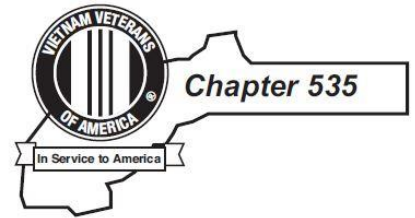




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 31 Issue 7

July 2021

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE June 2021

As I try to gather my thoughts for this message, I reflect on what the 4th of July means to us. It is the birthday of America. The day we celebrate our independence. Many regions in the world do not have this luxury of freedom. Americans were willing to stand up to British rule and form their own country. As long as Americans are willing to be brave and fight against evil, we will remain free. To keep America free we must maintain a strong military. Our veterans are the backbone of freedom and the foundation that keeps America free.

At our upcoming July meeting we will need a head count for a luncheon prepared by Jose Gonzales at the Kentucky Flat school house on Saturday July 24 at noon. We have had a difficult last year and this is a time to celebrate. I heard ribs and fixings are on order for the day.

The 4th of July parade will occur a few days after our meeting. I will be AWOL that weekend and we will need someone to step up and organize our group, if we intend to participate. We can discuss this at our meeting.

As we approach our meeting date of July 1, I will attempt to get the agenda out to all of you. I do not have access to the e-mail list to broadcast our information. I will be working on this.

Stay well and we will see each other on July 1, at 6pm.

Keith

VVA Chapter 535 Mission Statement

To foster camaraderie among members and assist those with disabling mental and physical injuries, to promote the welfare of our brethren affected by the war, and to engender public understanding of the sacrifice, patriotism and bravery of those who served, those who gave all, and those left behind.

Attention

If you do not drive and need a ride to a meeting or any VVA-535 function, please contact Bart Ruud or any local VVA -535 member and we will do our best to arrange transportation for you.

Guest Speaker for July 1, 2021

Unknown at this juncture.

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Upcoming Events

Homeless symposium – June 21, 2021
NCCVC Meeting – July 1, 2021 (Hybrid??)
General Meeting – July 1, 2021
Director's Meeting – July 1, 2021
Nevada County Fair – Aug. 12 – 15, 2021
CSC Meeting – Visalia Aug. 27-28, 2021
Nevada County Stand Down – October 2021
VVA National Conference – Nov. 2- 6, 2021
VVA 535 Christmas Dinner – Dec. 2, 2021
WAA – St. Patrick's Cemetery – Dec. 18, 2021

Chapter 535 Officers

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Committee Chairs

FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
Newsletter Interim Editor Bart Ruud
Victorian Christmas Cancelled for 2020
Nominations Ralph Remick
Veterans Assistance Keith Grueneberg
NCCVC Open
Speakers Bureau Dan Davis
Web Master Ralph Remick
Quartermaster Dick Corn
Facebook Master Mike Laborico
Nevada County Fair Open
CA State Council Rep..... Open

Nevada County Veterans Service Officer

VSO Officer -David West II (530) 265-1446 office
(530) 913-5046 cell
988 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley 95949
ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us
Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00 is a
“Walk-In” day.

Placer County Veterans Service Officer

Derrick Oliveira ... 916-780-3290.
1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA
Mon. – Fri., 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Matters of interest as outlined at Meeting of June 3, 2021

See the Minutes for June 3, for the real story.

The purchase memorial bricks for eight
deceased members of VVA-535 not currently

represented on the Memorial Wall at Memorial Park remains a work in process.

Bart Ruud filed an election report with the California state Council and with the VVA national membership office.

The bridge crossing the S. Yuba River north of Nevada City will eventually be named the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge – or something in that context.

Reservations for a booth at the Nevada county Fair have been made.

A decision about Victorian Christmas participation in December is a critical consideration.

Our VSO, David West II, needs volunteer drivers. Contact David to learn parameters and lend a hand.

Vet Death Prep

Keeping Records for Our Significant Others

VVA | John A Miterko | May 2021

Veterans need to be well organized when it comes to keeping records for our significant others. They will be stressed out enough dealing with our passing. They do not need the added chore of trying to find critical items necessary for planning funerals and other issues. What follows is a list of documents that are necessary to ensure that things get taken care of in a timely manner when we die.

The first item is a copy of your DD-214. This is the most important document relating to your military service. It shows a funeral director that you are a veteran and, in some cases, determines the level of services you are eligible for. If you are drawing benefits from the VA and you do not have a copy of your DD-214, log on to www.ebenefits.va.gov where you will be able to find and print a copy, as well as review your disability rating.

