strongly encourage military members to maintain control of their uniforms for security reasons, but he acknowledges not everyone heeds the advice.

“You can go into just about any Army-Navy store and pick up old camies if you want to, especially in the San Diego area, where there is a lot of military,” he said. “But if you don’t have a military ID card, you can’t walk onto a base.”

Leyva’s attorney, Douglas Brown, said his client and the two other U.S. citizens arrested have entered a preliminary plea of not guilty. Ceja’s attorney, Martin Molina, declined to comment. Garcia’s attorney, Brandon Leblanc, said he could not comment on the case.

It is not known if any of them have a military background or any connection to someone in the armed services.

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# Dawn Gibbons Supports National Quilt Day Event for New VA Hospital

## Putting Comfort on 300 Beds to Support Veterans

Pahrump, Nev. – Dawn Gibbons supports local non-profit's efforts to bring comfort to Veterans. Quilts 4 Cancer hosted a quilting day event in honor of their Veterans Project on National Quilt Day, March 19.

Gibbons, the guest of honor, spoke at 3 p.m. to bring awareness to the cause. The event began at 9 a.m. at the United Methodist Church located at 372 Pahrump Valley Blvd. Gibbons is the former First Lady of Nevada and a former state Assemblywoman and now Director of Community Relations for the NBC affiliates - Channel 3 in Las Vegas, Channel 4 in Reno and Channel 10 in Elko

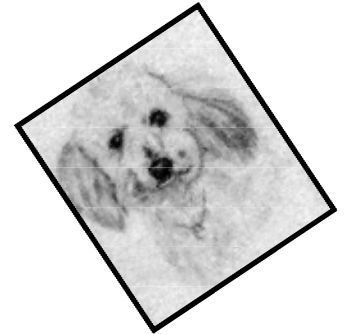
Volunteers tied quilts from 9 a.m. until 2p.m. Gibbons spoke in support of the project at 3 p.m. during the press conference. Finished quilts were on display for all to enjoy. The public and media were invited to attend the event and help support the Veteran's Project.

"More often than not, Veterans are alone and without family while in the hospital, we have seen firsthand how much a quilt can provide warmth and comfort to them... we wanted to do something special for the opening of the VA Hospital to honor all Veterans." said Barb Johnston, co-founder and director of Quilts 4 Cancer.

Quilts 4 Cancer's Veterans Project aims to make 300 quilts for the new Southern Nevada VA Hospital. The goal is to have a quilt on every bed for the opening of the hospital in spring 2012. There is still a need for volunteers and donations in order to complete the project by opening.

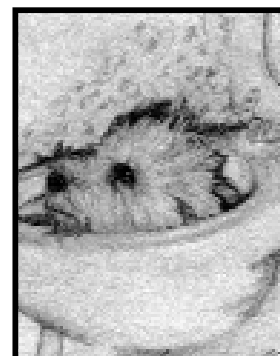
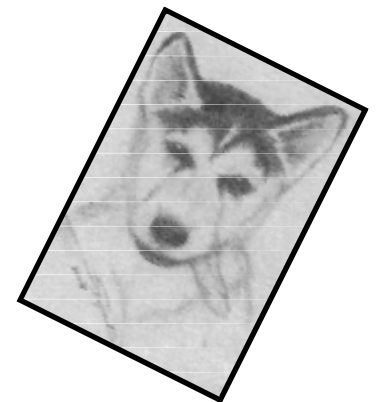
An independent national charity, Quilts 4 Cancer is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. For more information on Quilts 4 Cancer visit [www.quilts4cancer.org](http://www.quilts4cancer.org).

## Hands in Motion



Hands in Motion offers pencil drawings of your baby's and pets as well as single and wedding portraits of bride and groom.

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## Could a fire sale cut the VA claim backlog?

By Rick Maze  
Staff writer

A key lawmaker has proposed an unorthodox solution to clearing the 780,000-case backlog of veterans benefits claims: a fire sale.

Veterans who apply for disability compensation could receive an immediate payment if they are willing to accept a reduced amount, or they could hold out for a bigger check if they are willing to wait for a full review of their claim, under a proposal offered Thursday by Rep. Bob Filner, D-Calif., former chairman and now ranking minority party member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Checks could go out in a few days, Filner said, connecting the idea to the marketing practices of businesses that cut prices for early buyers.

He suggested that anyone who takes an immediate benefit would receive disability compensation calculated as if they had a 30 percent disability, which means they would get a minimum of \$376 a month, and more if they have dependents. By accepting the payment, they would be ineligible for a bigger payment later if they qualified for higher disability rating.

Filner mentioned the idea during a hearing on the 2012 Veterans Affairs Department budget, where he and other lawmakers were skeptical about VA's assertion that the growing claims backlog would finally start to shrink in 2012.

VA now has about 785,000 pending compensation and pension claims. That includes about 260,000 disability compensation claims for first-time applicants — the group that would be offered faster service under Filner's proposal.

For years, Filner has supported reducing the claims backlog by automatically approving a large number without review. He has talked about automatically approving any claim involving a disability that would be rated at 30 percent or less, automatically approving any claim from Vietnam-era

veterans, and automatically approving any claim in which a certified veterans service officer helped the veteran do the paperwork.

VA and many veterans groups have opposed Filner's ideas, worried that a claims process with only spot checks for accuracy would encourage cheating.

This time, however, VA didn't say no to Filner's idea. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, while not endorsing the proposal, said he would have his staff look at it.

"We look at every opportunity to take on new ideas," Shinseki said. "We will look at this option."

## Debunking Military Myths

*Some of these myths have been around for years; some are still going round.*

**The folds of the American flag do not have significance.**

Spiritual or religious meanings have been given to each of the folds, so they take on a life of their own, but they are wrong. Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, is the law of the land regarding the handling and displaying of the American flag. It does not include anything regarding the significance or meaning of folding the flag. The code was first adopted by Congress in 1923 and revised numerous times.

Traditional flag etiquette prescribes the following: Before an American flag is stored or presented, its handlers should twice fold it in half lengthwise; then, from the opposite end of the blue field, make a triangular fold and continue to fold it in triangles until the other end is reached. As most of our readers know, the folded flag takes the shape of a triangular pillow with only the blue canton field showing on the outside. It takes 13 folds to create this effect: two lengthwise folds and eleven triangular ones. That's where the misinformation comes in. The 13 folds have nothing to do with the 13 original states, or the final shape of a cocked hat, or because each of the folds is endowed with special meaning. Folding the flag in this way simply provides a dignified ceremonial touch that distinguishes folding a U.S. flag from an ordinary object — for example, a bed sheet — and results in

a pleasing, easy-to-handle shape. The 13 folds are coincidental.

