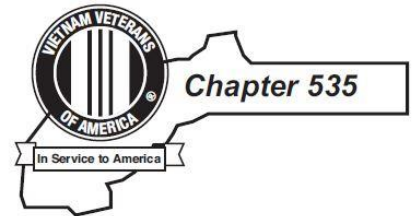




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 33 Issue 11

November 2023

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
November 2023**

President

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.

Hello Everyone,

Thank you to Vice President Pete Hidalgo for filling in for me at last month's regular meeting. And thank you to Bart and Ralph for their continuous work month after month.

Veterans Day, your day, is November 11th and festivities that day will take place at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building at 10AM. At that meeting there will be music and a guest speaker, Lt Col Josh Tull, a U-2 pilot. After the meeting there will be a luncheon downstairs in the dining room at 11 AM.

Happy Veterans Day to all of you.

Happy Thanksgiving Day to you and your families.

Just a little reminder our meeting and potluck dinner will be on December 7 in the dining room downstairs.

Ray James

Veterans Crisis Line

**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1
Or text 838255**

**(Put these numbers into your phone)
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.

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Finance ...Ralph Remick & Kent Holley
 Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
 Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
 Newsletter Interim Editor Bart Ruud
 Victorian Christmas ...Cancelled for 2022; 2023?
 Nominations Ralph Remick & Dick Corn
 Veterans Assistance Ray James
 NCCVC Dick Corn
 Speakers Bureau Ray James
 Web Master Ralph Remick
 Quartermaster Dick Corn
 Facebook Master Mike Laborico
 Nevada County Fair Open
 CA State Council Rep..... Open

Upcoming Events

CSC: Oct. 27-29, 2023 - Visalia
 NCCVC Meeting – November 2, 2023
 VVA 535 General Meeting – November 2, 2023
 Christmas potluck – December 7, 2023
 December 16, 2023 - Wreaths Across America

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Placer County Veterans Services Officer

Richard “Steve” Johnson: 916-780-3290.
 1000 Sunset Blvd., Suite 115, Rocklin, CA
 Mon. – Fri., 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. The
 Auburn office, at 11562 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, is open every
 Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. The Carnelian Bay
 office, at 5252 N Lake Blvd, Carnelian Bay, CA 96140, is now open every
 3rd Monday (excluding Holidays) 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-
 3:00 p.m.

County VSO Resource Closet Needs

Sleeping bags, duffel bags, small lightweight
 tents, socks, briefs, bras, tee shirts (white/olive
 drab), sweatshirts, sweatpants, jeans, shoes,
 boots, hygiene supplies, grocery store gift cards,
 gas cards, blankets.

These kinds of items will become components of
 life packs to assist those in need that are seen by
 staff at VSO David West’s office. Thank you for
 your assistance with this project.

Guest Speaker: Brian Gilbert from *New Start*

Matters of Interest as outlined at the Meeting of October 5, 2023

Several VVA 535 members participated in the drive/walk-by parade on September 13, 2023 to acknowledge Lou Contor on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. Lou is the last survivor of the USS Arizona which was sunk at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Some 1,177 crewmen on the Arizona lost their lives in the attack.

The Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down is scheduled for October 13 & 14 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds:

“Second Courage” presentations continue to be sought.

VVA 535 will again award a Harold K. Graves Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 in 2024.

Bart Ruud will work on development of an article regarding “Aging Well” for The Union.

“WHITE FEATHER” - SNIPER EXTRAORDINAIRE David Thomas's True Blue Aussie



Carlos Hathcock at work in the fields of Vietnam. (Photo: U.S. Marine Corps)

Long before Chris Kyle penned “*American Sniper*,” **Carlos Hathcock** was already a legend.

He taught himself to shoot as a boy, just like Alvin York and Audie Murphy before him.

He had dreamed of being a U.S. Marine his whole life and enlisted in 1959 at just 17 years old.

Hathcock was an excellent sharpshooter by then, winning the Wimbledon Cup shooting championship in 1965, the year before he would deploy to Vietnam and change the face of American warfare forever.

He deployed in 1966 as a military policeman, but immediately volunteered for combat and was soon transferred to the 1st Marine Division Sniper Platoon, stationed at Hill 55, South of Da Nang.