The second item is a copy of your award letter from the VA. This document shows what your disabilities are and their percentages. If you are a 100 percent permanent and totally disabled veteran, the letter will save you significant other a lot of headaches when it comes to filing for Dependent Indemnity Compensation. It also gives the physician who fills out the death certificate a list of conditions that should be named as contributing factors to the veteran's death.

During the pandemic the primary cause of death listed for many veterans has been COVID-19. But the veteran's service-connected conditions in most cases were contributing factors. COPD and diabetes, for example, often are contributing factors. By having the doctor list a service-connected condition as a contributing factor on the death certificate, the widow will not have any difficulty getting the DIC claim approved. As a 100 percent permanent and totally disabled veteran, you are authorized a free death insurance policy providing you filed for that benefit within two years after you received your rating award letter. Locate the phone number for the insurance agency and keep it with the policy.

Then you need to compile all the documents listed below. The items and all pertinent information should be kept in a folder.

- Will
- Do Not Resuscitate statement
- Obituary • Funeral wishes
- Passwords for computers and other items
- List of people to contact other than family (old military buddies, etc.)

It's also important to contact your nearest Casualty Assistance Office, which can help you file whatever documents are necessary for retirement pay and other issues. If your significant other is not a member of a Veterans Service Organization, locate the nearest VSO that helps with filing DIC claims and performs graveside honors.

This list is by no means complete. However, it will give you a starting point and provide critical information necessary to take care of the most time-sensitive items. AVVA offers a Paper Safe. Most funeral homes have guides, and will provide additional guidance. Please take the time and make this one of your priorities. As Vietnam veterans, we are all living on borrowed time.

For more information, see “Navigating the VA Widow’s Benefits Maze: Get the Facts and Don’t Give Up,” by Claudia Gary, in the July/August 2019 issue of The VVA Veteran (<http://vvaveteran.org>).

China's Military Buildup Update April Triple Commissioning

Defense News | Mike Yeo | April 26, 2021

China commissioned 60,000 tons worth of major vessels in April, officially putting into service a new nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, a guided-missile cruiser and an amphibious helicopter carrier on the 72nd anniversary of its Navy. The unprecedented triple commissioning was carried out in a ceremony held at the Yulin naval complex near the city of Sanya on the southern Chinese island of Hainan. Yulin is the main naval base of the South Sea Fleet of the People’s Liberation Army Navy. The fleet’s area of responsibility lies in the waters of the nearby South China Sea.

Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the ceremony, which saw the Type 075 (Yushen-class) amphibious helicopter carrier Hainan, the Type 055 (Renhai-class) guided-missile cruiser Dalian and the Type 094 (Jin-class) nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine Changzheng-18 join the PLAN. The Hainan is the lead ship of a new class of amphibious assault ships being built for the PLAN as it continues to boost its naval capabilities. The helicopter carriers, which are estimated to displace between 35,000 to 40,000 tons, have an uninterrupted flight deck with seven deck spots for large transport helicopter operations, and a

well dock for launching conventional or air-cushioned landing craft for amphibious landing operations. At least two more Type 075s are under construction at a shipyard in the major eastern city of Shanghai, and their introduction will significantly boost the PLAN’s ability to conduct large amphibious operations — a capability gap for China despite its massive military modernization program.

The Dalian is the second ship of the 10,000-ton Type 055 cruisers, which are seen as roughly analogous to the U.S. Navy’s Ticonderoga-class cruisers equipped with the Aegis combat system. Each Type 055 is fitted with a phased array radar similar to those found on the Aegis-equipped cruisers and destroyers, and is armed with a total of 112 vertical launching missile cells for surface-to-air, anti-ship or land-attack cruise missiles. At least eight Type 055s are concurrently under construction at two shipyards in Shanghai and the northern Chinese port city of Dalian, with both facilities also building the smaller Type 052D destroyers in a demonstration of the scale of China’s remarkable naval shipbuilding program.

Meanwhile, the Changzheng-18 is one of two such submarines previously reported by Defense News as undergoing construction, bringing the PLAN’s fleet to six. The Type 094 can carry up to 12 CSS-N-14 (JL-2) submarine-launched, nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles, which reportedly has a range of about 4,500 miles. According to the U.S. Defense Department, China is planning a follow-on class of ballistic missile submarines dubbed the Type 096, which is expected to be armed with the JL-3 sub-launched ballistic missile.

