

The BAYONET

Army.TogetherWeServed Newsletter - November, 2009

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Notable Quotes

"(Their) character and bravery were on full display in that processing center at Fort Hood, when so many scrambled under fire to help their wounded comrades. And their great dignity and decency has been on display in the days since, as the Fort Hood community has rallied together."

- President Barak Obama
Weekly radio address
November 2009

YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS ON TWS

Just a reminder, your e-mail address on your Profile allows you to be sent a Password Reminder in the event you encounter difficulties logging in. Please keep it up-to-date in the Account Details section of your left hand

GROWING STRONG!
Army TWS has over 256,700 profiles
with over 2,700 new members
joining in the last 30 days.
Log in today to see if anyone you served
with is on board and looking for YOU!



Happy Birthday US MARINE CORPS!

The staff of TWS salute the Marine Corps as it celebrated its 234th birthday this month.

Originally founded on Nov. 10, 1775, the Marine Corps was composed mainly of infantrymen serving aboard Navy ships.



Nov. 10 to honor the service's creation. And in 1925, the first formal Marine Corps Birthday Ball was held in Philadelphia.

Today, the Corps is an amphibious expeditionary force that also supports missions from the White House and the State Department.

The men and women who proudly claim the title "United States Marine" embody a tradition of honor and selfless service dating back to the establishment of the Continental Marines in 1775. Today, they and the thousands before who earned the right to be called "Marine" continue to uphold these most hallowed traditions by serving proudly around the globe.

To all current active duty and Reserve warriors, along with those who have formerly worn the Marine Corps uniform with pride, have all truly lived up to the Corps' sacred motto: 'Semper Fidelis.'

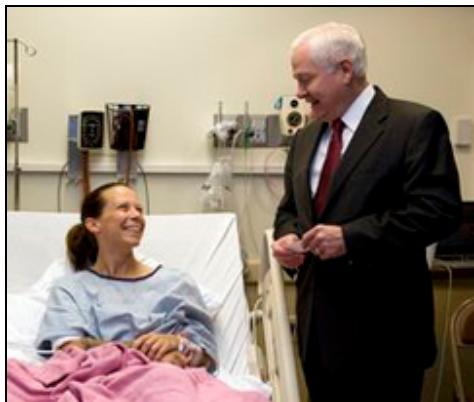
All of us at TWS salute and celebrate the culture that all Leathernecks embody -- honor, courage and commitment.

Happy Birthday and **Semper Fi!**-----

Yeah, I hear ya...

Profile Page. If you have posted your military e-mail address, which might change in the future, we recommend you change this over to your civilian e-mail address (@yahoo.com, @aol.com, @gmail.com), if you have one.

STAND TO!



SURVIVOR'S SMILE - SECDEF Robert M. Gates visits with DoD Police Sgt. Kimberly Munley, as she recovers in a hospital on Fort Hood, TX. Munley fired shots at the alleged shooter and was wounded when she acted as a first responder to the Nov. 5 shooting attack on the sprawling Texas post that left 13 dead and 38 wounded.
- DoD photo by Cherie Cullen

- CSA unveils Medal of Honor plaque at Harvard
- Army testing XM-25 'smart' high-explosive weapon for Soldiers
- CSA Casey pledges progress on mental health resources
- Spotlight on American Indians in the US Army
- Soldiers earn \$6K for spotless barracks
- Corps of Engineers offers valuable experience to new Afghan officers
- Aviators have unique way of saying 'thanks'



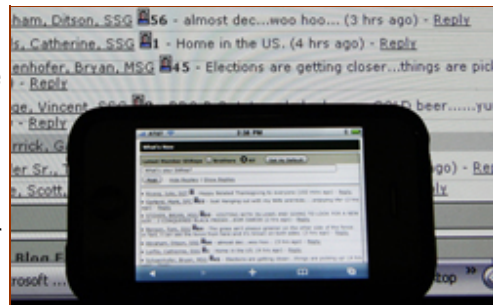
CHAIRMAN & 1ST RESPONDERS - Navy ADM Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks with police and firemen who were first responders in the shootings on Fort Hood, TX. Mullen traveled to the Army post to attend a ceremony honoring the victims of a Nov. 5 shooting rampage that left 13 dead and 38 wounded.
- DoD photo by PO1 Chad J. McNeeley

November's turned out to be a tough month for Guardians, Marines, Soldiers and civilians.

We'll lighten it up a little with a great story about a Wounded Warrior Army captain who's love of dogs is helping himself and others to heal from their physical and mental wounds at Walter Reed Army Hospital. You'll find this story by American Forces Press Service writer Fred Baker in this edition.

We've gone MOBILE!

Now you can now easily read and answer new Messages, view the Profiles of old Friends, post or read latest SitReps and Forum Posts, purchase something from the TWS Store and much, much more in an easy to navigate version of your favorite Army networking website!



To enable the wider TWS screen to fit on the vertical screen of iPhones and similar mobile devices, our programmers placed the right hand page underneath the left hand page and reconfigured the tabs. TWS Mobile works very well -- especially if your mobile phone screen will display in "landscape" (sideways) mode. For a quick preview of the layout, click on the "Mobile Layout" at the bottom right of the binder.

TWS Mobile is a free application for all TWS Members and we would love to hear how you like this new feature.

Until next time...

Jon Yim
Editor



President orders review of Fort Hood prelude

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama used his weekly address to call for a careful and complete review of what happened before the Nov. 5 tragedy at Fort Hood, Texas.

Here is the text of the president's address:

This was a week for honoring the extraordinary service and profound sacrifice of our men and women in uniform.

Every fall, we set aside a special day to pay tribute to our veterans. But this



SHEER DETERMINATION - PFC Franklin Sullivan low crawls inches below barbed wire at the Sand Hill confidence course on the fifth day of one station unit training on Fort Benning, GA. Sullivan, an infantry recruit assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, was among nearly 200 new recruits to go through the course, which included 25 obstacles.

- Photo by Kristin Molinaro

TWS on the Radio

VFW's National Defense Radio Interview with Major Wes Prater



TWS is proud to announce the introduction of the new TWS Associations Support Program.

This is a unique feature that provides specially constructed [Association Profile pages](#) that present a unique set of tools

available for free to any Military Association to use for member/roster management, outreach to the TWS Community, and to publish news and information about the Association.

Of particular note, TWS is extremely proud of a growing partnership with the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW hosts [The National Defense radio program](#) and was kind enough to interview Maj. Wes Prater, TWS co-founder/administrator recently about the growth of TWS and the unique services provided. [Click here to listen to the interview.](#)

REAL WARRIORS * REAL BATTLES
REAL STRENGTH

Discover real stories of courage in the battle against combat stress.

866-966-1020
www.realwarriors.net

TWS supports the mission of the Real Warriors Campaign initiative

year, Veterans Day took on even greater poignancy and meaning because of the tragic events at Fort Hood.

On Tuesday, I traveled there to join with the Fort Hood community, the Army, and the friends and families of the victims to honor thirteen of our fellow Americans who died – and the dozens more who were wounded – not on some distant shore, but on a military base at home.

Every man and woman who signs up for military service does so with full knowledge of the dangers that could come – that is part of what makes the service of our troops and veterans so extraordinary. But it's unthinkable that so many would die in a hail of gunfire on a US Army base in the heart of Texas, and that a fellow service-member could have pulled trigger.

There is an ongoing investigation into this terrible tragedy. That investigation will look at the motives of the alleged gunman, including his views and contacts. As I said in Fort Hood, I am confident that justice will be done, and I will insist that the full story be told. That is paramount, and I won't compromise that investigation today by discussing the details of this case. But given the potential warning signs that may have been known prior these shootings, we must uncover what steps – if any – could have been taken to avert this tragedy.

On the Thursday evening that this tragedy took place, I met in the Oval Office with Secretary of Defense Gates, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – Admiral Mullen, and FBI Director Mueller to review the immediate steps that were necessary to support the families and secure Fort Hood. The next morning, I met with the leadership of our military and the intelligence community, and ordered them to undertake a full review of the sequence of events that led up to the shootings.

The purpose of this review is clear: We must compile every piece of information that was known about the gunman, and we must learn what was done with that information. Once we have those facts, we must act upon them. If there was a failure to take appropriate action before the shootings, there must be accountability. Beyond that – and most importantly – we must quickly and thoroughly evaluate and address any flaws in the system, so that we can prevent a similar breach from happening again. Our government must be able to act swiftly and surely when it has threatening information. And our troops must have the security that they deserve.

I know there will also be inquiries by Congress, and there should. But all of us should resist the temptation to turn this tragic event into the political theater that sometimes dominates the discussion here in Washington. The stakes are far too high.

Of all the responsibilities of the presidency, the one that I weigh most heavily is my duty as Commander-in-Chief to our splendid service-men and women. Their character and bravery were on full display in that processing center at Fort Hood, when so many scrambled under fire to help their wounded comrades. And their great dignity and decency has been on display in the days since, as the Fort Hood community has rallied together.