This is where Hathcock would earn the nickname “*White Feather*” — because he always wore a white feather on his bush hat, daring the North Vietnamese to spot him — and where he would achieve his status as the Vietnam War’s deadliest sniper in missions that sound like they were pulled from the pages of Marvel comics.

White Feather vs. The General

Early morning and early evening were Hathcock’s favorite times to strike. This was important when he volunteered for a mission he knew nothing about.

“First light and last light are the best times,” he said. “In the morning, they’re going out after a good night’s rest, smoking, laughing. When they come back in the evenings, they’re tired, lollygagging, not paying attention to detail.”

He observed this first hand, at arm’s reach, when trying to dispatch a North Vietnamese Army General officer.

For four days and three nights, he low crawled inch by inch, a move he called “worming,” without food or sleep, more than 1500 yards to get close to the general. This was the only time he ever removed the feather from his cap.

“Over a time period like that you could forget the strategy, forget the rules and end up dead,” he

said. "I didn't want anyone dead, so I took the mission myself, figuring I was better than the rest of them, because I was training them."

Hathcock moved to a treeline near the NVA encampment.

"There were two twin .51s next to me," he said. "I started worming on my side to keep my slug trail thin. I could have tripped the patrols that came by."

The general stepped out onto a porch and yawned. The general's aide stepped in front of him and by the time he moved away, the general was down, the bullet went through his heart. Hathcock was 700 yards away.

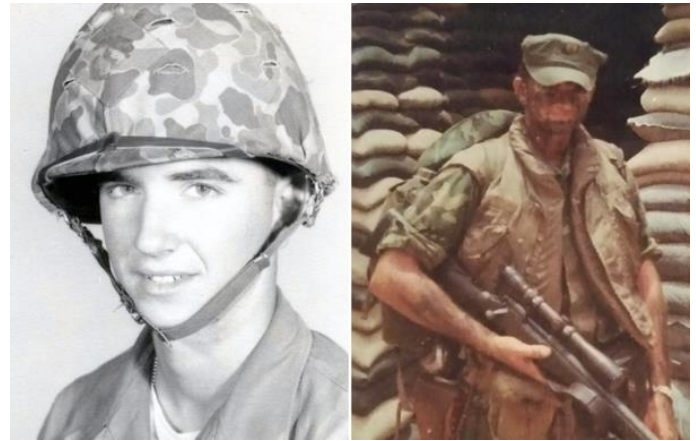
"I had to get away. When I made the shot, everyone ran to the treeline because that's where the cover was." The soldiers searched for the sniper for three days as he made his way back. They never even saw him.

"Carlos became part of the environment," said Edward Land, Hathcock's commanding officer. "He totally integrated himself into the environment. He had the patience, drive, and courage to do the job. He felt very strongly that he was saving Marine lives."

With 93 confirmed kills – his longest was at 2,500 yards – and an estimated 300 more, for Hathcock, it really wasn't about the killing.

"I really didn't like the killing," he once told a reporter. "You'd have to be crazy to enjoy running around the woods, killing people. But if I didn't get the enemy, they were going to kill the kids over there."

Saving American lives is something Hathcock took to heart.



Carlos Hathcock, in camp (left), and ready to go out on a kill mission (right).

"The Best Shot I Ever Made"

"She was a bad woman," Carlos Hathcock once said of the woman known as 'Apache.'

"Normally kill squads would just kill a Marine and take his shoes or whatever, but the *Apache* was very sadistic. She would do anything to cause pain."

This was the trademark of the female Viet Cong platoon leader. She captured Americans in the area around Carlos Hathcock's unit and then tortured them without mercy.

"I was in her backyard, she was in mine. I didn't like that," Hathcock said. "It was personal, very personal. She'd been torturing Marines before I got there."

In November of 1966, she captured a Marine Private and tortured him within earshot of his own unit.

"She tortured him all afternoon, half the next day," Hathcock recalls. "I was by the wire... He walked out, died right by the wire."

Apache skinned the private, cut off his eyelids, removed his fingernails, and then castrated him before letting him go. Hathcock attempted to save him, but he was too late.

Carlos Hathcock had had enough. He set out to kill *Apache* before she could kill any more Marines.

One day, he and his spotter got a chance. They observed an NVA sniper platoon on the move. At 700 yards in, one of them stepped off the trail and Hathcock took what he calls the best shot he ever made.