Hindenburg New Documentary Sheds Light on the Decades-Old Disaster

AirForceTimes | Caitlin O'Brien | May 18, 2021



Eighty-four years after the airship Hindenburg crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, a new PBS documentary has new evidence about why the disaster may have happened. "Hindenburg: The New Evidence," a film produced by PBS' NOVA television program, features U.S. Air Force veteran Jason O. Harris as part of a team completing the first investigation into the crash since its immediate aftermath in 1937. Harris, a lieutenant colonel, teamed up with historian Dan Grossman to discover why the fire, which ultimately killed 36 people, happened in the first place.

Up until now, many considered the cause of the Hindenburg crash to be lost to history. Using newly discovered footage from an amateur videographer at the scene, filmmakers present a never-before-seen view of the crash, including moments before the airship caught fire. Harris, who is also a commercial airline pilot trained in accident investigation, jumped on the opportunity to research the cause of the disaster, especially given the new evidence and methods of investigating modern accidents. "Oftentimes we see history, we see stories and we don't get to see it up close and personal," Harris told Military Times. Having this opportunity to interact with the Hindenburg's history made him consider the accident in light of his military and professional training. Specifically, he looked the people in charge of the airship's crew and the dynamics of the people on the ship.

Aircraft crew members in the 1930s did not have as in-depth training in decision making as they do today. Given the ongoing rain on the day the Hindenburg was scheduled to land, the ship's arrival was already delayed. Once the ship

neared New Jersey, rain picked up again just as landing cables dropped. The German crew members on the Hindenburg were likely stressed given that the ship was arriving significantly late to New Jersey, but did not want to add to the delays by not landing immediately. Harris also noted that having high-level officials and leaders overseeing the crew inside of the craft may have added additional stress. "Every accident is nothing more than a chain of events, a chain of decisions that were made over a period of time that either led to something catastrophic or led to someone breaking that chain of events and making a different decision," said Harris. Viewing the accident through the lens of stressful decision making adds new layers to what may have happened in the moments leading up to the crash, he added.

The Hindenburg's crash was remarkable and unexpected. The press present at the event planned on waiting to film once the ship landed, hoping to get views of passengers disembarking. For this reason, most of the known footage that existed before this new discovery captured what happened after the airship caught fire, Rushmore DeNooyer, writer and producer for the film, said. The videographer, Harold Schenck, did not capture what specifically caused the German airship's landing to become disastrous. "Mr. Schenck was filming all the stuff that the press pool did not film, but even he missed the exact moment that the spark 75 sparked" said DeNooyer. "[The Hindenburg] goes from pristine airship...to just charred wreckage on the ground in just 60 seconds."

Schenck and his family tried to give the film to accident investigators right after the crash, but they chose not to look at it. The rediscovery and verified authenticity of the footage sparked NOVA to launch new scientific experiments to find out the origin of the blaze. "Thanks to this stunning new footage, we were able to revive a cold case investigation surrounding one of the most iconic disasters of the 20th century," said the documentary's executive producer, Gary Tarpinian, in a press release. The film follows

Harris and Grossman from the site of the crash in New Jersey, to Germany's Zeppelin Museum Friedrichshafen, to a Caltech laboratory in Pasadena, California. The 53 minute documentary is available on online PBS' website at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/video/hinde-nburg-the-new-evidence> and on the PBS app.

Iron Dome Israel Intercepts Drone during Combat for First Time

Defense News | Seth J. Frantzman | May 17, 2021



Israel's Iron Dome air defense system has intercepted a drone belonging to the Hamas militant group, a first for the platform, according to the country's defense forces. In total, Israel has intercepted six drones using multiple countermeasures since hostilities began between Israel and Hamas on 10 MAY, the Israel Defense Forces said 17 MAY. A senior Air Force officer described the interception as a significant advancement. Israel touted new capabilities for Iron Dome over the last year, including a drill where it worked alongside other air defense systems to confront multiple threats and another exercise this year during which it downed unmanned aerial systems.