We owe our troops prayerful, considered decisions about when and where we commit them to battle to protect our security and freedom, and we must fully support them when they are deployed. We also owe them the absolute assurance that they'll be safe here at home as they prepare for whatever mission may come. As commander in chief, I won't settle for anything less.

This nation will never forget the service of those we lost at Fort Hood, just as we will always honor the service of all who wear the uniform of the United States of America. Their legacy will be an America that is safer and stronger – an America that reflects the extraordinary character of the men and women who serve it.

Thank you.

- DoD photo by Cherie Cullen

Featured Updates

and the National Suicide Prevention Helpline
BECAUSE ONE SUICIDE IS ONE TOO MANY...



Suicide Prevention Website
National Suicide Prevention
Lifeline

For Crisis Intervention
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
Press "1"

Using Your Government E-mail Address on ATWS?

Got an "army.mil" email address on your Army TWS profile?

If so, you might want to consider a freebie, non-military address.

A couple of reasons to not use your official Army email addy here at ATWS: Should you get transferred and forget to log in after your PCS, you may experience some difficulty in logging back on to our site. Or, if you get email from a long-lost buddy from Basic, BCT or AIT, you won't get a notification they're trying to contact you. Nor will you receive our monthly ATWS Newsletter -- **The BAYONET.**

Cross Site Brothers

One of our most requested enhancements is finally live - you can add members from other service to your Brother's list! This is how you do it:

- 1) Go to Home Tab
- 2) Scroll down to the section "Guest Access" and click the icon of the site related to your Brother.



- 3) Click the button to visit the sister site as a Guest member.
- 4) On the Sister Site, use normal search tools to locate your Brothers.
- 5) On their profile page (or directly from the search results) click "Add to Brothers" (or might be Add to Shipmates or Add to Wingmen depending on the service branch).
- 6) When you return to your primary website you will find they have been added to your Brothers list, just like your Army brothers.
- 7) Cross site brothers are identified with a small service icon in place of the thermometer like this:

Besides, the 1st Shirt just might look sideways on you using the government PC in your shop...and we wouldn't want that.

If you don't already have a commercial email account, just visit one of the many free web-based email providers (*Hotmail, Yahoo!, Gmail, etc.*) and get one. Sign-up is relatively painless, and you'll have an alternate email address to throw-around. Just pick one that suits your needs.

To change the email address on your profile, click on the EDIT button in your Personal Details section and insert your new email address there. **Just remember to click SAVE below the text area when you're finished.**

One more email-related item: If you have a spam guard program on your email, configure it to allow messages from admin@togetherweserved.com to come through and not treat it as spam. This allows us to send you messages without any hassle.



Email your command/club/association reunion announcement as early as possible to:
armytwseeditor@gmail.com

"RADIO FIRST TERMER" radio show in Saigon, Vietnam 1971. If you were involved with the show, contact Dave Rabbit: daverabbit@grandecom.net

378th Personnel Service Co. (Frankfurt, GE), Jan. 15-18, 2010; Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Sean Rogers, sean.rogers4@us.army.mil, or (210) 559-1221

1st Bn., 37th Armor, Jan. 21-24, 2010; San Francisco, CA. Contact: Joe Baalman, jabaalman@att.net, or (925) 997-6656

Fort Benning Military Police Activity, Jan. 27-30, 2010; Dover, DE. Contact: Antonio R. Benson, (302) 265-6524

Camp Bouse, AZ, Feb. 13-14, 2010; Bouse, AZ. Honoring all WWII veterans stationed at the camp from 1943-1944. Contact: Bouse Chamber of Commerce, (928) 851-2509





"C" Btry., 6th Bn., 84th Field Artillery (Vietnam), Mar. 6-7, 2010; Johnson City, TX. Contact: Jeff Gray, jeff_gray316@yahoo.com, or (830) 868-0335

980th Military Police Co., April 2010 (dates TBD); Reno, NV. Contact: John Day, (913) 441-8413, or visit groups.yahoo.com/group/980thMPcoHerlong/

A...
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrator, AFTWS, SMSgt USAF(Ret) NEW! -Best Friend
L
<input type="checkbox"/> 35 Leigh, James r., LCpl
S
<input type="checkbox"/> 25 Shane, Scott (Shane), Cpl -Best Friend
T
<input type="checkbox"/> TogetherWeServed, Admin, CWO2 NEW!

What's New Tab

The Home tab was getting overloaded with all our new features and content so we have split it into two areas - the original Home tab with all the primary site links, forum updates ect, and all the new and updated content under a second tab "What's New".

US Army Units - View Unit Pages and Members NEW!	
	We are proud to host the Unit Pages of all USA, include full Unit details including Unit Crests, Co History, Roster of all Members who served in the latest Unit Specific Forum Posts.
Military Associations - View Association Pages and Members NEW!	
	We are proud to host the Association Pages of all Military Associations. Our Association Pages are Association Contact Details, Description, Full Member's Roster, Latest Association News and Events, Member's Photographs and latest Association Forum Posts.
ATWS Interest Groups	
	As an additional networking tool for Soldiers, Groups via the Interest Groups section on your TWS Members to quickly identify other Member through dedicated forums and messaging.
ATWS Job Board - Looking for a new Job?	
	Please view our Job Boards for latest employment opportunities in various industries. All positions are posted by TWS Members with the credentials and experience offered by Army personnel.

Here you can find:

"C" Co., 169th Engineers (Vietnam), Apr. 15-18, 2010; Tunica, MS. Contact: Larry Kraatz, (763) 416-2198

"D" Troop, 3rd Sqdrn., 5th Cavalry (Vietnam), Apr. 23-25, 2010; Austell, GA. Contact: Bill King, king211@bellsouth.net, or (678) 945-9969. Web: www.lighthorseaircav.com/a-lighthorse-home.html

88th Infantry Div., Apr. 21-25, 2010; Clearwater, FL. Open to veterans & families of Trieste U S Troops (TRUST Troopers) & US Forces Austria (USFA). Contact: Robert L. McCall, (256) 881-6325

Hq. & Hq. Btry., 23rd Infantry Div., DIVARTY (Vietnam), Apr. 29-May 3, 2010; Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Dave Pearl, (928) 567-2109

"C" Btry., 7th Bn., 11th Field Artillery, Apr. 30-May 3, 2010; Gulf Shores, AL. Contact: Bill Wood, (256) 751-0888.

793rd Military Police Bn. (Furth, GE), May 1-3, 2010; Las Vegas, NV. Contact: Jack LaHoud, (612) 210-4969, or jacklahoud@yahoo.com

319th Transportation Bde. (COSCOM), May 15, 2010; Oakland, CA. Contact: CSM Roberta L. Santiago, (510) 205-5972

720th Military Police Bn./615th Military Police Co. (Vietnam), May 28-June 1, 2010; Arlington, VA. Contact: Donald Thompson, (813) 345-8782, or web: 720mpreunion.org

16th Cavalry Assn., Spring 2010; location TBD. Contact: Bob Chadwick, (202) 262-9355

1st Bn., 5th Field Artillery (Vietnam), Spring 2010; location TBD. Visit website: www.quanloiboy.weebly.com, or contact: Paul Rebholz, (716) 648-9009

Vietnam Landclearers Assn. (Engineers), June 10-13, 2010; Branson, MO. Contact: Bill Smart, bsmart1@hotmail.com, (815) 703-9613 or web www.vietnamlandclearers.com

630th Military Police Co. (RVN), June 20-27, 2010; Washington, DC. Contact: Drew Bain, drewbain@juno.com, (856)-384-0226; or Roger Merillat, merillat@rteceexpress.net, (419) 445-7220

519th Transportation Bn. reunion, June 24-27, 2010; Colorado Springs, CO. Details at www.519transportationassociation.com, or contact Joe Wilson: jjwilson@pcisys.net


300th Military Police Co./385th Military Police Bn., Aug. 6-10, 2010; Destin, FL. Contact: John Sams, bulldogs300mp@yahoo.com

793rd Military Police Bn. Assn., Sept. 21-25, 2010;

- 1) Sitreps
- 2) Blogs
- 3) Groups Forums
- 4) Latest Jobs
- 5) Association and Unit Sitreps.

This has also given us increased room to feature some great content - check out the new "Units" right page section (scroll down to Marine Corps Units - View Unit Pages and Members and click the link). You will find a whole page dedicated to Unit profiles and data including:

- 1) Unit of the Day
- 2) Unit Sitreps
- 3) Unit News and Information
- 4) This Day in Unit History
- 5) Unit Forum Threads
- 6) Top 20 Units by Member Count.