Here are instructions for how to correctly fold a flag: <http://www.paradestore.com/flaginfo.aspx>

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs issued a statement on October 20, 2007 saying that any recitations at the graveside of a veteran can reflect the wishes of the family. In other words, if the family wants the meaning of the folds to be included, it can be.

### **The old dog tag notch was not put between a dead soldier's teeth.**

There are many explanations for the notch on the World War II and Korean Conflict dog tags – that “V” cut out on the short side of the tag across from the hole. Battlefield rumor held that the notched end of the tag was placed between the front teeth of battlefield casualties to hold the jaws in place. That may have happened, but there are no official instructions for such use. The only purpose of the notch was to hold the blank tag in alignment on the embossing machine. The tag was placed face down and then stamped onto a piece of paper via carbon ribbon in order to transfer the soldier's information. The one used currently does not require a notch and, thus, the modern military dog tags are smooth on all sides.

### **A flag that covered a casket can be used for other purposes.**

A flag that has been used to cover a casket can also be displayed for any proper purpose, as well as from a staff or flagpole.

### **The truck of a military flagpole does not contain a razor, a match, and a bullet.**

The gold ball atop a military flagpole is called a truck. The myth of the razor, match and bullet in a flagpole truck relates to one being the last on a military base in case of a takeover. The razor is to cut the stripes apart on the flag. The match is to burn the flag remains. The bullet is to use on oneself in the pistol that is supposedly buried a certain number of paces in a specific direction from the flagpole. Or, maybe you've heard it's a match, a pencil and a .45 caliber round. It's still nonsen-

sical – for a whole host of reasons! The concept is nothing more than a fairy tale to instill values and dedication.

### **The music of “Taps” was not found in a dead soldier's pocket by his father.**

The story of the origin of the haunting melody we know as “Taps” is just that – a story. It is a beautiful legend but nothing more. The only place where the two stories come together is that “Taps” was first heard at Harrison's Landing in Virginia in 1862 during the Civil War.

“Taps” may be attributed to Brig. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, Commander of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Division, V Army Corps, Army of the Potomac, who decided his unit could use a new bugle call for particular occasions. He had been dissatisfied with the customary firing of three rifle volleys at the conclusion of burial ceremonies during battle. He also needed a way to give more meaning to the end of a soldier's day. It is possible, so this version goes, that he altered an older piece, known as “Tattoo,” a French bugle call used to signal ‘lights out.’ With the help of his bugler, Oliver W. Norton of Chicago, the name “Tattoo” became “Taps” in its present form. Within months, buglers in both the Union and Confederate forces were playing it. Then, as now, it is an important element in military funeral ceremonies. Regrettably, the facts are not as dramatic or as moving as the legend.

### **The eagle does not turn**

Fueled by the popular television political drama, “The West Wing,” and the political thriller Deception Point, some people think that the Seal of the President of the United States changes during wartime. The regular seal has the eagle's head facing the talon holding an olive branch, the symbol of peace. The “wartime” seal is reputed to have the eagle's head turned to face the talon clutching a group of arrows.

Although the Seal of the President of the United States has undergone some changes over the years, its design is fixed by executive order and is not altered during wartime. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued an executive order that changed the design so that the eagle's

head faced the talon holding the arrows. The last major change in the seal was made by President Harry S Truman in 1945. Among the changes was the reversal of the eagle's head so that it once more faced in the same direction as the one on the Great Seal of the United States. According to biographer David McCullough, "Truman meant the shift in the eagle's gaze to be seen as symbolic of a nation both on the march and dedicated to peace."

The notion of a presidential seal that featured as its centerpiece an eagle whose gaze changed direction based upon the state of world conflict was the subject of a wry comment made by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill as he was visiting with President Truman in 1946. Pointing to the President's seal on the wall of a train car, Truman explained that he had the eagle's head turned to face the olive branch. Churchill said he thought the eagle's head should be on a swivel!

### Course was diverted

It was claimed that in 1995 an odd conversation took place between a lighthouse and an aircraft carrier off the coast of Newfoundland. It was allegedly recorded by the chief of naval operations and the transcript was leaked out to the general public.

Americans: "Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision."

Canadians: "Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision."

Americans: "This is the captain of a U.S. Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course."

Canadians: "No, I say again, you divert YOUR course."

Americans: "THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, THE SECOND LARGEST SHIP IN THE UNITED STATES' ATLANTIC FLEET. WE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THREE DESTROYERS, THREE CRUISERS AND NUMEROUS SUPPORT VESSELS. I DEMAND THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR COURSE 15 DEGREES NORTH, THAT'S ONE-FIVE

DEGREES NORTH, OR COUNTER MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP."

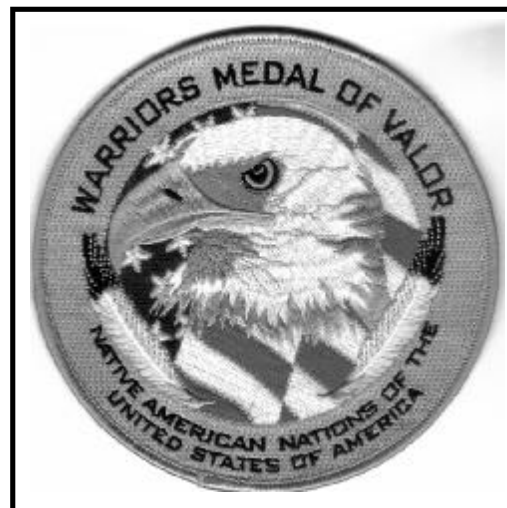
Canadians: "This is a lighthouse. Your call."

The story of the pompous captain getting his well-earned comeuppance at the hands of a plain-speaking lighthouse is an old one. The U.S. Navy followed it up with a newspaper article in 1996:

"The source of that story, which the Navy swears is untrue, is not known. It's a joke that has been floating around for at least 10 years, and maybe 30 to 40 years. Some think it originated in a humor column in Reader's Digest. Nobody knows for sure.

But ... the story of the ship and the lighthouse has been passed along, as gospel, by comedy talk-show hosts, lazy newspaper columnists and clueless cyberspace jockeys until it has taken on an air of the apocryphal. It clings to Navy lore like that old captain from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner." And, like Coleridge's haunted captain, the Navy is having a real tough time getting this albatross off its neck."

The ship is identified as the carrier Abraham Lincoln, or Enterprise, or Missouri, and that was the first clue to its being bogus. There is no such carrier; the Missouri is a retired battleship. The story has wings! The reported incident happened in Puget Sound, off the Carolinas, and off the coast of Newfoundland. Moreover, it happened in 1995, or the story's been told for 50 years. No matter where or when – it didn't happen! But it made a good story, didn't it?