“We were in the midst of switching rifles. We saw them,” he remembered. “I saw a group coming, five of them. I saw her squat to pee, that’s how I knew it was her. They tried to get her to stop, but she didn’t stop. I stopped her. I put one extra in her for good measure.”



Women were a regular part of the Viet Cong, like the evil torturer “The Apache”

A Five-Day Engagement

One day during a forward observation mission, Hathcock and his spotter encountered a newly minted company of NVA troops. They had new uniforms, but no support and no communications.

“They had the bad luck of coming up against us,” he said. “They came right up the middle of the rice paddy. I dumped the officer in front, my observer dumped the one in the back.”

The last officer started running the opposite direction.

“Running across a rice paddy is not conducive to good health,” Hathcock remarked. “You don’t run across rice paddies very fast.”



NVA and Viet Cong troops in action somewhere in Vietnam.

According to Hathcock, once a Sniper fires three shots, he leaves. With no leaders left, after three shots, the opposing platoon wasn’t moving.

“So there was no reason for us to go either,” said the sniper. “No one in charge, a bunch of Ho Chi Minh’s finest young go-getters, nothing but a bunch of hamburgers out there.”

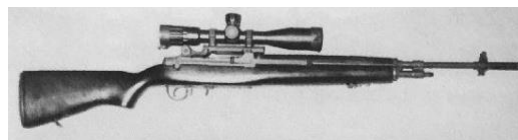
Hathcock called artillery at all times through the coming night, with flares going on the whole time.

When morning came, the NVA were still there.

“We didn’t withdraw, we just moved,” Hathcock recalled. “They attacked where we were the day before. That didn’t get far either.”

White Feather and The M2

Though the practice had been in use since the Korean War, Carlos Hathcock made the use of the M2 .50 caliber machine gun as a long-range sniper weapon a normal practice. He designed a rifle mount, built by Navy Seabees, which allowed him to easily convert the weapon.



M25 rifle

“I was sent to see if that would work,” he recalled. “We were elevated on a mountain with bad guys all over. I was there three days, observing. On the third day, I zeroed at 1,000 yards, longest 2,500.

Here comes the hamburger, came right across the spot where it was zeroed, he bent over to brush his teeth and I let it fly. If he hadn't stood up, it would have gone over his head. But it didn't."

The distance of that shot was 2,460 yards – almost a mile and a half – and it stood as a record until broken in 2002 by Canadian sniper Arron Perry in Afghanistan.

White Feather vs. The Cobra

"If I hadn't gotten him just then," Hathcock remembers, "he would have gotten me."

Many American snipers had a bounty on their heads. These were usually worth one or two thousand dollars. The reward for the sniper with the white feather in his bush cap, however, was worth \$30,000.

Like a sequel to *Enemy at The Gates*, Hathcock became such a thorn in the side of the NVA that they eventually sent their own best sniper to kill him. He was known as the *Cobra* and would become Hathcock's most famous encounter in the course of the war.

"He was doing bad things," Hathcock said. "He was sent to get me, which I didn't really appreciate. He killed a gunny outside my hooch. I watched him die. I vowed I would get him some way or another."

That was the plan. *The Cobra* would kill many Marines around Hill 55 in an attempt to draw Hathcock out of his base.

"I got my partner, we went out we trailed him. He was very cagey, very smart. He was close to being as good as I was... But no way, ain't no way ain't nobody that good."



In an interview filmed in the 1990s, He discussed how close he and his partner came to being a victim of the *Cobra*.

"I fell over a rotted tree. I made a mistake and he made a shot. He hit my partner's canteen. We thought he'd been hit because we felt the warmth running over his leg. But he'd just shot his canteen dead."

Eventually the team of Hathcock and his partner, John Burke, and the *Cobra* had switched places.

"We worked around to where he was," Hathcock said. "I took his old spot, he took my old spot, which was bad news for him because he was facing the sun and glinted off the lens of his scope, I saw the glint and shot the glint." *White Feather* had shot the *Cobra* just moments before the *Cobra* would have taken his own shot.

"I was just quicker on the trigger otherwise he would have killed me," Hathcock said. "I shot right straight through his scope, didn't touch the sides."

With a wry smile, he added: "And it didn't do his eyesight no good either."