Unit Profile of the Day More

B Troop Ground Unit Regiment
Latest Unit SitReps <input type="radio"/> My Units' <input checked="" type="radio"/> All Units'
Hide Replies Show Replies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 172nd Infantry Brigade/Task Force 3rd Battalion, Conducting reintegration in Grafenwoehr, Germany■ 793rd Military Police Battalion/630th Military Police (Nov 1, 2009) - Reply■ 90th Aviation Support Battalion/A Company - our
Unit News and Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Oct 06, 2009, Thanks! - A Company■ Aug 08, 2009, Meetings - 4252nd Reserve Air B■ Aug 03, 2009, Able Company is Active!! - A Co■ Jul 22, 2009, New Feature - News and Informa■ Jul 05, 2009, Activation Ceremony - A Compan

Plain Text or HTML Emails

If you check your account preferences there is a new option where you can select whether you prefer your emails in plain text or HTML format. Now that HTML is becoming the standard in most areas we will be sending in HTML unless you specify otherwise.

Atlanta, GA. Contact: Richard Kealy,
richliz793@rogers.com, or (905) 987-5016. Web page:
www.793rdmpassoc.com

Ranger Class 14-68 (May-July 1968), Sept. 23-26,
2010; Fort Benning, GA. Contact Jim Godfrey:
jimgodfrey@charter.net, (817)732-2857, or Jeff Hoffman:
jeffreyjhoffman@aol.com, (678)570-3128.

NOTE: When emailing reunion information, include the
FULL TITLE of the organization, reunion dates,
location (city & state), and points of contact (name,
phone number[s], email address or web URL).

TWS Fallen Soldier Memorial Project

TWS is a place to honor the service history of all
Soldiers who served, including those who fell in combat.

So that they will not be forgotten, we have created a
special facility where any TWS Member can post a
Remembrance Profile for a Fallen Soldier they knew or
would like to honor, and this can be accessed via the
"Remember a Soldier" link on the left-hand Home Page.

We have also developed an important feature which will
enable TWS Members to adopt the profile of a Fallen
Soldier already posted on the site.



TWS has already researched and compiled comprehensive
information on all Soldiers who fell during the Vietnam War
(1965-1975), and these are now
installed as Fallen Profiles
accessible via the left-hand
Home Page link. Additionally,
another 35,000 Memorial Profiles
were added this month and are
ready for adoption.

As no one is assigned full-time to maintain these
profiles, we invite TWS Members to adopt one or more
Fallen Profiles as custodian and researching and adding
any additional information when available.

To adopt the Profile of a Fallen Soldier from the Vietnam
War, please click on the Adopt a Fallen Soldier Profile
link on the left-hand Home Page after you log in, or click
[here](#).

- Photo by SPC Dustin Roberts



Blog Replies

Like SitReps, members can now post replies to your blog entries. Blogs and the
attached replies are also summarized on the What's New tab for greater
prominence.

In Memoriam...

LTC Juanita L. Warman, 55
Havre De Grace, MD
1908th Medical Company,
Independence, MO

MAJ Libardo Caraveo, 52,
Woodbridge, VA
467th Medical Detachment,
Madison, WI

CPT John P. Gaffney, 54
San Diego, CA
1908th Medical Company,
Independence, MO

CPT Russell Seager, 41
Racine, WI
467th Medical Company,
Madison, WI

SSG Justin Decrow, 32
Plymouth, IN
16th Signal Company,
Fort Hood, TX

**NOTE: Decrow was a member
of Army TWS**

SGT Amy Krueger, 29
Kiel, WI
467th Medical Company,
Madison, WI

SPC Jason Hunt, 22
Tillman, OK.
1st Brigade, Fort Hood, TX

SPC Frederick Greene, 29
Mountain City, TN
16th Signal Company,
Fort Hood, TX

PFC Aaron Nemelka, 19
West Jordan, UT
510th Engineer Company,
20th Engineer Battalion,
Fort Hood, TX

PFC Michael Pearson, 22
Bolinbrook, IL
510th Engineer Company,
20th Engineer Battalion,
Fort Hood, TX

SPC Kham Xiong, 23
St. Paul, MN
510th Engineer Company,
20th Engineer Battalion,
Fort Hood, TX

PVT Francheska Velez, 21
Chicago, IL
15th Combat Support
Battalion,
Fort Hood, TX

Michael Cahill
Cameron, TX
Fort Hood civilian employee

Got Discounts For Soldiers?



New Discounts added this month to our new links section on the TWS Home
page highlighting Free and Deeply Discounted services for Soldiers.

The providers listed below have agreed to offer their services for free or at deep
discounts to members of Army TWS - please take a look at what they have to
offer.

If you or someone you know provide a product or service that you are willing to
offer for free or at a deep discount to fellow Soldiers on TWS, please us know so
that we can add your link to the TWS home page and possibly feature it in a
future newsletter. Please email the link(s) to wtpater@togetherweserved.com

Recently left the Army? Maybe you're looking for a new career, or planning on going in a different direction from your present job?

Visit the **Soldiers' Job Board** which is on the left hand Home Page. You'll find numerous job listings.



All positions, described in detail, are posted by fellow Army.TWS Members who are familiar with the credentials and experience offered by Veterans:

Position Offered: Production Technician

Location: MO, TN, IN

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Government Consultant (Acquisitions)

Location: Iraq, Afghanistan

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Office Manager

Location: Washington DC

Salary Range: \$30K-\$40K

Position Offered: Intel Analyst

Location: IN

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Medical Subject Matter Expert

Location: Washington DC

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Logistics Specialist

Location: Gulfport, MS

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Head Cook/Kitchen Manager

Location: Goose Creek, SC

Salary Range: TBD

Position Offered: Field Service Engineer/Technician

Location: Delran, NJ

Salary Range: \$38K-\$45K

Additionally, if your company has positions suited to Soldiers seeking employment, you are welcome to post them on the Job Board. This is a FREE service to TWS subscribers.

Post a Job on TWS

If you've had success with finding employees, or locating employment on the TWS Jobs Board, please let us know! This is a valuable FREE service to all TWS Members and employers and we're always interested in hearing your success stories. Please email TWS Admin with the details: admin@army.togetherweserved.com

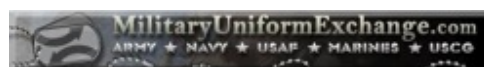
These are Free listings and not paid advertisements.



TWS is proud to announce the addition of AFLAC benefit eligibility for TWS Members at a discounted rate not available to the general public. This is the same coverage available from employers nationwide, offered to you by virtue of your TWS Membership!

Do you have a Plan B? No one likes to think about getting seriously ill or injured. That's why it's so crucial to have a Plan B. Your Plan B has a name: AFLAC.

Click the banner above to find out how AFLAC can protect you and your family.



Among others...

If you or someone you know provide a product or service that you are willing to offer for Free or at a deep discount to the Sailors of TWS please let me know so that I can add you link on the TWS Home page and possibly feature it in a future Newsletter.

Army's longest serving female CSM retires

Story by Michael Norris

Special to TWS Newsletters

JOINT BASE MYER-HENDERSON HALL, VA -- Although she won't formally retire until March 2010, a retirement ceremony was held earlier this month for Command Sergeant Major Cynthia A. Pritchett, the senior enlisted leader for the Army element of the US Central Command, at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall's Conmy Hall.

Pritchett, who joined the Women's Army Corps on July 2, 1973, before it was integrated into the regular Army, is the longest serving female command sergeant major in the service.

Accompanied by Old Guard Regimental CSM David Martel, Pritchett walked in crisp formation past the stationary companies of the 3rd US Infantry for a final inspection. The units, which also included a contingent from the US Army Band "Pershing's Own," later paraded in formation past the official party in the grandstand of Conmy for a final pass and review, acknowledging Pritchett and SMA Kenneth O. Preston, who was the host of the retirement ceremony.



Preston took the lectern first and outlined Pritchett's career, touching on her accomplishments through the decades as a supply specialist, platoon sergeant, recruiter, a tour in Somalia and her appointment by LTG David Barno as his principal enlisted advisor for Combined Forces

MEMBER COMMENTS

This is just a sample of some of the comments we regularly receive at TWS on how we help reconnect Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardians.

I am glad to have found this tool. I just started an hour ago and have already found 15 Marines that I had lost touch with.

- Sgt. Jon Simmons, USMC

It is taking some time to enter both my information and that of my father, but I hope to complete our profiles soon. And I appreciate your efforts (as well as the efforts of the other[s] involved) in creating and managing this website. I had only been signed up for one day before I received and email from someone I served with 27 years ago. Thank you.

- LtCol. Timothy Hardy, USAF (ret.)

HEY, really great layout...very eye-appealing...and I do know what I'm yakkin' on there 'cause in a 30-some-odd-years career as civilian and military "journalist" was frequently doing the "makeup" for civilian and military newspapers and a lot of balance and eye appeal involved. Appreciate more than I can say the "adventures" and acquaintances that glow among your "pages". TNX with great respect for the professionalism you folks manifest.

- MSgt. Howard A. Ellis, USAF (ret.)

Just want to inform you guys I am currently deployed to Al Asad, Iraq on an IA (individual augmentee) billet where I have been since April 11 of this year. Please keep up the good work you guys have been doing for the past year and I do look forward to this site to keep in contact with past and present friends I have made in service to this great country. Thank you so very much.