The Warriors Medal of Valor patch is now available for purchase from chapter 17. They come in two sizes, 5 " and 10". The 5 " will sell for \$10 and the 10" will sell for \$20. These patches will be available in the company store during the regular chapter meetings

# ***Did Marines land in North Korea only to learn Bob Hope got there first?***

By Jeff Schogol



From World War II to the first Gulf War, you could find Bob Hope wherever U.S. troops were fighting. But was the entertainer so omnipresent that Marines landing at the east coast of North Korea in 1950 waded ashore, ready for battle, only to find that Hope and a USO show were already there?

The episode happened at Wonsan, North Korea, in October 1950, where the landings had been delayed until mine sweepers could clear all of the magnetic mines from the approaching waters, according to the Marine Corps' official history of the Korean War.

These mines were hard to detect because they could be set to allow up to 12 ships to pass over them before exploding, meaning the mine sweepers had to make at least 13 passes over a given area before it could be considered clear, according to the history, written by Lynn Montross and Marine Capt. Nicholas A. Canzona.

While all this was happening, the ships carrying the Marines steamed back and forth off the coast, prompting the Marines to dub the enterprise "Operation Yo-Yo."

"Never did time die a harder death, and never did the grumblers have so much to grouse about," according to the history.

By the time the Marines went ashore beginning on Oct. 25, South Korean troops and Marine air maintenance crews had already reached Wonsan.

And so had Bob Hope.

"Even more humiliating to the landing force troops, Bob Hope and Marilyn Maxwell were flown to the objective area," according to the history. "On the evening of the 24th they put on a USO show spiced with quips at the expense of the disgruntled Leathernecks in the transports."

When the Marines came ashore the next day,

Hope had already left.


The Marines, of course, didn't know whether they would be landing under fire, said Joe Owen, then a second lieutenant with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

"We didn't have very good intelligence," Owen told *The Rumor Doctor*. "We had the word that the beach had been secured, but we came in fully loaded and ready to fight if necessary. Then we saw the flyboys standing on the beach waving us in."


Also on the beach were South Korean troops who greeted the Marines by giving them the middle finger.

"It was no animosity," Owen explained. "It might have been their way of saying hi."

*THE RUMOR DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS: Bob Hope had been there and gone when the Marines landed at Wonsan, but if the Marines felt chagrined by the whole affair, they more than showed their valor and fighting spirit the following month when attacked by hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops at the Chosin Reservoir.*



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# Govt announcing plans to scrap colors in terror warning system by April 27



By EILEEN SULLIVAN  
Associated Press

By the end of April, terror threats to the U.S. will no longer be described in shades of green, blue, yellow, orange and red, The Associated Press has learned.

The nation's color-coded terror warning system will be phased out beginning this week, according to government officials familiar with the plan. The officials requested anonymity to speak ahead of an announcement scheduled Thursday by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The Homeland Security Department and other government agencies have been reviewing the Homeland Security Advisory System's usefulness for more than a year. One of the most notable changes to come: The public will no longer hear automated recordings at U.S. airports stating that the threat level is orange.

The Obama administration will roll out a replacement, which will be called the National Terrorism Advisory System. The new plan calls for notifying specific audiences about specific threats. In some cases, it might be a one-page threat description sent to law enforcement officials describing the threat, what law enforcement needs to do about it and what the federal government is doing, one of the officials said.

When agency officials think there is a threat the public should know about, they will issue an announcement and rely on news organizations and social media outlets to get the word out.

The five-tiered color-coded terror warning system, created after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was one of the Bush administration's most visible anti-terrorism programs. Criticized as too vague to be useful in communicating the terror threat to the public, it quickly became the butt of

late-night talk show jokes.

The government hasn't made changes in the colored alert levels since 2006, despite an uptick in attempted attacks against the U.S. However, the government has changed security protocols since then based on threats. For example, new airport security measures were introduced after an effort to bring down a Detroit-bound jetliner on Christmas Day 2009.

"The old Bush color-coded system taught Americans to be scared, not prepared," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., the top Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee. "Each and every time the threat level was raised, very rarely did the public know the reason, how to proceed, or for how long to be on alert."

Under that system, green, at the bottom, signals a low danger of attack; blue signals a general risk; yellow, a significant risk; orange, a high risk, and red, at the top, warns of a severe threat. Since the outset, the nation has never been below the third threat level, yellow \_ an elevated or significant risk of terrorist attack.

The use of colors emerged from a desire to clarify the nonspecific threat information that intelligence officials were receiving after the 2001 attacks.

## Frederick William Foy

March 21, 1921 –  
December 22, 2010  
(aged 89)



|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Place of birth   | Detroit, Michigan        |
| Place of death   | Woburn, Massachusetts    |
| Service/branch   | United States Army       |
| Years of service | 1942–1946                |
| Rank             | Corporal                 |
| Unit             | 14th Special Service Co. |
| Battles/wars     | World War II             |
| Other work       | Radio and television     |

Frederick William Foy was an American radio and television announcer, who used Fred Foy as his professional name. He is best known for his narration of *The Lone Ranger*. Radio historian Jim Harmon described Foy as "the announcer, per-

haps the greatest announcer-narrator in the history of radio drama.”

Shortly after graduating from high school in 1938, Foy began in broadcasting with a part-time position at WMBC, a 250-watt independent station in Detroit. He moved to WXYZ in 1942, but World War II interrupted his radio career.

He was inducted August 28, 1942, entering the American armed forces September 11, 1942. Attached to the 14th Special Service Company, Sergeant Fred Foy became the American voice on Egyptian State Broadcasting, delivering news and special programs to the Allied Forces in Cairo. He handled the distribution throughout the Middle East of American recordings, in addition to local broadcasts of Command Performance, Mail Call, Personal Album, Radio Bric-a-Brac and Front Line Theatre. He also announced The American Forces Programme. For Stars and Stripes he did American News Letter, a weekly summary of news from America, plus sport flashes and items from various theatres of war. For Cairo cinemas, he announced Headline News of the Day. Foy helped stage and announce USO sponsored programs, including a Jack Benny broadcast from Cairo to New York and an Andre Kostelanetz concert with Lily Pons.