1969, a vehicle Hathcock was riding in struck a landmine and knocked the Marine unconscious. He came to and pulled seven of his fellow Marines from the burning wreckage. He left Vietnam with burns over 40 percent of his body. He received the Silver Star for this action in 1996.



Lieutenant General P. K. Van Riper, Commanding General Marine Corps Combat Development Command, congratulates Gunner Sgt. Carlos Hathcock (Ret.) after presenting him the Silver Star during a ceremony at the Weapons Training Battalion. Standing next to Gunner Sgt. Hathcock is his son, Staff Sgt. Carlos Hathcock, Jr.

After the mine ended his sniping career, he established the Marine Sniper School at Quantico, teaching Marines how to “get into the bubble,” a state of complete concentration. He was in intense pain as he taught at Quantico, suffering from Multiple Sclerosis, the disease that would ultimately kill him — something the NVA could never accomplish.

Genetically Modified Pig’s Heart Is Transplanted Into a Second Patient

By Roni Caryn Rabin . NY Times. Sept. 22, 2023

The first patient to receive such an organ died after two months. “At least now I have hope,” the second recipient said before the surgery.



Surgeons examine a pig heart during Lawrence Faucette’s transplant surgery. Credit...Mark Teske/University of Maryland School of Medicine, via Associated Press

Surgeons in Baltimore have transplanted the heart of a genetically altered pig into a man with terminal heart disease who had no other hope for treatment, the University of Maryland Medical Center announced on Friday.

It is the second such procedure performed by the surgeons. The first patient, David Bennett, 57, died two months after his transplant, but the pig heart functioned well and there were no signs of acute organ rejection, a major risk in such procedures.

The second patient, Lawrence Faucette, 58, a Navy veteran and married father of two in Frederick, Md., underwent the transplant surgery on Wednesday and is “recovering well and communicating with his loved ones,” the medical center said in a statement.

Mr. Faucette, who had terminal heart disease and other complicated medical conditions, was so sick that he had been rejected from all transplant programs that use human donor organs.

“At least now I have hope and I have a chance,” Mr. Faucette said before the surgery. “I will fight tooth and nail for every breath I can take.”



Mr. Faucette, a 20-year Navy veteran with heart failure from Frederick, Md., and his wife, Ann Faucette, before the surgery. Mr. Faucette, 58, received a genetically

altered pig heart at the University of Maryland Medical Center. Credit...University of Maryland Medical Center

The transplantation was performed by Dr. Bartley Griffith, who operated on the first patient. Dr. Muhammad Mohiuddin, of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, designed the protocol.

Mr. Bennett died after multiple complications, and traces of a virus that infects pigs were found in his new heart, raising concerns that so-called xenotransplants of organs from animals to people could introduce new pathogens into the human population.

Hospital officials said they repeatedly tested the pig used in the transplant last week for both the virus, called porcine cytomegalovirus, and antibodies using a new assay that was not available at the time of Mr. Bennett's transplant.

Before undergoing the transplant, Mr. Faucette said he recognized that it would be a miracle if he was able to leave the hospital and go home, and another miracle if he lived for months or a year longer.

"Realistically, this is in the early-stage learning process," he said of the procedure.

In recent years, the science of xenotransplantation has taken huge strides with gene editing and cloning technologies designed to make animal organs less likely to be rejected by the human immune system.

Although the advances are still in nascent stages, they offer hope to the more than 100,000 Americans who are living with end-stage organ disease yet face an acute shortage of human donor organs. Most of those waiting for an organ need a kidney, but fewer than 25,000 kidney transplants are performed each year and thousands die on waiting lists.

Transplant surgeons at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and NYU Langone Health have transplanted kidneys from genetically modified pigs into brain-dead patients maintained on ventilators, demonstrating that the kidneys can make urine and perform other essential biological functions without being rejected.

"There is a growing need for organs and for people with end-stage organ failure who are out of options," said Dr. Jay Fishman, a professor of medicine at Harvard and associate director of the Transplant Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"While decedent trials are informative, transplants in living recipients are, of course, most relevant to advancing knowledge in the field," Dr. Fishman added. He said he was optimistic that the surgery would encourage scientists to enter the field and accelerate the path to clinical trials.