- CPO(AW/SW) Steve Hodge, USN

I want to personally thank you for this site and anyone else that assisted you in setting this up. The layout is awesome and the parameters with the drop down menus which include every unit, mission, location and time that has possibly existed throughout the Marine Corps, is remarkable. I have tried to locate past brothers and sisters over the past 20 years, with no avail. However, with this site it has been great in finding them. Thank you again for all the hard work.

- Cpl. Valerie D. Cubel, USMC

This site is jam packed! I see this will be a great place to work with to fill and share memories. I shall indeed work on this, make some time for this, very soon! THANK YOU, for your time and brains to set this up. I am sure the servicemen who are and will be using this will be grateful the rest of their lives. I appreciate you, and your staff (?), very much. May you, too, have blue skies and safe flying.

- LtCol. Joe Brezovic, USAF (ret.)

Third Infantry Regimental CSM David Martel leads retiring CENTCOM CSM Cynthia Pritchett on a final inspection of troops at her retirement ceremony earlier this month.

- Photo by Adam Skoczylas

Command-Afghanistan in 2002, making her the Army's first and only female command sergeant major of a sub-unified command.

"[Pritchett] spent 35 of her 36.5 years in the Army as an NCO,"

Preston said. "She took on tough jobs that made her a leader, a trainer and a role model."

Preston said the recognition of noncommissioned officers with the Year of the NCO, didn't come about by accident. "The seeds for many of these initiatives were planted by CSM Pritchett," he said.

Preston credited Pritchett with helping extend the role of families in the Army and how her many contributions to the service led her to being named to the nonprofit US Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame this April. Pritchett is the first of two recipients to receive the award, along with retired BG Evelyn Foote, who Pritchett served with as installation command sergeant major when Foote was commander at Fort Belvoir. Pritchett named Foote, who was in the audience for the ceremony, one of her many mentors.

"We wish you the greatest success in the next chapter of your life," Preston concluded. "God bless you. Army strong!"

When she took the lectern, Pritchett confessed to not having a speech prepared. Instead she spoke from the heart, her voice occasionally quavering from emotion. She said she could write a sequel to the children's book, "Oh the Places You'll Go," by Dr. Seuss. The title would be "Oh the Places I've Been," or maybe "The People I've Met," she said, because, "What I've accomplished is because of who I've met [in the service]."

"My mentors have been my Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen," she said. "I'm proud to have been a part of such a great group of people."

"You only get the opportunity to be the first once. Hopefully I've done right by the servicewomen who come after me," she said, concluding with "Army Strong! Hooah!"

The program concluded with Pritchett jesting that, "I'm going to Disneyland when I get home," whereupon she presented flowers to her two sisters, who she credited with "unwavering support during her Army career."

A huge success...

TWS Persons Locator Service

Last month, we announced and launched the TWS Persons Locator Service and we're happy to report that it's been a resounding success in a very short time!

There have already been dozens of "buddy finds" over the last few weeks, from all services, so we thought it useful to repeat the announcement this month to ensure maximum exposure.

This service is free for all **Full TWS Members**. Regardless if the person you're looking for is registered on TWS or not, odds are we can help you find them! Our TWS PLS Team is headed by retired USAF SMSgt. Jim Franklin and former USMC Cpl. George Reilly. TWS' PLS uses only publicly available information sources.



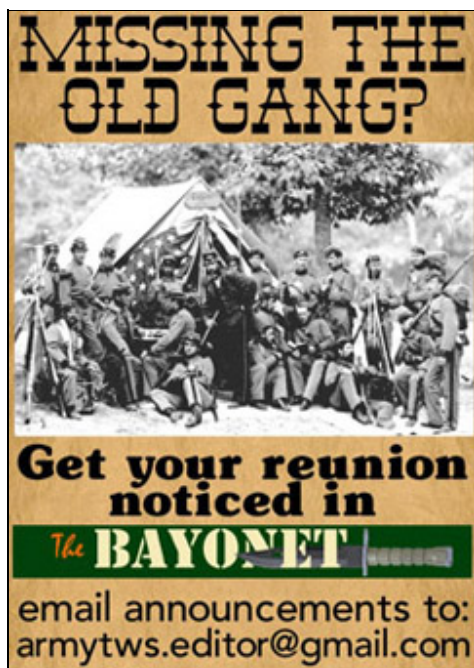
A special PLS form will be installed on the left hand Home Page shortly; however,

Mike Fishbaugh has helped me, and received some information on my dad! Yeah! I am going to update his profile with what I have, but will share a bit with you here. He was with the 7th Engineer Battalion, Company D. He was in Da Nang (on) December 12, 1968. And he received a Navy Achievement Medal with valor. And to think he never shared any of this...hmmm...

You all are the best, and I am so glad to be a member here.

- Jacqueline Gilbert, Marine Family

So what's *missing* here? YOUR experiences in reconnecting with fellow Soldiers and Battle Buddies. We need to hear more of YOUR TWS reconnect success stories. Post yours in the "*Buddies Found Success Stories*" header in the **BUNK BAY** forum or drop a line to admin@army.togetherweserved.com!



MISSING THE OLD GANG?

Get your reunion noticed in **The BAYNET**

email announcements to: armytws.editor@gmail.com



VA recognizes Agent Orange link to more diseases

Story by Army SFC Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Based on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine last month, Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki has directed broader health coverage from his department for Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange.

you can submit your request to personlocator@togetherweserved.com. Please limit your request to only one submission at a time.

Please supply the following information on the person you are seeking as accurately as you can. Your submission will be acknowledged along with an approximate turnaround time to respond. Your search will be conducted as thoroughly as possible and chances of a successful find depends on the accuracy of information you supply.

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

First Name
Middle Name
Last Name
Approximate Year of Birth
City/State Born or Raised
Single or Married
Name of Spouse
Year Last of Contact
Last Known Address
Service Branch
Last Known Rank/Paygrade
MOS/AFSC/NEC/NOC
Home of Record (if known)

And if you've used PLS, please let us know how you liked this service!

WOUNDED WARRIOR CARE

Homeless dogs help healing troops

Story & photo by Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, DC -- Lawrence Minnis never met a dog he didn't like.

"I want just about every dog I see," the Army captain said with a laugh.

Minnis is especially fond of pit bulls, and he somewhat resembles his favorite breed -- broad-shouldered, stocky and muscular. He sat on the floor in the back of a classroom at a Washington Humane Society shelter here recently, stroking his adopted black pit bull, Ebony.

As happy and healthy as the two appear now, they met when they were both on the mend -- Minnis from a near-crippling infection and Ebony from nearly starving and freezing to death. The two shared a companionship that helped them heal and ultimately altered the course of their lives.

Minnis met Ebony through the Humane Society's Dog Tags program in which soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center sign up to help the shelter dogs learn to behave. It's a program in which everyone benefits, officials said; the soldiers get out of the hospital and learn to care for and train the dogs, and the dogs learn better behavior, making them more adoptable.

"They're really loving those relationships with the animals," said Diana Foley, behavior and training counselor with the Humane Society. "It gives them a way to get away from Walter Reed. They can come here and interact with the animals."

The program began simply enough more than a year ago. The shelter is located just across the street from the Walter Reed campus. Soldiers out walking would come across shelter staff members walking the dogs. They would stop and pet the dogs and seemed to enjoy getting to know them. Officials at the shelter had the idea to hook the two together through a training program for the troops and the dogs.

Research found that three illnesses – B cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease -- possibly are associated with Agent Orange exposure. Those conditions join a list of related diseases for which Vietnam War veterans already receive compensation, such as prostate cancer, respiratory cancers, soft-tissue sarcomas, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and multiple myeloma.

"Since my confirmation as secretary, I've often asked why, 40 years after Agent Orange was last used in Vietnam, we're still trying to determine the health consequences to our veterans who served in the combat theater," Shinseki said in a statement provided by VA today to American Forces Press Service. "Veterans who endure a host of health problems deserve timely decisions."

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 may qualify for monthly disability compensation and do not have to provide proof they were exposed to Agent Orange to qualify for health benefits.

"We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will," Shinseki said in statement released last month. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

The US military used Agent Orange herbicides in the Vietnam conflict from 1961 to 1971 to clear foliage that provided enemy cover. VA officials estimate that about 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were affected.

US Rep. Bob Filner, House Veterans Affairs Committee chairman, released a statement calling for additional support of the Agent Orange Equity Act of 2009. The bill expands eligibility for presumptive conditions to veterans who were not directly "boots on the ground," such as sailors and pilots.

Current law suggests that location of service in Vietnam affects some of the qualifications for Agent Orange compensation.

"Time is running out for these Vietnam veterans," Filner said. "Many are dying from their Agent Orange-related diseases, uncompensated for their sacrifice. If, as a result of service, a veteran was exposed to Agent Orange, and it has resulted in failing health, this country has a moral obligation to care for each veteran the way we promised we would."