Foy scripted his own shows, including Up To Scratch, a lively program of the current hit tunes, and Shows on Parade, which he hosted. When he wrote and directed Christmas Overseas, broadcast from the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, in the Holy Land it received top honors from Washington. Featuring Christmas music by the Franciscan Boys' Orphanage Choir, the program opened with a Christmas story offering reasons for fighting the War. Working with Stars and Stripes, he created and announced a program airing World Series play-by-play to GIs. He also scripted, directed and acted with the American Red Cross during the 1945 War Fund Campaign. Foy received a commendation for voluntarily remaining at his post during the hours from August 10, 1945 until final August 15 confirmation of the Japanese surrender, making the latest news available at all times during the news emergency prior to the surrender. He was discharged on January 3, 1946 at Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

After the war, Foy returned to WXYZ in Detroit. He took over the position of announcer and nar-

rator for radio's The Lone Ranger beginning July 2, 1948 and continuing until the series ended on September 3, 1954. He understudied the title role and stepped into the part on March 29, 1954 when Brace Beemer had laryngitis. His long run as announcer and narrator of The Lone Ranger made the Foy's distinctive voice a radio trademark. He was also heard on radio's The Green Hornet and Challenge of the Yukon.

His stentorian delivery of the program's lead-in thrilled his audience for years and helped the program achieve even greater popularity and status. Most radio historians agree that Foy's Lone Ranger introduction is the most recognized opening in American radio:

*Hi-Yo, Silver! A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust and a hearty "Hi-Yo Silver"... The Lone Ranger! With his faithful Indian companion, Tonto, the daring and resourceful masked rider of the plains led the fight for law and order in the early Western United States. Nowhere in the pages of history can one find a greater champion of justice. Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear. From out of the past come the thundering hoof-beats of the great horse Silver. The Lone Ranger rides again!*

In 1955, Foy reprised his famous "Return with us now..." opening narration for The Lone Ranger television series (1949–57) in syndication (Actor Gerald Mohr did the opening narration in the original network run). In 1961, Foy joined the ABC announcing staff in New York. For ABC Television he spent five years as announcer and on-camera commercial spokesman for The Dick Cavett Show. He was also the announcer for The Generation Gap and other network quiz shows. For ABC Radio he narrated the award-winning news documentary, Voices in the Headlines, as well as serving as host and narrator for the ABC's radio drama series, Theatre 5 (1964–65). He narrated network documentary specials in tribute to Sir Winston Churchill, JFK, Herbert Hoover and others. As spokesman for national advertisers, Foy represented Colgate, General Motors and Sinclair. Foy stayed with ABC until 1985.

Fred Foy was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in March 2000 and received the Golden Boot Award from the Motion Picture and

Television Fund in August, 2004.

Foy performed his "Return with us now..." Lone Ranger opening narration live at the Hollywood Bowl in August, 2000, with the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra and conductor John Mauceri. In 1986, he wrote his autobiography, Fred Foy from XYZ to ABC: A Fond Recollection, and he has also released a 45-minute CD/cassette of memories, Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch.

## ***Former Bush Official Killed, Found in Landfill***

Delaware Police are investigating the apparent murder of a former Bush official who also championed the fund-raising effort to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Mall in Washington, D.C.

John P. Wheeler III, 66, was found dead in a Delaware landfill, and his death has been ruled a homicide by Newark, Del., police. They are asking the public for leads in the case.

Wheeler's body was found in Wilmington on New Years Eve. According to police, somebody initially reported that the body was dumped out of a refuse truck, which would have been coming from Newark, onto the landfill. Newark Police spokesman Lt. Mark Farrall told Fox News that nobody had reported Wheeler missing before he was found.

The Wilmington News Journal reported that Wheeler was last seen riding an Amtrak train from Washington to Wilmington, Del., December 28th.

The death has shocked those who knew him. Former Air Force Secretary Michael Wynne, for whom Wheeler worked as a special assistant during the last four years of the George W. Bush administration, told Fox News he was "stunned" to learn of Wheeler's death. He called Wheeler a "patriot to the first order," saying, "he's the most unlikely candidate for someone to do this to."

"This is just not the kind of guy who gets murdered," an attorney who used to represent Wheeler told the News Journal.

Wheeler, a Vietnam veteran who lived in New Castle and worked as a defense consultant, had a long and decorated military career and served in the Reagan administration and both Bush admin-


istrations.

During the Reagan administration, Wheeler served as chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, helping lead fundraising efforts for the memorial on the National Mall. Wheeler went on to found the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, to help find veterans employment opportunities. Then he helped create the Earth Conservation Corps during the George H.W. Bush administration.

Police believe Wheeler's body had been placed inside one of the bins in Newark before a disposal truck arrived. They are investigating several "locations of interest" in the city. The Newark Police Department is asking anyone with information regarding Wheeler to contact them at 1-800-TIP-3333.

Wheeler graduated from West Point in 1966, and had a law degree from Yale and a business degree from Harvard.

Wheeler and his wife, Katherine Klyce, filed a lawsuit in 2009 to prevent their neighbors from constructing a home that would have blocked their view, the News Journal reported.



"The Nevada chapter of the 1st Cavalry Division Association meets at 10:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month at American Legion Post 8 located at 733 Veterans Memorial Drive, Las Vegas 89101. The chapter president is Ken Gallagher ([abnrngrnam71@hotmail.com](mailto:abnrngrnam71@hotmail.com)), the vice president is Virgie Hibbler ([vvastatecouncil@aol.com](mailto:vvastatecouncil@aol.com)), the treasurer is Bill Anton ([polar\\_bear\\_01@fastmail.fm](mailto:polar_bear_01@fastmail.fm)), and the secretary is George Hitzman ([the-hitman@outdrs.net](mailto:the-hitman@outdrs.net)). Troopers from all eras are welcome.

**"FIRST TEAM!"**

# **2nd Annual UNLV Combat Trauma Conference**

**“She’s back, but she’s not the same!”**

**Focusing on Returning Women Warrior  
and Veteran Issues  
May 25-26, 2011**

Sponsors UNLV Student Organization of  
Addiction Professionals, WestCare Foundation,  
Grace After Fire & the Family Alliance for  
Veterans of America

2010 marked the first opportunity to bring experts, professionals and returning warriors together for a time to focus on combat trauma, sponsored by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. This first conference clearly raised consciousness, raised issues and raised commitment among many to maintain the focus and to raise voice to this subject that continues to be heard across the country. This second annual conference will spotlight the issues facing America’s returning women veterans and their unique issues related to combat trauma.

America’s returning OIF-OEF women warriors represents many new impacts of deployment and combat with which America must deal. The numbers begin to tell the tale:

- 15% ..... of the US Military are now WOMEN.
- 9,000 ..... WOMEN have received prosthetics.
- 1 in 5 ..... WOMEN screened reported Military Sexual Trauma.
- 13,000 ..... homeless are WOMEN veterans.
- 30,000 ..... single MOTHERS deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.
- 40% ..... of WOMEN veterans have children.
- 8.8% ..... of Military WOMEN are divorced annually.
- 95% ..... of VA programs do not target WOMEN or offer separate housing.