Israeli media on 13 MAY reported that several drones were launched from the Gaza Strip. An F-16 fighter jet with a Python-5 air-to-air missile downed one of the drones, and an Iron Dome system intercepted another. Other drones were

downed by "classified means," local daily Yediot Ahronot reported. The IDF on 13 MAY noted "a short while ago, the Iron Dome Aerial Defense System intercepted a UAV belonging to the Hamas terror organization that crossed from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory. The Israeli Air Force monitored the unmanned aerial Vehicle (UAV) until interception. The IDF is continuing to protect Israel's air space and will not allow activity such as this." On May 17, the IDF added that this event was the first UAV interception by Iron Dome during combat.

In March, Defense Minister Benny Gantz said "the technological capabilities developed by defense industries, including the Iron Dome and the multi-tier missile defense array, are central to the defense of the State of Israel. In the face of emerging and rapidly changing threats, these new capabilities provide the political echelon and defense establishment with the operational flexibility that is critical to our national security." At the time, the Israel Missile Defense Organization said "the Iron Dome was tested in a range of complex scenarios and successfully intercepted and destroyed targets simulating existing and emerging threats, including the simultaneous interception of multiple UAVs as well as a salvo of rockets and missiles."

Since 10 MAY, approximately 3,000 rockets have been fired from the Gaza Strip at Israel. Iron Dome intercepted more than 1,000 of them, representing about 90 percent of those determined to pose a threat. Many rockets fall in open areas or don't even leave the Gaza Strip due to malfunctions. Hamas UAVs have now been added to the rocket threat. Tal Inbar, a UAV and aerospace expert as well as the former head of the Space Research Center at the Fisher Institute for Air and Space Strategic Studies, said drones are now an integral part of nonstate actors' inventories, including those of Hamas and Hezbollah. "This is a relatively new threat on the battlefield and homefront. You need effective means to intercept them," explained Inbar, who is now a research fellow at the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance. He added

that this interception illustrates that drones pose a challenge, as they are low flying and have a low radar cross section, but noted that the Iron Dome system has received updates to help it cope with new threats.

Israel uses three terms to refer to drones: malatim or UAVs for larger drones; rakfanim for quadcopters; and kli tais for aircraft, which also is used to refer to Hamas UAVs. Hamas' use of drones is nothing new, but the group recently unveiled a video of the Shehab, a drone that is launched from a kind of catapult, slinging it into the air where it then flies to its target, apparently along a preprogrammed route. The drone includes a warhead, slamming into the target on a kamikaze mission. This is similar to an Iranian Ababil and the Qasef used by Houthi rebels in Yemen; the latter is based on the former. In September 2019 Iran used a series of kamikaze-style drones and cruise missiles to attack Saudi Arabian oil facilities.

Israel has been working on a number of systems to detect and neutralize drones, including new laser systems and a drone that uses a net to shoot down smaller drones. Rafael has developed lasers to down drones, and the company showed off the ability to intercept numerous small drones during a February 2020 demonstration. Israel has also used planes and helicopters with missiles to address drone threats, including one UAV that flew into Israeli airspace from Syria in February 2018. In July 2018, Israel used a Patriot missile to down a drone from Syria.

The U.S. Army has two Iron Dome system batteries, and the country's Missile Defense Agency works with Israel on a variety of air defense projects, including the Arrow missile. Congress has also supported counter-drone work with Israel via the fiscal 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan and his Israeli counterpart, Meir Ben-Shabbat, discussed cooperation on counter-drone threats in April 2021. A readout of their discussion noted that the "United States

and Israel agreed to establish an interagency working group to focus particular attention on the growing threat of unmanned aerial vehicles [UAVs] and precision-guided missiles produced by Iran and provided to its proxies in the Middle East region."

Wisconsin senator proposes renaming Fort Bragg after Union cousin of Confederate general

Rachael Riley May 20, 2021

The Fayetteville Observer



A Wisconsin state senator is proposing renaming Fort Bragg — to Fort Bragg, after a cousin of the Confederate general.

In December, Congress approved the fiscal year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, which includes a provision from a bill filed by Sen. Elizabeth Warren seeking to remove Confederate names from installations within three years.

Fort Bragg is one of those nationwide installations and is named after Confederate general Braxton Bragg, who historians say was a slave owner who fought with subordinates and lost battles.

The National Defense Authorization Act states that a renaming commission will research costs of changing the names of the installations, while also seeking the input of stakeholders and communities near the installations.

In a news release Tuesday, Wisconsin state Sen. Dale Kooyenga, R-Brookfield, announced his resolution that proposes renaming Fort Bragg after Braxton Bragg's cousin, Union Gen. Edward Stuyvesant Bragg, of Wisconsin.