About 800,000 Vietnam veterans are estimated to be alive today and eligible for treatment for Agent Orange-related illnesses. According to VA's Web site, the department presumes all military members who served in Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange. Also, some children of female Vietnam veterans may qualify for compensation, based on birth defects associated with the herbicide.

The society now offers two classes weekly that teach soldiers about dog behavior and training. Troops filter through the Georgia Avenue shelter learning the basics of dog behavior and how to read dog body language and train the dogs. The mix of hands-on and classroom training offers the troops enough expertise that they can use the skills as a launching pad for a career.



CPT Lawrence Minnis sits with his two adopted pit bulls at the Washington Humane Society's Behavior and Learning Center. Minnis met the dogs through the humane society's Dog Tags program, in which soldiers recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center sign up to help teach animals housed at the shelter learn how to behave.

"We want the program to be educational so that if there are servicemembers in the program that want to potentially pursue this as a career,...they're getting as much information as possible and as much hands-on time as possible with the dogs," Foley said. "We also want it to be recreational, too, for people who...just love animals and like spending time with the dogs."

The six-month program is split into three levels, ranging from beginner to advanced. In the beginner class, troops learn basic animal body language and obedience commands such as "sit" and "stay." In the advanced classes, troops learn to evaluate the dogs' temperament and how to begin working with aggression issues and separation anxiety.

The skills the dogs learn in the classes translate to better placement opportunities, Foley said. The program has far expanded the amount of training the shelter's dogs received previously.

"This is another way our dogs are outside of their kennels being talked to and touched and interacting with people," she said. "That's extremely beneficial to reduce the stress levels of the animals in our kennels, and at the same time, it makes the animals far more successful in their new homes if they come into it with some basic obedience training."

But for all of the good it is for the dogs, it is equally beneficial for the recovering troops, Foley said.

"It's really just an outlet to be social with people and social with the animals and have time away from the hospital," she said.

Foley described one soldier who came to the class who was having difficulty interacting with people. He didn't make eye contact and kept to himself. Working with the dogs built his confidence and helped to bridge his shyness with the staff.

"It really helped him develop social relationships with people," Foley said. "He went from being a very, very shy person when he first entered. [Now] he's totally not that same shy person that he came into the program being."

Some of the dogs are at the shelter for a few months, and many of the soldiers develop close relationships with them. Others develop friendships with the staff. Some soldiers remain on as volunteers at the shelter long after the classes end, Foley said. Minnis continues to work with the shelter.

After a viral infection in his brain stem left him temporarily unable to walk and barely able to talk, the Army officer found himself recovering at Walter Reed. He was deployed to Iraq at the start of a promising Army career when he got sick. At Walter Reed, he found out he couldn't deploy again.

the chemicals.

Trade Banner Links with TWS!



If you operate an Army-oriented website and would like to trade links with TWS, click [here](#) for information on posting our TWS banner on your site.

In return, please contact us at admin@army.togetherweserved.com with your site's URL, a description (up to 100 words) about your website, and a 468x60 website banner in JPEG format, if available.

We'll be happy to post a reciprocal link in our Preferred Army Links Section in the category of your choice. TWS Army Links Pages are conveniently organized under different categories.



Careers in Information Technology

IT Diversity, Part 2

Story by LtCol. Paul Capicik, USAF (Ret.)

American Sentinel University

Special to TWS Newsletters

BIRMINGHAM, AL -- With the wide array of possible career paths within the field of Information Technology, it can often be difficult to determine the correct one for you, given your unique interests and career goals. In my last article, part one of this two-part series, I covered the Systems category of Information Technology including who would be best fit to pursue a career in that field and what type of education would best prepare that individual for a successful career. In part two of the series, I will cover the Application Development category of IT.

Application Development Category

People often assume that individuals working in Application Development Information Technology careers are simply programmers or coders, but there is far more to the field than that. IT offers companies the opportunity to increase efficiency across the board, saving time, manpower and money, while increasing customer satisfaction rates at the same time. Typically, automating business and mission processes is the best way to accomplish these types of effectiveness and efficiency improvements, with some examples of

In May 2008, his occupational therapist recommended him to the Dog Tags program. Minnis said he had wanted to get a dog for a pet anyway, so he thought it would be a good opportunity to learn a few skills. The shelter had several of his favorite breed on hand, and the dogs were good companions and good for his physical therapy.

"It helped me while I was still trying to walk, being active, having to walk around with the dog. [During training], I'm not focused on me having balance issues or [not] being able to speak. I'm concentrating on what I need to do to train the dog," Minnis said. "It takes the focus completely off of me and puts it on the dog and what we're doing."

But Minnis' interests soon expanded, and often he would visit the shelter just to sit and play with the dogs. He said it was his quiet time.

"You don't have anybody asking you what's going on. You don't feel a threat. It's a just a dog to bond with and have fun with," he said.

As it looked more like he would be medically retired, Minnis said the training took on a different perspective. He was a business major in college, and always wanted to be an entrepreneur. He figured a dog training business would be easy to start and not require a lot of money or overhead.

"I figured it's a perfect opportunity," he said. "I get to learn how to train [and] have a business I can work on, or at least a side business."

Minnis eventually adopted Ebony, one of his favorite dogs. The two now regularly attend the shelter classes, helping to train others on animal behavior. Minnis also takes Ebony to the Metropolitan Police Department when he speaks to cadets going through training there, noting that he hopes to cast a more positive light on a breed that has captured a lot of negative attention.

He teaches the cadets to read a dog's body language so they can tell when there is a real threat.

"I would take her with me...so they can get used to seeing a pit bull that's not what they see on TV," Minnis said. "Often, officers don't really know if the dog is friendly, scared or ready to attack."

In fact, Ebony is one of the friendliest dogs the cadets will meet, he said -- friendly enough that he felt comfortable bringing her home to his two small boys.

"It's never about the breed. It's about who owns them and how well you train them and the structure you have around them," Minnis said. "From Day One, she was perfect around my kids. She respected them."

In the end, though, it is not a dog-training business that Minnis decided to pursue. It is, however, what he learned from the lessons during the training and while working with the dogs that led to what he hopes is a promising career.

During the training, Minnis said, he began pondering how leadership principles in dog training are the same as with dealing with people.

"Dogs are pack creatures. Humans are pack creatures. It's the same leadership," he said. "It's not about a title, or in our case in the military, your rank, that makes you a leader. It's if you're doing the natural things that make you a leader in your pack."

Now Minnis is researching and writing a book on the principles of leadership and packaging a presentation targeting businesses, the military and government. He already has given a few presentations on his theories, and is refining and

specializations in this area including:

- Determining which business processes can be improved with automation
- Conducting process reengineering to gain maximum benefits from IT capabilities
- Application and database development (programming/coding)
- Testing applications and training end users
- Maintaining and upgrading applications

While some application development is done by military members, much of this is outsourced to civilian contractors. But again, as with the Systems career path of Information Technology, depending on the size and needs of the organization you work for, you could find yourself working on all of these tasks at the same time.

College courses and degree programs provide the



“foundation” necessary for developing the abilities needed to pursue (and succeed!) in a specialized Information Technology career. Certifications are also an option as a sort of “quick fix,” normally used to quickly get you up-to-speed in a particular specialization.

This article just skims the surface of all the exciting opportunities available to those interested in pursuing a career in Information Technology. But it should be a useful place to start for those of you looking for information regarding how to choose a degree program. And remember, if you’re on active duty in the military, you know you’re going to need a degree for promotion at some point- so you might as well start right away! And even if you do intend on leaving the service, your future employers are going to evaluate your capabilities based on your education level by examining both your degree(s) and your certifications.

Keep in mind - other individuals competing for the same IT positions as yourself are aware of this necessity, so you should do everything you can to set yourself apart from “just another Information Technology technician” by getting that degree or an additional certification. It can’t hurt!

Talk to an education counselor about the opportunity of enrolling in an online programs,

expanding on them.

Minnis still is a few weeks away from his medical retirement, and is working to get back to 100 percent. He has joined a gym, started jogging, and adopted another pit bull from the shelter named Nina.

Between working on his recovery and his book, Minnis said, he hopes to help the humane society expand the Dog Tags program. It is worthy, he said, of reaching beyond the Capital Beltway and out to other active duty installations.

"Anywhere you go, there are going to be dogs that need training and soldiers who are going through some type of therapy that will benefit from it," he said. "I want to make sure that's going to be able to expand and reach out to a lot more soldiers. It's a great program."

Months of planning ensures deployed GIs get 'taste of home' for holiday meal

Defense Logistics Agency Public Affairs

PHILADELPHIA -- How do you plan Thanksgiving dinner for 180,000 people more than 6,000 miles away? If you're a food buyer at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), you start by making a shopping list in April for meals to be served to US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Providing superb meals to our US troops is a critical mission of the Defense Logistics Agency, and one we put a great deal of effort into," said Air Force BrigGen. Scott Chambers commander of the DLA Philadelphia field activity, which provides all the food for US military personnel worldwide, 365 days a year.