The heart transplanted into Mr. Faucette came from a pig that had received 10 genetic modifications. Scientists removed three pig genes that cause rapid rejection of pig organs by the human immune system, while inserting six human genes that allow the immune system to accept the organ.

An additional pig gene, responsible for the heart's growth, was knocked out to prevent the organ from becoming too large.

The genetically altered pig was provided by Revivicor, a regenerative medicine company based in Blacksburg, Va., that is a subsidiary of United Therapeutics Corporation. Before the transplant, the pig was screened for viruses, bacteria and parasites.

The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency approval to the transplant last week under a "compassionate use" process that allows experimental procedures to be

performed on a single patient who has a life-threatening condition.

Mr. Faucette is also receiving an experimental new antibody therapy developed by Eledon Pharmaceuticals called tegoprubart, which blocks a protein involved in the activation of the immune system. Other conventional drugs are also being used to suppress his immune system and prevent rejection of the organ.

Mr. Faucette's wife, Ann, said the two were keeping expectations low and just hoping for some more time together. "That could be as simple as sitting on the front porch and having coffee together," she said.

The Army's new chief has a plan and its all about warfighting

By Todd Smith. Army Times. 10/9/2023



Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Randy George answers questions from members of the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing at the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., July 12, 2023.

George was confirmed as Army Chief of Staff in September. (Sgt. David Resnick/Army)

Gen. Randy George begins his tenure leading the Army as it faces a period of rapid change, competition with adversaries across the globe and a strained force. The new chief of staff intends to fuel that fight by distilling the complex set of challenges facing the force into a

singular goal: ensuring the service is the best warfighting organization it can be.

The general was once a private, having enlisted out of his Iowa hometown, but by 1984 he was at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Graduating in 1988, the infantry officer first saw combat with the 101st Airborne Division as part of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm only two years later.

That operational career has informed how he wants to lead the Army through the coming years amid old and new demands on a smaller Army that's expected to be everywhere it's needed when called.

George, 58, talked with Army Times about his four focus areas, the generals he's tasked with leading those efforts and what he expects from soldiers across the force.

The four areas sound simple but cover a wide range of what the Army, the largest service, must do to compete in today's world and, if necessary, win in a conflict.

Those areas are warfighting, continuous transformation, strengthening the profession and delivering ready combat formations.

In George's mind, each of those areas folds into a singular goal: Making the Army the world's most effective fighting force.

Preparing for war

To lead this effort, George intends to draw on leaders with a lot of stars on their shoulders — Gen. Charles Flynn, over at U.S. Army Pacific, Gen. Andrew Poppas, with Forces Command, and Gen. Darryl Williams, of U.S. Army Europe and Africa.

Those three generals either oversee forces overseas directly or, as in Poppas' case, manage all of what flows those forces into planned or emergency deployments.

Much of the process is working, but refining and improving the system, George said, will improve readiness for the Army and the joint partners it supports in every theater.



Gen. Charles A. Flynn, commanding general of the U.S. Army Pacific, receives a farewell salute from Capt. Joshua Aquinde, commander of the 230th Engineer Company at the Hawaii Army National Guard Puunene Armory, Maui, Aug. 15, 2023. (Spc. Tonia Ciancanelli/Army)

“The Army is doing a great job meeting all of our requirements globally — I want us to continually look at how we get better at managing home station training, [operational tempo], and transformation so units have the appropriate time to meet their requirements and get the time they need to rest, refit, and stay connected with their families,” George said.

One of the ways he expects to do that is to reduce the strain on commanders, especially lower-echelon leaders.

He shared an example wherein even a company-level commander could be responsible for a 118-page property book. Much of that gear may have served a purpose at one point but is either

so rarely used or not needed for combat that it's simply weighing down the commander and their unit with added inventory, maintenance and other duties.

“If you're spending time laying out equipment, servicing equipment that you don't use or need or are not going to combat with, then we shouldn't have that inside of the formation,” George said.

The chief wants the Army to find ways to conduct “passive inventory,” which entails electronic tracking of materials, instead of people hauling out gear and marking paper sheets to know what they have and where it is — similar to how Walmart or Amazon might review their wares.

He wants to cut obsolete or irrelevant equipment from those property books and has a pilot program starting this month to do so.