Who was Edward Bragg?

Edward S. Bragg volunteered for the Union Army at the outset of the Civil War with no prior military service and reached the rank of brigadier general by 1864, according to the news release.

Bragg would later command the 6th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment that was joined by the 2nd Wisconsin, 7th Wisconsin, and 19th Indiana and became known as the "Iron Brigade."

According to the news release, the brigade participated in "several famous bloody attacks of the Civil War."

Edward S. Bragg retired from the Army in 1865 and later served Wisconsin as a state senator and in Congress.

In a phone interview Wednesday, Kooyenga said a friend who loves to read history books told him about Edward S. Bragg.

"I knew about the looking to change (Fort Bragg's) name and did some research and thought this was perfect," Kooyenga said. "I think American history is full of ironies, and I thought it was appropriate for a Wisconsin state senator to bring it up."

Kooyenga himself enlisted in the Army in 2005 and has served at Fort Bragg as has one of his brothers, who is also in the Army.

Kooyenga is currently a major in the Army Reserve under the U.S. Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command. While Kooyenga said he has other priorities he's focusing on for his district, he hopes

the Commission on Removing Confederate Symbols and Names from U.S. Military Assets takes the resolution into consideration.

"To me, I think this offers a beautiful compromise," Kooyenga said. Kooyenga said he's heard points that advocate for removing the Confederate name association of Fort Bragg.

But, Kooyenga said, he's also heard that some associate Fort Bragg with the military service of its soldiers, not the Confederate general it is named after.

The news release from his office states that Bragg fought against the nation he pledged allegiance to and that "even his Confederate subordinates considered him quick-tempered with an inability to lead, resulting in the needless slaughter of men and his eventual resignation from the Confederate army." "With (Braxton) Bragg, he was not an honorable guy in any respect," Kooyenga said, also questioning why an installation would be named after an "enemy of the U.S." or someone who lost battles. "I get that, and I think this offers a compromise to the renaming."

Seeking a compromise to rename Fort Bragg

Kooyenga said he hopes his resolution gains bipartisan support and creates a compromise, while also honoring a native of Wisconsin.

"In contrast to the man it currently honors, Fort Bragg creates some of America's greatest leaders, men and women who dedicate themselves to principles that stand in sharp contrast to Braxton Bragg's principles," the news release from his office states. "In fact, Fort Bragg better resembles the ideals of Wisconsin Gen. Edward S. Bragg, not his cousin."

The National Defense Authorization Act states that the commission is tasked with developing procedures for renaming Confederate assets along with gathering input from local

communities and submitting a plan to the House and Armed Services Committee by October 2022.

The commission includes four appointments by the secretary of defense, two appointed by chairs of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees and two appointed by ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services announced their appointments to the committee in February.

Army Artillery Update

Ramjet Shells Could Triple Artillery Range

Breaking Defense | Sydney J. Freedberg Jr. | May 24, 2021



Test of Northrop Grumman's ramjet engine for extended-range 155 mm artillery shells

The Army is about to award development contracts for future artillery shells that will look more and more like missiles, with precision guidance, fins, and even ramjet engines. The program – part of a much wider buildup of US missile and cannons – aims to boost both range and accuracy far beyond anything possible with gunpowder alone. The goal: enable the currently outgunned and outranged US artillery force to compete with more advanced Russian and Chinese guns.

The US Army has long had rocket-boosted howitzer shells. The Cold War M549A1 has a range of roughly 30 kilometers (not quite 19 miles). The new XM1113 Rocket Assisted Projectile goes 40 km (25 miles) or more from the current M109 Paladin cannon and 70 km (44 miles) from the XM1299 Extended Range Cannon Artillery (ERCA) now in development. But to break triple digits – 100 kilometers (62 miles) and more – you can't rely on rockets: You need something much more powerful, like a ramjet. There are three main ways you can extend the range of a projectile, and the Army's Extended Range Artillery Munitions Suite is exploring all of them in combination for the future XM1155 shell, ERAMS project manager Nick Berg told me in an interview:

- Increase muzzle velocity. The faster the projectile comes out of the gun barrel, the farther it can go before drag and gravity bring it down to earth. Higher muzzle velocity is the emphasis of the XM1299 ERCA howitzer, which has a longer barrel and more powerful propellant than the current Paladin.
- Add lift surfaces. Basically, this means adding wings and fins to the shell – like a missile or miniature aircraft – to make it more aerodynamic. The more lift generated, the longer the projectile can fly. Of course, the wings, fins, and electronics all have to survive the brutal shock of being fired from a cannon.
- Add “post-launch propulsion.” This is where rockets and ramjets come in: They kick in after the projectile has cleared the gun barrel (hence “post-launch”) to give it an extra burst of thrust. Again, the motors first have to survive the shock of launch.