"It's very important to us to give our troops a taste of home during the holidays, so we start planning the traditional Thanksgiving meal even before Memorial Day rolls around," Chambers said.



DLA employees in the Philadelphia-based subsistence supply chain start their Thanksgiving meal planning this early to make sure that food items and ingredients will arrive overseas in time for the holiday. Many ingredients for the meals are on hand at prime vendor locations by September, and bigger dining facilities start receiving high-volume items, such as turkeys and large beef roasts, in October.

giving you the flexibility, and the expertise, that you need to succeed in your IT career. And ask us about your TA, Montgomery GI Bill (Chap 30), and even the new Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chap 33) benefits- while they're still available. Reduced military tuition rates and military scholarships help extend those benefits even further, minimizing your out-of-pocket expenses, so why wait?

Be sure to help out fellow service members by inviting them to participate in our forum (<http://www.americansentinel.edu/blog/>) either as a contributor, or another interested reader, and if you have any questions, feel free to contact us at your earliest convenience. We'd love to hear from you!

TWS INVITE CARDS FREE FOR THE ASKING!

TWS Invite Cards are two-sided (sample below) and include a spot for you to print your member number and instructions for your invitees to credit you with the invitation. **As a reminder, you get 6 months of free premium access for every 5 members you invite that create a profile page.**

There's also a new feature in the registration process as now new joining members are asked to include the member number of the person that invited them while they are registering. If you simply write your member number on the invite card, your invitees can enter your member number as they register and you'll automatically be credited for the invite.

These cards are a great ice-breaker to start conversations with other Soldiers and they're the perfect tool to help Spread The Word about TWS. We've mailed out over 60,000 of these cards in the last year when considering all the TWS websites.

Please drop us a note to share any success stories you've had using these cards to meet other Soldiers. If you'd like to receive a batch of these cards, please send an email to admin@army.togetherweserved.com and tell us how many you'd like to receive and where to send them.

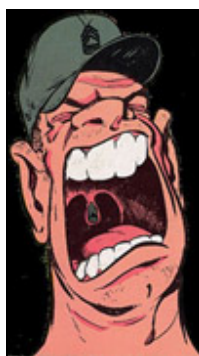


Navy Captain Ed Rackauskas, who leads DLA's subsistence directorate, said deliveries began in Iraq and Afghanistan in mid-October to allow for unexpected changes or possible redistribution due to movement of troops. "No matter where troops are stationed, they can expect DLA to provide the best possible meal for Thanksgiving," he added.

He said putting together these meals is challenging, particularly in supplying some of the bigger dining facilities in Iraq and Afghanistan where holiday meals are served all day to accommodate servicemembers working different shifts.

Here is a breakdown of quantities for Thanksgiving meals for servicemembers deployed to OIF and OEF:

IRAQ	AFGHANISTAN
Turkey raw or precooked whole: 225,980 lbs - white meat: 77,648 lbs - dark meat: 73,296 lbs	Turkey raw or precooked whole: 48,228 lbs - white meat: 28,235 lbs - dark meat: 14,112 lbs
Ham: 40,826 lbs	Ham: 22,950 lbs
Beef: 23,536 lbs	Beef: 112,467 lbs
Shrimp: 28,764 lbs	Shrimp: 21,168 lbs
Stuffing mix: 37,107 lbs	Stuffing mix: 24,706 lbs
Potatoes: 41,515 lbs	Potatoes: 23,814 lbs
Sweet potatoes: 9,702 cans	Sweet potatoes: 3,529 cans
Vegetables (corn, green beans): 59,435 lbs	Vegetables (corn, green beans): 48,397 lbs
Cranberry sauce: 7,188 cans	Cranberry sauce: 1,764 cans
Pies: 26,946	Pies: 24,706
Cakes: 13,544	Cakes: 2,824
	- source: DLA Philadelphia



SOUND OFF! Army TWS Forums & Chat

- What was your best duty station or assignment and why?
- What is the recipe for that good chow you know how to make out of an MRE?
- Where's the coldest beer in Korea?
- Do you have any tips about keeping healthy, or things to watch out for if you have a disease?

These are just a few of the topics that are covered by the many Forums on Army TWS. Our forums provide you, the members, a variety of places to discuss with other members the many topics we have in common. Those members still on active duty would probably like to know about good assignments when they make out their "dream sheets" or talk to their Retention NCOs.

Those who have worked as Retention NCOs or served on a selection board might want to provide a few tips for members in preparing to talk about their next



Army.Together We Served is *your* website - please help secure its future by upgrading to Full Membership.

There is no charge to join Army TWS and remain a Free Member, however there are considerable benefits to becoming a Full Member. By upgrading to Full Membership, which is modestly priced and very simple to do, you not only have access to premium areas of the website but, in so doing, you also help support the ongoing development, maintenance and promotion of **Army.Together We Served.com** and keep it ad-free.

Besides, how many websites do you visit that have *no ads*?

Please invite a fellow Soldier and help more ATWS Members reconnect!

If every Army TWS Member invites one or more active, reserve or retired Soldier to join ATWS, this dramatically increases the chances of Members being able to locate other Soldiers they served with.

As a way of saying thank you, for every 5 (five) new Members who join from your personal invitations, we will extend your Full Membership by 6 months. Click [here](#) to invite an Soldier.



MEMORIAL TAPS - A Marine bugler sounds Taps during a wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Corps Memorial on Arlington National Cemetery to honor the

assignment.

If you have a disease like diabetes, what tips can you give others about the disease and things to watch out for with diabetes? Encourage a fellow Soldier to keep on top of a health problem so he stays with us for a long time.

These are but a couple of topics that are available for you to offer advice, warn others about, discuss with other Soldiers...or just vent your frustrations.

So pull up a foot-locker and start shooting the breeze, the forums are for **YOU!**



Five-year plan unveiled at homeless summit

SECVA Shinseki details plan to end homelessness for veterans

Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON -- At the "VA National Summit Ending Homelessness among Veterans," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki unveiled the department's comprehensive plan to end homelessness among Veterans by marshalling the resources of government, business and the private sector.

"President Obama and I are personally committed to ending homelessness among Veterans within the next five years," said Shinseki. "Those who have served this nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope."

Shinseki's comprehensive plan to end homelessness includes preventive measures like discharge planning for incarcerated Veterans re-entering society, supportive services for low-income Veterans and their families and a national referral center to link Veterans to local service providers. Additionally, the plan calls for expanded efforts for education, jobs, health care and housing.

"Our plan enlarges the scope of VA's efforts to combat homelessness," said Shinseki. "In the past, VA focused largely on getting homeless Veterans off the streets. Our five-year plan aims also at preventing them from ever ending up homeless."



Other features of the plan outlined by Shinseki include:

- The new Post-9/11 GI Bill provides a powerful option for qualified Veterans to pursue a fully funded degree program at a state college or university. It is a major component of the fight against Veteran homelessness.

- VA is collaborating with the Small Business Administration and the General Services Administration to certify Veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses for listing on the Federal Supply Register, which enhances their visibility and competitiveness - creating jobs for Veterans.

- VA will spend \$3.2 billion next year to prevent and reduce homelessness

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

- FEMA seeks community, stakeholder input for flood insurance program
- Blog @ Homeland Security: "Secure Communities"
- CBP K-9s steal the show at AKC 'Meet The Breeds' event
- ICE: Murder suspect handed over to Mexican authorities
- ICE returns 16th Century Hebrew Bible looted by Nazis in 1936
- SEC DHS' prepared remarks on immigration reform
- TSA's security role during Orlando shootings



HELMAND HALT - Navy PO3 Eric Nobriga halts during a foot patrol in the Nawa district, Helmand province, Afghanistan. Nobriga, a hospital corpsman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, is deployed with Regimental Combat Team 7 to conduct counterinsurgency operations with Afghan national security forces in southern Afghanistan.

- Photo by LCpl. James Purschwitz

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- SECDEF gives pep talk to Oshkosh M-ATV plant employees
- Task force to focus on Afghan roadside bomb threat
- Gates lashes out at news leakers
- Army: Possible increase in suicides for October
- Joint Typhoon Warning Center marks 50 years of service
- Trial decision brings Guantanamo detainee facility closer to closing



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS - President Barack Obama gives a speech to a crowd of Soldiers, Airmen and civilians on Elmendorf AFB, AK. The president also thanked and praised the spouses of active duty service members during his speech.

among Veterans. That includes \$2.7 billion on medical services and more than \$500 million on specific homeless programs.

- VA aggressively diagnoses and treats the unseen wounds of war that often lead to homelessness – severe isolation, dysfunctional behaviors, depression and substance abuse. Last week, VA and the Defense Department cosponsored a national summit on mental health that will help both agencies better coordinate mental health efforts.

- VA partners with more than 600 community organizations to provide transitional housing to 20,000 Veterans. It also works with 240 public housing authorities to provide permanent housing to homeless Veterans and their families under a partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The VA/HUD partnership will provide permanent housing to more than 20,000 Veterans and their families.