These numbers are staggering, both in their reality and in their effect on families, communities and the nation. The intent of this 2<sup>nd</sup> annual conference is to further raise the nation’s consciousness of this current reality. But more than that, it is

to highlight the resources that are available and those who are already at work helping our women return to full health and productive lives.

**May 25-26, 2011  
University of Nevada at Las Vegas  
(UNLV)  
TAM Alumni Center  
Las Vegas, NV**

Early Registration Fee: \$100.00  
On-Site Registration Fee: \$150.00

(No cost to Women Veterans)  
CEU’s to satisfy the requirements of multiple professional organizations (including addiction and other health practitioners, therapists, social workers, educators, etc. ) are pending professional organization approval and will be offered at no additional cost.

Contact: Sharon Steinberg,  
WestCare Foundation 702-385-2090  
[sharon.steinberg@westcare.com](mailto:sharon.steinberg@westcare.com)

## **1 in 3 Female Vets Dissatisfied with VA Healthcare**



John Commins  
for HealthLeaders Media

A survey of women military veterans has found widespread distrust and dissatisfaction with healthcare services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The survey of 3,012 U.S. military women veterans worldwide released by the American Legion measured 10 attributes of VA service quality, including: reliability, responsiveness, competence, access, courtesy, communication, credibility, security, tangibles and understanding the customer.

The perception of the Veterans Affairs healthcare system is dim. “Many women veterans have either chosen not to enroll in VA services, or are

unaware of the medical benefits they have earned through their service in the Armed Forces. Other Women Veterans may have negative or ambivalent perceptions of healthcare delivery through the VA Healthcare System,” the report says.

“Research on this subject is important, yet it’s lacking,” said Verna Jones, director of the American Legion’s Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division.

“Women represent a vastly growing portion of U.S. veterans, comprising almost 20% of our armed forces and representing the fastest growing population of the VA healthcare system.”

Among the findings of The American Legion Women Veterans Survey Report:

\* One in three female VA healthcare users reported they were dissatisfied with their most recent experience with VA’s Women Veterans Program Manager, who counsels female patients in the system. The survey suggests there is room for significant improvement for VA to provide gender-specific services such as PAP smears and mammograms.

\* 38% of the survey’s respondents said they wouldn’t use a VA doctor for a second opinion – even if that opinion was offered at no charge.

\* Nearly 40% of female veterans say they’re dissatisfied with the mandatory screening process for military sexual trauma.

\* About 30% of respondents reported that they were not allowed an appropriate amount of time with their provider to discuss their specific health-related issues.

\* 38% expressed at least some level of dissatisfaction when asked to compare the credibility of healthcare provided by VA against similar services provided by private practitioners – 11% were “very dissatisfied.”

\* Almost 25% of the respondents rated the convenience of VA facilities locations as poor, indicating that gender-specific care is difficult to obtain for a significant number of women.

\* More than 25% of those surveyed expressed dissatisfaction with VA in security-related issues – especially the degree of sensitivity surrounding a patient’s personal information.

\* Approximately 25% of the respondents said they were dissatisfied with the level of competence demonstrated by VA healthcare providers

when compared to private practitioners.

\* Almost 25% of the respondents gave VA a courtesy rating of less than positive.

The online, 67-question survey was conducted in January by ProSidian Consulting, LLC, based in Charlotte, NC.

Only about 25 percent of the 1.8 million Women Veterans are using the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare System.

“We found in our survey about 66% of the women not only registered for VA healthcare service, but they also maintained their private healthcare service,” said Adrian Woolcock, managing principal of ProSidian. “In addition in that subset, only 40% have ever used VA. The women veterans overall do know what their benefits are. It’s really a matter of focusing on improving the quality of service provided to women veterans.”

Jones said the survey results provided insight about the gap between desired and actual performance of the VA healthcare system for women using it. Of the 2,936 respondents who answered that specific question, 63% were enrolled in the VA healthcare system. Of those, almost 30% were dissatisfied with the “reliability” of healthcare provided by the VA when compared to private healthcare providers, and more than 30% were dissatisfied when they compared the “responsiveness” of VA to that of private healthcare providers.

“The results from this survey will be used to refine The American Legion’s outreach efforts (and) enhance its written and oral testimony to Congress and federal agencies,” Jones said. “The survey results will also help identify unmet needs among women veterans and guide the development of strategic remedies.”

More than one-third of respondents were between ages 52 and 61, and 25% were ages 42-51.

Eighty percent were white, and more than 68% were non-combat veterans.

Some of the veterans who took the survey said they didn’t want a separate VA healthcare system for women; rather, they want the same quality healthcare that men receive but tailored to meet gender-specific needs. Others said they hesitate to use VA facilities because they can’t get child care on the days of their appointments.

“Changes in culture take time, and VA is starting to change its approach dealing with women

veterans,” said American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster said. “The American Legion wants to help VA make this important transition. VA health care needs to be more reliable, responsive and competent in its treatment of women.”

A copy of the 82-page survey was delivered to VA Secretary Eric Shinseki during the Legion’s 51st Annual Washington Conference.

Leadership University, located at 9145 W Russell Road in the Desert Canyon Business Park. The event was free and open to the public.



POW Johnson’s book “I’m Still Standing” is a best-seller, published in 2010 by Simon and Schuster. It recounts her journey from captive U.S. soldier to free citizen, and details each of the 22 days she was held in Iraq. A gripping story of survival, faith, intention, and patriotism, books was available for purchase and autographed following Johnson’s lecture.

Appointed by Congress to serve on the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, POW Johnson is an advocate for veteran care and inspects hospitals throughout the country for the U.S. government. She is also a military commentator who appears regularly on CNN, NPR, NBC and MSNBC, and was a frequent guest on Larry King Live. Her awards and decorations are numerous and include the Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medals.

POW Johnson is one of Glamour magazine’s Women of the Year, and was nominated for an NAACP Image Award in March of this year for “I’m Still Standing,” where her book competed against works by Nelson Mandela, Condoleezza Rice, Jay-Z and Ray Charles Robinson, Jr.

POW Johnson is now fulfilling her dream to become a chef and will graduate from culinary school in Texas in May. In August of 2007, Johnson flew to Las Vegas to attend ChoiceCenter’s Personal Development & Leadership program, which she credits with inspiring her to achieve many of the successes she enjoys today.