“We've actually investigated and looked at all of those areas,” Berg told me. “We really have focused on lifting surfaces to increase your glide [distance], but then also we've looked at solid fuel ramjets as a post-launch propulsion mechanism to boost you out to extended ranges.” Why ramjets over rockets? The basic difference is that rockets contain their own oxidizer to burn their fuel, while jets of all kinds – from ramjets to turbfans – get their oxygen

from the atmosphere. (Hence the name “air-breathing engine”). That saves weight, since you don’t have to carry oxidizer; it improves safety, since the fuel doesn’t ignite as easily; and it extends endurance, since the jet can keep thrusting as long as it has air and fuel. (A longer, gentler burn is also more aerodynamically efficient, reducing drag). A rocket-boosted artillery shell might burn for just 10 seconds, Berg told me, while a jet could conceivably last much longer.

How does a ramjet differ from other kinds of jet engines? All jets work by sucking in air at the front end, compressing it, mixing it with fuel, and igniting it, blasting thrust out the back end. (The shorthand is “suck, squeeze, bang, blow.”) At subsonic speeds, you need to mechanically compress the air with some kind of fan, like the one on the front of an airliner’s turbofan engine. But at supersonic speeds, around Mach 2, the air is coming in the front of the engine so fast that it compresses itself, without mechanical assistance: That’s a ramjet.

A ramjet’s actually mechanically simpler than a conventional jet, since it doesn’t need a compressor, which is one less thing that might break when shot out of a cannon. Historically, the hard part with ramjets has been that they don’t work at speeds below Mach 2 – but being shot out of a cannon gets you to those speeds. So ramjets are in some ways a natural fit for artillery propulsion. That doesn’t make them easy to build. “The ramjet does offer a little more technical challenge,” Berg told me, because you have to fit sophisticated, shock-resistant electronics into a small package along with inlets to feed air to the ramjet itself.

Some of the technology involved gets pretty exquisite, even exotic. The munition’s control system needs to sense airflow, pressure, heating, including phenomena that don’t happen at lower speeds, said Bob Bakos, CEO of Innoveering, a small firm working with the Picatinny Arsenal Armaments Center on the ramjet ammo. “You’re talking about thousands

of degrees” of heating from, essentially, the friction of the air, he told me. To steer in such extreme conditions, he went on, the projectile needs the traditional flaps and fins, but it might be possible to use tiny air ducts, electromagnets, or even plasma to affect the airflow and correct course. Once the XM1155 shell is developed, a future “cargo” variant could be used to deliver other payloads besides explosives, such as sensor packages and jamming pods.

The Army’s already run Phase I of the ERAMS program, with participation by Boeing, General Dynamics, Northrop Grumman, and Raytheon. Now it’s working on two contracts for Phase II, with awards expected within two weeks. A Raytheon spokesman confirmed they’re no longer working on the program, while Boeing confirmed they’re competing.

Army Electronic Warfare Manning Numbers to Triple in Next 2 Years

C4ISRNET | Mark Pomerleau | May 27, 2021



The Army will nearly triple the number of electronic warfare personnel in the next two years to begin staffing specialized units and staff sections at every echelon from brigade up. The schoolhouse is preparing to increase the number of enlisted electronic warfare personnel from 180 to 500 in the next year to two years, Brig. Gen. Paul Craft, commandant and chief of

National Convention Planning

(Repeat Posting)

cyber at the Army Cyber School, said 26 MAY at the Cyber Electromagnetic Activity conference hosted by the Association of Old Crows.

Adversaries have placed a high level of importance on the electromagnetic spectrum, investing in capabilities to jam communications or even geolocate enemy units based on their electromagnetic signature. As this maneuver space has gained attention, the Army wants more skilled personnel that understand the environment and can translate it to commanders to make more informed decisions.