Over the duration of the conference it is expected that over 1,200 homeless service providers from federal and state agencies, the business community, and faith-based and community providers will attend and participate in the summit.

"This is not a summit on homelessness among Veterans," added Shinseki "It's a summit on ending homelessness among Veterans."

Soldier who led last bayonet charge dies

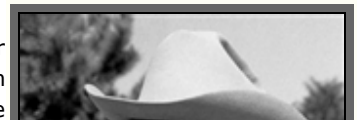
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON -- Retired Army Col. Lewis L. Millett, who earned the Medal of Honor during the Korean War for leading what reportedly was the last major American bayonet charge, died Nov 14.

Millett, 88, died in Loma Linda, CA, after serving for more than 15 years as the honorary colonel of the 27th Infantry Regiment Association.

Millett received the Medal of Honor for his actions Feb. 7, 1951. He led the 25th Infantry Division's Company E, 27th Infantry, in a bayonet charge up Hill 180 near Soam-Ni, Korea. A captain at the time, Millett was leading his company in an attack against a strongly held position when he noticed that a platoon was pinned down by small-arms, automatic, and antitank fire.

Millett placed himself at the head of two other platoons, ordered fixed bayonets, and led an assault up the fire-swept hill. In the fierce



- USAF photo by SrA. Tinesse Treadwell

AIR FORCE

- Year of the AF Family T-shirt design competition underway
- Airmen fly C-5M into US record books
- Ring returned to Vietnam POW 44 years after imprisonment
- Services Agency launches MyAirForceLife.com
- Experts answer H1N1 questions online
- Rise of the cyber wingman
- COMMENTARY: Don't stall on the "all"



TIGHTROPE WALK - A Royal Air Force Airman (left), and USAF 1Lt. Xavier Hill traverse a rope bridge as part of the Ultimate Challenge 2 activity of Leadership, Ethos and Air Power Day at RAF Marham, UK. Some 40 US Airmen participated in the leadership building opportunities with their British counterparts. Hill is assigned to the 100th Civil Engineer Squadron.

- USAF photo by SrA. Thomas Trower



A WATCHFUL EYE - Seaman Scott Stevens, a boatcrew member at Coast Guard Station Washington DC, keeps a watchful eye from the bow of a 25-foot Response Boat-Small during a Homeland Security patrol on the Potomac River. Station Washington's missions include law enforcement, search and rescue, Homeland Security and environmental protection.

- USCG photo by PO3 Brandy Hill

MARINE CORPS

- Marines inhabit former Taliban fortress
- 1/5 Marines provide clean water to Afghans, keep area safe
- Marines celebrate 234th Corps birthday in austere conditions
- SPMAGTF-26 bids fond farewell to The Big Apple
- USS Essex rejoins PHIBRON 11, 31st MEU during JMSDF-led exercise

charge, Millett bayoneted two enemy soldiers and continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement, according to his Medal of Honor citation.

"Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill," the citation states. "His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder."

Millett was wounded by grenade fragments during the attack, but he refused evacuation until the objective was firmly secured. He recovered, and attended Ranger School after the war.

In the 1960s, he ran the 101st Airborne Division Recondo School for reconnaissance and commando training at Fort Campbell, KY. He then served in a number of special operations advisory assignments in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. He founded the Royal Thai Army Ranger School with help of the 46th Special Forces Company. This unit reportedly is the only one in the US Army to simultaneously be designated as both Ranger and Special Forces.

Millett retired from the Army in 1973.

"I was very saddened to hear Colonel Millett passed away," said Army Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen Jr., the current commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, HI. "He was a rare breed -- a true patriot who never stopped serving his country. He was a role model for thousands of soldiers, and he will be missed."

Millett was born in Maine and first enlisted in 1940 in the Army Air Corps and served as a gunner. Soon after, when it appeared that the United States would not enter World War II, he left and joined the Canadian Army.

In 1942, while Millett was serving in London, the United States entered the war. Millett turned himself in to the US Embassy there and eventually was assigned to the 1st Armored Division. As an antitank gunner in Tunisia, Millett earned the Silver Star after he jumped into a burning halftrack filled with ammunition, drove it away from allied soldiers and jumped to safety just before the vehicle exploded. He later shot down a German fighter plane with a vehicle-mounted machine gun.

As a sergeant serving in Italy during the war, his desertion to join the Canadian forces caught up to him. He was court-martialed, fined \$52 and denied leave. A few weeks later, he was awarded a battlefield commission. After the war, he joined the 103rd Infantry of the Maine National Guard, and he attended college until he was called back to active duty in 1949.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Millett earned the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit and four Purple Hearts during his 35-year military career. After his retirement, he remained active in both national and local veterans groups from his Idyllwild, CA, home.

His son, Army Staff Sgt John Morton Millett, was a member of the 101st Airborne Division returning from duty in the Sinai on Dec. 12, 1985, when a charter plane



Retired Army Col. Lewis L. Millett wears his Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and other medals earned in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He served as honorary colonel of the 27th Infantry Regiment Association, and was active in veterans events almost to his death on Nov. 14.

- US Army photo

- [Palm Springs remembers vets with the MCAGCC's help](#)

- [Army reservists train like Marines](#)



COLORS ON OKINAWA - Sailors unfurl and hoist aloft the Holiday Ensign (American flag) during morning colors on Veterans Day aboard USS Harpers Ferry while moored at Naval Facility White Beach, Okinawa.

- *US Navy photo by PO2 Joshua J. Wahl*

COAST GUARD

- [Second National Security Cutter, Wausche, delivered to Coast Guard](#)

- [USCG's role in cybersecurity](#)

- [Jacksonville native accepts CG Commendation Medal for father's heroism](#)

- [Commandant awards CG crew for Acadia rescue](#)

- [Commandant Allen, Secretary Napolitano honor Coast Guard veterans](#)

- [Guardian becomes American citizen aboard Intrepid Museum](#)



UNDER COVER - Pfc. Travis English practices observation skills using cover and concealment techniques in a homemade ghillie suit at the Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan. English is a scout observer assigned to Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment.

- *Photo by SSgt. Marc Ayalin*

NAVY

- [Navy Working Uniform roll-out accelerated](#)

- [Navy Public Health Center website offers flu-related info](#)

- [Some 20th-Century Navy records, cruise books to](#)

crashed upon takeoff after stopping at Gander, Newfoundland, Canada. He was one of 256 soldiers killed in the crash.

On Feb. 7, 1994, Millet was honored with a ceremony on Hill 180, now located on Osan Air Base, South Korea. The ceremony became an annual one, and the road running up the hill was named "Millet Road."

In June 2000, Millet returned to South Korea, and served as keynote speaker at the Army's 225th Birthday Ball at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. All eight of the then-living Korean War Medal of Honor recipients attended the event.

This year, Millet served as the grand marshal of a Salute to Veterans parade April 21 in Riverside, CA. He died Nov. 14 at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Loma Linda, of congestive heart failure.

A memorial service for Millet is scheduled for 10 a.m. Dec. 5 at the National Medal of Honor Memorial at Riverside National Cemetery in California.



If you are currently serving as "boots-on-the-ground" in a combat zone in Iraq or Afghanistan, we will be happy to provide you with complimentary Full Membership for the duration of your tour.

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Celebrating Thanksgiving With Our Troops



CARVING FOR THE CREW -- GEN David H. Petraeus, commander of US Central Command, carves a turkey before serving Thanksgiving dinner to Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68).

- *US Navy photo by PO2(E5) Joseph Moon*

be published online

- NAVSO hosts 1st senior enlisted leaders maritime conference

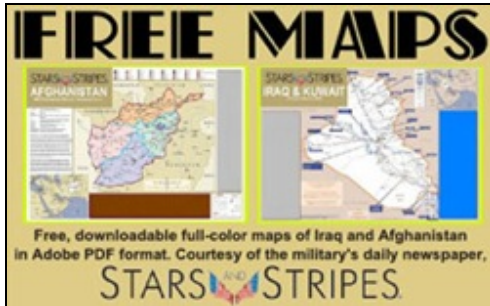
- USS Constitution designated 'America's Ship of State'

- USS Lassen visits Vietnam in storybook return of its commander

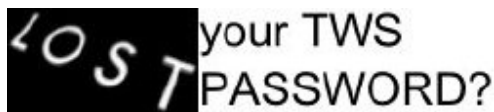


VIETNAM VETS - A group of veterans at the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall surround a plaque commemorating POWs and MIAs on Veterans Day. In the background are the names of some of the more than 58,000 fallen troops etched into the granite partitions of the monument in Washington DC.

- DoD photo by John Kruzel



Click the highlighted text for maps of [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#) in Adobe PDF format.



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Your User ID and Password will be sent to you immediately by e-mail.