**AMERICAN HERO AND POW SHOSHANA JOHNSON HOSTS LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING IN LAS VEGAS TO MARK 8TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER 22-DAY CAPTURE IN IRAQ**



**America’s First Black Female Prisoner of War shared experiences of being held as a prisoner for 22 days at event March 15**

Las Vegas, NV – Just four weeks into her first deployment with Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, Army Specialist Shoshana Johnson was ambushed, shot in both ankles, and captured by enemy soldiers. America’s first black female Prisoner of War was held for 22 days before being freed by U.S. Marines in a Hollywood-style rescue mission. POW Johnson will now spend one very special night sharing her story at a lecture and book signing event at ChoiceCenter Leadership University, where she is a 2007 graduate.

“An Evening with American Hero and POW Shoshana Johnson” was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 7 p.m. in Las Vegas at ChoiceCenter



New type of fuel gauges to be installed in all cars, by order of all gas companies.

# *Southern Nevada Delegates Get a Shock At The Feburary 26th State Council Meeting In Tonopah, NV.*



When we woke up Saturday morning to get ready for the State Council meeting, boy, were we surprized. The motel was kind enough to supply ice scrapers free of charge. Being from Vegas, what's an ice scraper?



And was the parking lot slippery!



Virgie Hibbler works on removing the ice & snow off the windshield so Tom George, Verigi and Steve Sawchuk can get to the meeting.



President Daroll Brown jumped in, being a pro from the North, with his trusty snow brush, helped clear the windshield and headlights. And it was COLD....



Photos by Steve Sawchuk, Jr.

# *How Jack Valenti got buried at Arlington, but others didn't*



By Michael Doyle  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Jack Valenti won his final and most heartfelt lobbying victory when he was lowered into the ground at Arlington National Cemetery.

A World War II veteran, presidential adviser and wily Hollywood power player, Valenti pressed hard to secure an Arlington burial plot. His remarkable behind-the-scenes campaign outlasted three defense secretaries, records obtained under the Freedom of Information Act show.

“When that moment comes for me as it will for all humans, I would dearly love to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery,” Valenti wrote then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in December 2002.

The previously undisclosed documents show that Valenti’s Arlington plotting was K Street smooth, from his calling Rumsfeld “Rummy” to his handwritten note reminding Rumsfeld’s Pentagon successor, Robert Gates, of a lunch they once shared at CIA headquarters.

Valenti ultimately got the waiver he needed, over the resistance of the Arlington cemetery superintendent. On May 9, 2007, the former Army Air Corps bomber pilot, special assistant to President Lyndon Johnson and chairman of the Motion Picture Association of America was buried near John F. Kennedy’s gravesite.

But Valenti isn’t the only one to win an exemption from Arlington’s strict eligibility criteria.

More than 60 Arlington burial exemptions have been sought and granted since Jan. 1, 2005, the documents obtained under FOIA show. The documents, spanning hundreds of pages, show families in pain, politicians at work and civil servants caught in the middle.

Some requests fail.

In January, Rep. Jim Costa, D-Calif., and others sought an Arlington waiver for the late Hmong general Vang Pao. Vang Pao led Hmong forces in Laos during the Vietnam War, supporting the U.S., though not a member of the U.S. military.

Pentagon officials denied the request.

“It’s B.S.,” said Charlie Waters, a Marine Corps veteran and Fresno, Calif., resident who’s worked closely with Vang Pao’s family. “They’ve buried other people there, actors and actresses.”

The Pentagon has so far has refused to identify the advisory panel members who recommended denial for Vang Pao.

Certainly, the cemetery has standards to uphold.

Valenti, for instance, won the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service with the 57th Bomb Wing; this wasn’t, however, sufficient to merit an Arlington ground burial. He did meet the easier veterans’ criteria for inurnment in the cemetery’s Columbarium, but he wanted something more.

Many Arlington burial exemptions are relatively routine, apolitical decisions.

Sacramento, Calif., resident Lynn Silkitis, for instance, sought in 2004 to place her late mother’s remains at Arlington. Her mother’s stepfather had been a Marine colonel and had been buried along with his wife.

Silkitis wrote Arlington officials, noting that her mother, Nancy Williard Strausbaugh, was born in Washington to a “close-knit” family. Arlington officials granted the waiver, placing an urn containing Strausbaugh’s ashes in the family grave.

“When it came to being with her mother and father, she wanted to go home,” Silkitis said, “and I sent her home.”

Some waivers aid families enduring nightmares cruel even by wartime standards.

In 2005, Army officials granted an exception to the Byers family of Iowa. The parents had lost one son, Army Sgt. Casey Byers, to an improvised explosive device in Taqaddum, Iraq. Nine days later, a domestic traffic accident killed another son, Justin, who was in the Army Reserve.

An urn containing Justin’s ashes was placed in Casey’s grave.

Wives who have remarried following their first husbands’ deaths, likewise, can be granted a place at their first husbands’ Arlington sites. This happened in 2006 for the late Melbourne, Fla.,

resident Josephine Griffin Burmester, whose first husband was an Army chief warrant officer.

Children, too, can sometimes secure waivers.

In 2005, for instance, the dwarf son of an Army colonel was given a waiver so his cremated remains could be placed with his parents. Usually, children must still be dependents to be buried with their parents, but the Pentagon granted a waiver.

"There is a smaller urn/box made just for these circumstances," the man's sister wrote. "It will sit right on top of both parents."

A handful of other exemptions, like the one granted Valenti, have served the politically well connected.

Valenti first convinced Defense Secretary William Cohen to grant a waiver on Jan. 18, 2001, several days before Cohen left office. Valenti then leveraged Cohen's unilateral decision to sway two other defense secretaries.

"I do not choose to have my wife scurry around trying to get my body into Arlington, which is why I write you now to save her that final desperation," Valenti advised Rumsfeld.

Arlington's then-superintendent, John Metzler Jr., warned in internal emails that Valenti's waiver would be a mistake. In another email, Metzler stated simply: "WOW." Metzler, nonetheless, lost the fight, and the Pentagon subsequently notified by email more than 20 congressional offices that Valenti's wish was fulfilled.

In 2008, famed Texas heart surgeon Dr. Michael DeBakey likewise benefited from political help. Though a World War II veteran, DeBakey was not eligible for Arlington. On his behalf, Texas Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison sought a waiver.

An advisory panel split 3-3 over granting DeBakey an exemption. The cemetery superintendent opposed it.

Nonetheless, DeBakey received the Arlington waiver from the assistant secretary of the Army, whose boss was then-Army Secretary Pete Geren, a former Texas congressman.

"(DeBakey's) combined military and civilian accomplishments are certainly worthy to be recognized and rewarded," the Army officials wrote.