In 2018, the Army folded electronic warfare personnel into the cyber branch converging around an emerging concept the service called cyber and electromagnetic activities, or CEMA. For the high-end personnel, the schoolhouse would send them to the cyber mission force at U.S. Cyber Command. However, others will learn foundational concepts of cyberspace and the electromagnetic spectrum and could serve in new tactical electronic warfare units or in integrated cyber, electronic warfare, information operations units, as well as staff sections.

The growth in personnel “is because of the number of CEMA sections that we’re going to have in every brigade combat team, every combat aviation brigade, every division, every corps, every ASCC [Army Service Component Command],” Craft said. “The CEMA sections have existed, but they’re being built out.” The CEMA sections are cyber and electronic warfare personnel that exist in the staff section at whatever echelon they’re assigned to and act as planners and managers of their disciplines for the commander. The plan is to have a staff section at every echelon from brigade up in the next five years. Craft also noted the Army is in the process of building electronic warfare platoons and companies that will also exist within the brigade, division and corps levels. As part of Army unit design updates, every brigade combat team will have an electronic warfare platoon and a separate signals intelligence network support team.

The convention will be held at the Sheraton, Greensboro, NC. The price of rooms is \$110+ 12.5-% tax. If you drive, there will be no cost for parking. If you fly in, there is a free hotel shuttle.

Registration cost will be \$75... late registration will be \$150.

Simply, we want all the credentials checked out and approved before the convention. VVA will have a shorter staff than normal. So, get all those financial and election reports in asap.

Travel days will be Monday November 1 and Sunday November 7th.

There will be a CSCP meeting Tuesday a.m. and a National Board meeting p.m. on Tuesday November 2nd.

This is a very general email on some of the times. More specific times will follow as we talk with the hotel.

Convention committee
Dan Stenvold

Writing Your Story for INCOMING

(Ongoing repeat solicitation)

Ideas for your story:

- Think about what you appreciated about the Vietnam experience. There is surely a means to segue into that with very little reflection on the negative aspects of war.
- What did you appreciate about the Vietnamese people during your deployment?
- Can you steer away from the bad stuff and

\reflect on the best experience you had in the Nam?

- Surely you had a close buddy and you supported each other. Maybe there is a story in that.
- What really got you through the day-to-day anxieties and fears? There might be a positive recollection in that regard.
- How did your experience instill in you a sense of patriotism that you possibly express every day of your life.

So far we have heard from Ruud, Epps, Chaix, Hamer, Chuck Holmes, current Marine LCpl. Jesse Hernandez, Kent Hawley, Mike Laborico and Dave Johnson. (Thank you!)

No writer needs to dwell on the negatives of war. Each of us who was there lived the

negatives, and all of us are better people for having served, especially when we look at how we matured as a result of our experiences. Each of us has derived a sense of being and an energy that is different from what it might have been had we not been sent across the pond.

Do share with us, in your own words, something of that chapter of your life. And, thank you for your service.

Forward your story to Bart Ruud at bruud45@gmail.com or hand deliver to Bart.

Application for Membership
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CHAPTER 535

P.O. Box 37, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in **any duty location** between November 1, 1955 and May 7, 1975.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ Cell Phone: (_____) _____

Email Address: _____ Gender: _____

(Optional) Chapter Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

_____ I am already a VVA member and I want to become a Life Member. My VVA Number is _____.

Membership: Individual Life Membership: \$50. (Effective Oct. 20, 2018)

ATTENTION New members: You must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Payment Method: ___ Check ___ Money Order ___ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover)

Credit Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Return your completed application, payment and a copy of your DD-214 to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 535
P.O. Box 37
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Revised: January 2021

June

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	4	5
6 D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Flag Day Army Birthday (1775)	15	16	17	18	19
20 Father's Day	21 Summer Begins	22 Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942) GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)	23	24	25 Korean War began (1950)	26
27 National Post- Traumatic Stress Awareness Day	28	29	30 Post - 9/11 GI Bill Signed Into Law (2008)			

July

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	2 U.S Army Air Corps established (1926)	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Korean War ended (1953) National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	28 World War I began (1914)	29	30	31

August

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Gulf of Tonkin Incident (1964)	3	4 Coast Guard Birthday (1790)	5 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	6	7 Purple Heart Medal Established (1782) Vietnam War Began (1964)
8 Nixon resigns (1974)	9	10	11	12	13	14 Japan Surrendered Ending WW II (1945) National Navajo Code Talkers Day
15	16 National Airborne Day	17	18	19 National Aviation Day	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				