Official Service Branch



THANKS, "LIEUTENANT DAN"! -- SGM Robert Prosser shakes actor Gary Sinise's hand after presenting him with the American flag and a special unit coin on Thanksgiving Day. Sinise visited wounded Soldiers in Kandahar, Afghanistan, after performing with his "Lt. Dan Band." Prosser is assigned to the 5th Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

- Photo by SGT Chris Florence



GETTING A PICTURE WITH 'BUBBA' -- Actor Mykelti Williamson, best known for his role as PFC Benjamin Buford 'Bubba' Blue in the 1994 hit film "Forrest Gump," poses for photos with Soldiers during a visit in a dining facility on Thanksgiving Day at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

- Photo by SGT Chris Florence



IRAQ TURKEY TROT -- Some 1,400 troops and civilians stationed on Victory Base Complex in Baghdad share a Thanksgiving tradition running in the 2nd Annual Turkey Trot Shadow Run, a 5-kilometer race held simultaneously in Tamarac, FL.

- Photo by CPT Robert Burnham

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Stop-in to our online [TWS Army Store](#) for all your Army-themed needs -- **Shirts, Jackets, Hats, Jewelry, Footwear, Medals, Patches and much, much more!**

(The Army Store can also be found under the "Army Store" tab or on the left hand Home Page

MAGAZINES

ARMY - *Soldiers*

NAVY - *All Hands*

MARINE CORPS - *Marines*

AIR FORCE - *Airman*

COAST GUARD - *Coast Guard*

Defenselink -- The **OFFICIAL** source of news and information from the Department of Defense, related agencies and all military branches.

Multi-National Force - Iraq -- Official website of MNF-I

Multi-National Corps - Iraq -- Official website of MNC-I

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) --

Official website for coalition forces in Afghanistan

The Pentagon Channel -- 24-hour broadcasts of official military news and information for members of the US Armed Forces through select statewide cable systems, and overseas via American Forces Network (AFN).

My AFN.mil -- American Forces Network (AFN) provides multi-channel, broadcast-quality radio and television services and expanded internal information products to all DoD members and their families stationed overseas, on contingency operations, and onboard Navy ships around the world.

Military Homefront -- A DoD Web portal for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, you'll find what you need!

myPay -- myPay allows you to manage your pay information, leave and earning statements (LES), W-2s and more...putting more information and services at your fingertips. Brought to you by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS).

TRICARE Portal -- Information you need about your TRICARE health benefits. Includes details on eligibility, plans, medical, dental and vision coverage. Also details on TRICARE operations, guidance, manuals and policy.

Stars & Stripes -- The DoD-authorized **UNOFFICIAL** daily newspaper for US Forces overseas, printed in European, Pacific and Mideast editions.

Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA) -- DoDEA operates more than 218 public schools for grades K-12 in 14 districts located in seven U.S. states, Puerto Rico, Guam and 12 foreign countries to serve the children of military service members and Department of Defense civilian employees.

Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) -- The military's largest retailer. A mission-essential, and the premier quality of life provider for all DoD military members, civilians, contractors and their families worldwide.

Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) -- Delivering the premier quality-of-life benefit to military members worldwide.

United Service Organizations (USO) -- The USO supports U.S. troops and their families wherever they serve. Across the United States and around the world, the American military knows that the USO is there for them. *Until Every One Comes Home.*

Space Available Travel fact sheet -- Answers to the

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- Cpl. (USMC) Rogers Alexandre

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IT'S YOUR MOVE

Improved protection for household goods

US Transportation Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AFB, IL -- Relocating can be one of the most stressful events in a person's life. With some 500,000 household goods shipments every year, the military is the largest moving population in the United States.

Officials with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command are committed to making every move a better experience for service members, their families and DOD civilians. One way that experience has been improved is with better protection of household goods and improved repair or replacement policies. Mandated by Congress, Full Replacement Value does just that.

FRV significantly improves the coverage for personal property. Under the previous program, a transportation service provider was only liable for the



depreciated value of a household item, not the cost to repair or replace it. With FRV, the provider has the option to either repair the item to the same condition it was in prior to the move, or replace it with a like-value item. If an item is lost or destroyed, the provider must replace it with a like-value item. FRV provides up to a maximum of \$50,000, depending upon the shipment weight and the method of the move.

Within 75 days from delivery of household goods, a customer must report personal property loss or damage on the 'Notification of Loss and Damage at Delivery/AFTER Delivery' form with the provider, and file a claim directly with the moving company that delivered the shipment within nine months from delivery. If a claim is filed after the nine-month window, the customer will still have additional months from the shipment delivery date to file a claim. However, the shipment will be covered at a depreciated value.

A customer should remember to fill out DP3 Customer Satisfaction Survey after every move. This gives all DOD and US Coast Guard members, and families, direct say in which moving companies DOD transportation officials use more or less frequently depending on their quality of service.

For more information, visit www.move.mil and click on "DoD Customer." Then, scroll down to the "Claims" section and click on your branch of service. You may

most common Space A travel questions, courtesy of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, CA.

Uniform REGULATIONS

ARMY - AR 670-1

AIR FORCE - AFI 36-2903

COAST GUARD - COMDTINST M1020.6E

NAVY - NAVPERS 15665I

MARINE CORPS - MCO P1020.34G



Please forward this link to other Soldiers you know, your friends, and your family!

<http://army.togetherweserved.com/army/newsletter2/15/newsletter.html>

As Army TWS continues to grow, so does its potential to find old buddies and new friends; as well as creating a vibrant and enjoyable Army online community representing all eras, from WW2 to present-day.

The BAYONET (January)

Army Together We Served Newsletter

A monthly online publication distributed by Army Together We Served.com, a private military heritage community website operated by retired US military personnel for those who served.

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Please send any comments, quality improvement

scroll down to the "Claims" section and click on your branch of service. You may also contact the military claims office for your branch of service.

A benefit for active duty, reserves & retirees Flexible in your leave travel? Try Space-A!

USAF Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AFB, IL -- Have you ever dreamed of climbing the steps of an Egyptian pyramid or *schussing* down a black diamond ski slope in Bavaria? Or perhaps digging your toes in the sand on a Hawaiian beach is more your speed.

Well, there is a perfect way to make these dreams become a reality: Space-Available (Space-A) travel!

Typically, these dreams require more money than most people have readily available. However, with Space-A, money is not an issue. Space-A travel is free with the exception of customs fees on some Patriot Express missions. All you need are your bags, a Department of Defense-issued ID card (for ages 10 and up), current leave paperwork (for active-duty personnel) and flexibility. More than 130,000 Space-A travelers take advantage of this military benefit.



By being flexible, you -- and your family (with proper military ID and documentation) -- can have a great travel experience. Air Mobility Command aircraft fly all over the globe and often have open passenger seats available that can fly you across the country or better yet, halfway around the world. An AMC aircraft takes off for somewhere in the world every 90 seconds. The only cost is some planning effort and time and if you can afford flexible traveling dates.

Since missions can be rerouted, delayed or canceled for a variety of reasons -- weather, maintenance issues or higher priority missions -- plan-in extra time for any potential delay. Save those credit card airline miles for the Thanksgiving trip to grandma's.

Traditionally, dependents had to travel with their sponsor. As of 2007, that policy was modified to allow dependents of deployed military members to use the Space-A program. The caveat is the sponsor must be deployed for at least a 120 day or longer deployment.

Signing up for Space-A is easy with four different methods. Your choices are signing up in person at the passenger terminal or by telephone, fax or e-mail. You must provide your name (sponsor and all traveling dependents), rank (active-duty members only), and destination(s) desired. Active-duty members must be on leave to sign up and must also present their leave orders as proof at the terminal.

You can also use civilian-crewed DOD-chartered airlift missions for Space-A travel, if seats are available. You will not be able to visit your grandson in Iraq, but you can travel to Germany or Italy if the aircraft transitions there.



If you're traveling overseas, ensure you know the restrictions of the host country you're heading for. Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) restrictions, US State Department Travel Advisory guidelines, the Foreign Clearance Guide, passport and visa requirements are all necessary items you need to research before you go.

suggestions or story ideas to:
admin@army.togetherweserved.com or
armytwse.editor@gmail.com.

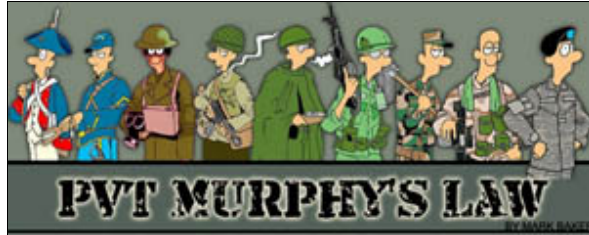
Jon Yim - Editor



For example, if you are a military retiree traveling to Germany, SOFA restrictions will not authorize you to purchase items in the PX/BX, but you can shop off base in the local community. You can get this information by calling the local passenger terminal at that location. Arm yourself with the right knowledge and you'll save yourself some frustration.

For more information, visit the AMC travel Web site at www.amc.af.mil/amctravel.

- Photos courtesy Air Mobility Command



- Mark Baker

Sincerely,
The ATWS Administration Team
<http://army.togetherweserved.com>