## *Mistake May Shortchange Wounded Vets*



Pittsburgh Tribune-Review  
by Carl Prine

For more than five years, thousands of wounded and injured military reservists and National Guard troops nationwide might have lost medical benefits because of a Pentagon mistake, according to an investigation by Sen. Ron Wyden.

In a letter sent to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, the Oregon Democrat said that many wounded troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq who ended up in Warrior Transition Units at military bases or in community-based programs near their homes lost up to six months of medical coverage that's provided to them under a 2005 law.

The Transition Assistance Management Program, or TAMP, was supposed to help personnel returning from active duty get the medical care they needed before their civilian coverage kicked in. The problem was that the Pentagon began counting the 180 days of coverage the moment the troops returned to the United States, not once they left active duty.

Those who needed extensive care in the Warrior Transition Units often exhausted their six months of benefits before they went home, according to Wyden. Pentagon paperwork leaked last year to the Tribune-Review showed that the typical reservist or Guard member will spend about a year in the special medical units, or longer if they're in a community-based program.

While many of those troops received federal medical insurance in retirement packages, others didn't. Neither Wyden nor the Pentagon can estimate exactly how many thousands lost out on the care they needed.

Wyden called on Gates to immediately revise the regulations, which affect reserve personnel in all the military branches.

"It is inexcusable that these servicemembers are being denied the benefits they have earned through their sacrifice," Wyden wrote.

Marine Corps Col. David C. Lapan, the chief Pentagon spokesman, said staffers were



unaware of Wyden's letter but were looking into the findings.

Veterans service organizations, including the American Legion and Reserve Officers Association, expressed concern that troops might have been shortchanged.

"It is disheartening that the Pentagon sanctions a policy that deprives National Guard and reserve men and women [of] health care benefits from a country for which ... they have served and fought," said retired Navy Capt. Marshall Hanson, director of legislative services for the Reserve Officers Association.

"Legal technicalities are disrespecting our Guard and reserve heroes, and demonstrate, once again, there is not parity between the active and reserve serving member," he said.

## ***Navy to Disestablish 19 NJROTC Units***



**Navy News**

NAVAL STATION GREAT LAKES, Ill. — The Navy will disestablish 19 Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) units, effective June 30.

The 19 units are currently on probationary status for failure to meet regulatory minimum student enrollment standards.

"Our NJROTC units and cadets are important to the Navy and local communities, and we have been working with the probationary units to solve their enrollment issues," said Rear Adm. David F. Steindl, commander, Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), which oversees more than 600 NJROTC units at accredited high schools across the nation. "School officials were made aware of their probationary status and acknowledged this status on an annual basis. Additionally, NJROTC area managers, who oversee the units in their geographical regions, have been working to assist school officials in their efforts to meet the required minimum enrollment."

Title 10 United States Code, Chapter 102, Section 2031, and Department of Defense

Directives require a minimum enrollment of qualified students for NJROTC units. For host schools with a total enrollment of 1,000 or more, the minimum enrollment number is 100. Where schools have less than 1,000 students enrolled, a minimum of 10 percent of the total enrollment is required.

"We cannot maintain units that consistently fail to meet minimum enrollment standards and are not in compliance with NJROTC program directives," Steindl said.

The specific units to be disestablished are Roberts High School (Pottstown, Pa.); Enterprise High School (Redding, Calif.); Pasco High School (Dade City, Fla.); Parkersburg High School (Parkersburg, W.V.); Decatur High School (Berlin, Md.); Piqua High School (Piqua, Ohio); Key West High School (Key West, Fla.); Fernandina Beach High School (Fernandina Beach, Fla.); Las Plumas High School (Oroville, Calif.); Mesquite High School (Gilbert, Ariz.); Burroughs High School (Ridgecrest, Calif.); Marshfield High School (Marshfield, Mo.); West Ouachita High School (West Monroe, La.); Clements High School (Sugar Land, Texas); East High School (Rochester, N.Y.); Lander Valley High School (Lander Valley, Wyo.); Whitney Young Magnet High School (Chicago); South Tahoe High School (South Lake Tahoe, Calif.); and Ogemaw Heights High School (West Branch, Mich.).

NJROTC is a citizenship development program that instills in students at secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. The NJROTC curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development. The classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year by community service activities, team competitions, visits to naval activities, marksmanship training, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) seminars.

"In order to maintain high unit quality and allow for continued outreach programs, like the NJROTC STEM camps held each summer, it is critical that we hold accountable those NJROTC units that are not in compliance," Steindl said. "The Navy will continue to do all it can to ensure the NJROTC program remains a high-quality program where cadets can excel in leadership, academics and community service."

## ***Newest combat action tourniquet easier to apply, saves lives.***

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – One hundred percent effectiveness. When it comes to matters of life and death, it's good to have odds like that on your side.

The newest generation combat action tourniquet can provide that type of reassurance to today's armed forces when used quickly and efficiently to stop heavy bleeding. Beginning in October 2010, Marines and sailors deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom were issued the CAT as part of their individual first aid kits.

Since the tourniquets' first use in the late 17th century, many advances have been made in the quality and type of materials used to compose them. However, the simple concept for their use and application has remained the same.

"The purpose of the tourniquet is to exert enough compressive force to stop blood flow," said Capt. Jeff W. Timby, a medical corps officer in the United States Navy.

Timby, a Wallingford, Pa., native, is the II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) surgeon and Regional Command Southwest Medical Director, and is also a member of the Tactical Combat Casualty Care organization. His medical experience and knowledge spans the length of his 15-year naval career.

Timby is not only a proponent of the CAT, but also of the advantages of other simple and inexpensive medical gear he says all Marines and sailors should carry in their first aid kits.

"A simple tourniquet, a simple needle, and a simple surgical airway are lifesaving in over 95% of preventable deaths in the battlefield," Timby stressed.

He cited previous research and reports completed by physician Ron Bellamy during the Vietnam War.

"Bellamy found that the number one cause for preventive death in the battlefield was exsan-

guination [bleeding to death] from extremity wounds," Timby said, adding that that fact holds true in today's Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The second and third preventive causes of death on the battlefield are tension pneumothorax [pressure in the chest] and loss of airway.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Hicks, a corpsman with II MEF (Fwd.) who has multiple deployments under his belt, highlighted some of the improvements made to the CAT.

"The plastic windlass [what you turn to tighten the tourniquet] is reinforced but smaller, and the tourniquet comes with a time band attached," Hicks said.

Hicks, a Venice, Fla., native who is currently deployed in support of OEF to Camp Leatherneck, Helmand province, Afghanistan, is a combat veteran who has been trained in the use of multiple tourniquets. His previous deployments include one on the USNS Comfort, a hospital ship out of Baltimore, in support of Hurricane Katrina in 2005; Djibouti, Africa in 2007; and southern Helmand province, Afghanistan, with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment in 2009. His extensive medical military training includes a certification to instruct Tactical Combat Casualty Care.