Maj. Gen. David Doyle, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson and Command Sgt. Maj. Alex Kupratty, command sergeant major of the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, Colorado welcome the then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Randy George and Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael R. Weimer during a visit to Powidz, Poland, Aug. 26, 2023. (Spc. Joshua Zayas/Army)

The end result would buy back time for commanders and soldiers, he said.

“What it should do is free up more time to train but it should also make it easier for going home at night, spending time with their family,” George said. “If they save 100 hours and they spend 20 more hours at the range and 80 hours off, I’m good with that. That’s 20 more hours on the range.”

To put that in motion, George has tasked Poppas at FORSCOM and Gen. Charles Hamilton, over Army Materiel Command to select two divisions to reduce their non-essential inventory within three months, starting in October.

“I’ve asked AMC and FORSCOM to spearhead this effort within XVIII (Airborne) Corps,” he said. “The goal is to get leaner, lighter, and less complex to allow those units to focus on their warfighting mission. There is no numeric goal tied to it, but I want unit commanders and NCOs to feed into this process.”



Gen. Andrew Poppas, commanding general, U.S. Army Forces Command, salutes a folded flag presented to him at the Eternal Heroes' Memorial Ceremony June 5, 2023 in Normandy, France. During the ceremony, Poppas presented veterans and veterans' family members with folded flags and coins. (Sgt. Erin Conway)

That effort may provide a template for the rest of the Army’s divisions, but with such a quick turn, there will also be ways to improve. But George doesn’t want to dissect those types of changes from the Pentagon, he wants units to do the work and see what happens.

“Part of that is moving out. We may not be exactly where we want but the point is when you say you’re going to do something, you need to show you’re serious about it,” George said.

The chief sees taking action in those types of scenarios as the best way to show the force he’s serious about change and prioritizing warfighting.

Beyond equipment, the acting chief wants to trim or eliminate much of the administrative strain of entering data or jumping through hoops with unnecessary online training.

In a recent presentation at Fort Moore, Georgia, the chief was explicit with the maneuver force audience.

“If there are things on your training schedule that are not making you more lethal or more cohesive where you’re taking care of your teammates, then you need to have a discussion about taking that off the schedule and not doing it,” George said.

He backed that up, telling commanders at Fort Moore to remove online pre-course requirements for one of their command courses.

Having led at nearly every operational level, George has watched the number of pieces of equipment in command centers on the battlefield grow exponentially, making the operational centers cumbersome and clunky.



Gen. Charles Hamilton, commander of Army Materiel Command, shakes hands Monday with retired Capt. Mike Rose, a Medal of Honor recipient, during Huntsville's Memorial Day Ceremony and Laying of Wreaths at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial. (Jonathan Stinson/Army)

Gen. James Rainey, Commanding General, Army Futures Command, serves as the keynote speaker Mar. 29, 2023 at the AUSA Global Force Symposium, speaking on transforming the Army for war-winning future readiness. (Joseph Kumzak/Army)

It's a problem the Army's been seeking to change for at least the past decade. But the chief has an even more ambitious aim than simply cutting out a few pieces of equipment or having a nice folding tent on the back of a vehicle that makes a mobile operations center.

George envisions a commander needing no more than a tablet to share an operating picture of his or her forces with their staff, sitting in the back of a Stryker or other such vehicle.

Transformation

Gen. James Rainey, over Army Futures Command, will lead the continuous transformation effort, evolving the Army to be ready for current and future threats.

Rainey spoke in September at the Maneuver Warfighter Conference at Fort Moore, Georgia and laid out a stark assessment of what warfighting will demand of soldiers in an era that threatens peer-level, large-scale combat.

"I think we got to be a little more clear about the horror and difficulty of the fighting that we're going to have to do," Rainey said.



And while technology is enabling some futuristic capabilities in cyber, data and electronic warfare that might have seemed impossible a few years ago, war is still war.

"Technology increases the punishment of unskilled commanders in untrained units," Rainey said. "If you're not good, if you're not prepared, you're going to pay for it at an unprecedented level."

Long-range fires, cyber-infrastructure attacks, and psychological operations may keep the threat at bay initially, but regardless of the technological advancements, close combat — and the hellish hardship that comes with it — will still be what decides a war's outcome.

"Somebody's going to close that last 500m in the dark, smoked, the old-fashioned way," Rainey said. "We better have rifle squads who can stab people on the objective, and we better have armor units that can set things on fire."