While all the corpsman were issued, or had purchased, the CAT on his previous deployment, the same was not true for the Marines deployed with Hicks' unit. In fact, he said, this current deployment was the first time that he knew of all deploying Marines receiving the opportunity to switch out their original tourniquets for the newest one to supplement their first aid kits.

In addition to highlighting the positive changes made to the CAT, Hicks touched on the updated training Marines and sailors were receiving with it.

"When I was first taught, the guidance that was put forth was to put a tourniquet two to four inches above the wound," he began.

He went on to explain that the problem with that was there are two bones in the lower portion of the extremities, which prevent the tourniquet from effectively stopping blood flow.

"Pressing the artery is easier against one bone," Hicks continued. "Moving the tourniquet up



higher to where the artery is more superficial makes it easier to stop the bleeding.”

Like Hicks, Timby emphasized the importance of practicing use of the tourniquet so that the simple tips that save lives are second nature when the time comes to use one on the battlefield.

One example is not to place the tourniquet over a cargo pocket with bulky or rigid items in it, Timby said.

In addition to training and practice, survival depends on planning. Timby suggested that all Marines and sailors in a unit keep their tourniquets in the same place on their gear so that everyone knows where to find them.

Both Timby and Hicks said that storing the tourniquet on the outside of the modular tactical vest or plate carrier vest will reduce the effectiveness and resilience of the CAT.

Due to the environment and terrain, it is best to store the tourniquet in an easily accessible pouch, according to Timby. He explained that the dust could inhibit the effectiveness of the Velcro, lessening the CAT’s compression consistency, and the sun and heat could reduce the strength of the windlass, possibly even causing it to break.

Most important is the recognition of the Marines and sailors who are effectively applying the tourniquets, Timby said.

“The people that make the most difference are the Marines and sailors at the point of injury,” Timby emphasized. “They get [casualties] the care they need. Self, buddy, and corpsman aid are what get casualties to role 2 and 3 [shock trauma platoon and hospital] care. They are the ones saving lives. They are the absolute heroes.”



## *Prince Harry goes on 8-day Arctic trek with wounded vets to raise money for charity*



By GREGORY KATZ  
Associated Press

Prince Harry headed to the Arctic, showing his support for Britain’s wounded Afghanistan war veterans by joining part of their punishing expedition to the North Pole.

Harry traveled to frigid northern Norway on Tuesday, March 22nd, for three days of training and five days of trekking on a trip organized by the Walking With the Wounded charity, of which he is a patron.

The group includes four British soldiers who were seriously wounded while on active duty, including two amputees.

“What the Walking With The Wounded North Pole Team is undertaking is an enormous adventure of the most challenging order,” Harry said in a statement.

The charity hoped to raise 2 million pounds (\$3.2 million) through donations and sponsorships for the expedition. Harry said he hopes the money “will make a life-changing difference to injured servicemen and women from our Armed Forces.”

The four wounded men were joined by two expedition leaders and a Norwegian guide familiar with the region.

The expedition is expected to take four weeks and cover roughly 200 miles (320 kilometers) of frozen Arctic Ocean territory by foot. The group will be pulling their own equipment in sleds in temperatures expected to drop far below zero.

The wounded men making the trip are Afghanistan veterans Capt. Martin Hewitt, 30, Capt. Guy Disney, 28, Sgt. Steve Young, 28, and Pvt. Jaco Van Gass, 24.

“Through this expedition, we aim to demonstrate to injured servicemen and women of all ranks that you can achieve great things post-

injury," Hewitt said. "Our training is complete and now it's time to freeze."

Harry planned to leave the group April 5 to resume his military training and to serve as the best man at his brother Prince William's April 29 wedding.

## ***Stetson hat to be new Army standard headgear***



By Army News Release

WASHINGTON, — In a fingertip-to-the-brim nod to its American frontier history, the Army is changing hats again - returning to the tumultuous days of the horse Cavalry in the wild west and adopting a dark blue Stetson as the official headgear for the current force of 1.1 million Soldiers.

"We figure the Stetson will be popular with the troops," said Sgt. Maj. Bob S. Stone, Army Uniform Board headgear task force president. "It's been a while since we have changed the headgear, so it's time. Plus a Stetson is functional and down right American."

But reminiscent of the controversial switch from the garrison cap to the black beret, the Army faces opposition from one community deeply opposed to losing its special identity with the Stetson - the Armor branch.

"Why in the heck are they doing to us what they did to the snake-eaters?" asked one officer familiar with the board's deliberations. "If you ain't Cav, you ain't ought to be wearing a Cav hat. That just ain't right."

But the sheer functionality of the wide-brimmed American-classic Stetson won over the majority of the board.

"You can keep the sun out of your eyes, the hat won't melt to your head on a sunny day, and female Soldiers can tuck long hair under a Stetson a lot easier than with the current beret," says Stone. "Plus we've already gone back to blue jackets for the service dress uniform. The Stetson actually completes the look."

The voting of the board fell along predictable lines, but was completed weeks ahead of schedule. In a surprise move representatives from Forts Bragg, Campbell and several undisclosed forward locations around the world pushed the vote for the Stetson to a head.

Representatives from various garrison activities and the Human Resources Command tried in vain to keep the beret, citing the cache it brings to wearers as well as practicality. According a dissenting member, "at least you can fold a beret and put it in your pocket. Where are you going to put your ten-gallon hat in your cubicle?"

The beret is not completely leaving the Army inventory, as communities who previously wore berets will return to or keep their traditional colors of maroon (airborne), black (Ranger) and green (Special Forces). Additionally Rangers will be allowed to keep the tan beret for use in desert climates. "We've at least earned that, for all grief we took in losing the black beret in the last go-round," said one unidentified tab-wearing board member.

Stone refused to address rumors that the Army Uniform Board will next consider adoption of a black western-style or 'cowboy' boot to replace the current inventory of black low quarters for wear with the Army Service Uniform. Sources expect that if the board moves toward boots, the Armor community will likely push for the return of cavalry-use-only jodhpurs and spurs, as a concession for having lost its prior if informal and exclusive right to wear a Stetson.

There will be some restrictions on wear. In a nod to other dress blue uniform traditions, general officer Stetsons will be black and must have a completely flat brim. All other wearers of dark blue Stetsons will be allowed any combination of opposing but matching curls of the side brims, up-to-twenty-degrees up or down. However no single-side flapping of any portion of the brim will be allowed.

The Army's official adoption date of the Stetson will be April Fool's Day, 2012.