At futures command, Rainey and his team are marrying the new tech with dirty old close combat in novel ways through the Army's use of cross-functional teams that focus on areas such as the next generation combat vehicle, long range precision fires and soldier lethality.

"What I like about the [Cross Functional Teams] is that when there's a problem, we pull the right experts together and they tackle the problem," he said. "We just have to be adaptive and look at ways to transform to the changing character of war."

Transformation doesn't mean only new rifles and high-tech simulations for battlefield training. It also means easing the lives of

soldiers and their families, helping them get the resources they need when they need them.

To that end, George has given guidance to the Installation Management Command to improve a smartphone application for garrisons across the service.

The apps would be tailored to the specific installation and would provide basic information such as commissary and gym hours, alerts for gate closures or emergencies and a way for installation commanders to communicate quickly and directly with post personnel and their families.

“I’ve provided guidance to improve what they’ve already put in place,” he said. “The bottom line is, we must provide soldiers and families with timely, reliable information, and we have the technology to do that.”

Making life outside of combat training easier, in George’s thinking, will allow soldiers to focus on those combat tasks, which is how the Army will win wars.

Or, as his top enlisted soldier, Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Weimer, put it in remarks at Fort Moore.

“Warfighting is the reason we exist,” Weimer said. “But you can’t be a good warfighter if you don’t take care of your family, if you don’t take care of your teammates. You can’t be a good warfighter if you can’t manage your time. The list goes on and on and on. So, they’re not inseparable.”

Standards

Gen. Gary Brito, over Training and Doctrine Command, will guide the effort to strengthen the profession.

Brito recently told Army Times a key example of that starts with the first days of basic training, where drill sergeants now put recruits in leadership roles.

The old-school form of discipline meant drill sergeants shouting in recruits faces, demeaning them into submission. A new approach is to hold those recruits to stringent standards in their small teams, making them accountable and showing them why discipline matters in personal, tangible ways.

What’s left to be seen is how NCOs across the force will translate the Chief’s message. Soldiers have valid concerns, and likely personal experiences of overbearing leaders who dished out discipline for discipline’s sake, adding further demands to the already demanding lives of rank-and-file soldiers.

In recent presentations, high-ranking officers have told forces that they expect junior NCOs and officers to enforce Army standards. George admitted that the environment has changed since he was a young officer with the addition of social media.

But discipline is key and it’s a major focus for how George sees units and individual soldiers being successful.



Gen. Gary Brito, commander of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, discusses the AH-64 Apache Longbow Crew Trainer with Maj. Gen. Michael McCurry, U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence and Fort Rucker

commander, at Fort Rucker, Alabama, November 16, 2022. (Lt. Col. Andy Thaggard/Army)

“I still know that discipline is required for a unit to be successful in combat,” George said. “We have to make sure we’re instilling that discipline every day.”

Crucial to having leaders and subordinates on the same level is to emphasize that discipline is every soldier’s responsibility, from private to general. But inside of that, commanders must clearly communicate the expectations.

As a Corps commander, George held Facebook Live town halls as well as post-physical training session meetings with staff and other senior leaders. Sometimes simply to ensure that everyone clearly understood his guidance.

“I expect everyone to do this and this is the standard and I expect you to enforce it,” he said.

If everyone is on the same page, George, Brito and others have said in recent months, then soldiers are more likely to understand the role of their battle buddy, their NCOs and officers, thus creating a more cohesive team that can be hardened through training and other aspects of Army life.

Combat Ready

Hamilton, over Army Materiel Command, will lead the effort of delivering combat ready formations.

Once he took over AMC earlier this year, Hamilton didn’t mince words about his command’s purpose — precise and predictive sustainment. That means a slimmer and more nimble approach to getting the right gear to those who need it.

Large logistical convoys heading to Forward Operating Bases are nothing but targets now.

And potential cyber attacks on U.S. infrastructure, including homeland military bases, could cut the steady flow of supplies. All that means that commanders at every level will need to know what they have, what they truly need and what they can do without in combat.

Some of those obstacles will be met by technology.

Hamilton told Army Times’ sister publication Defense News earlier this year that one example could be fewer and quieter generators. Battery-run generators provide a near-silent operation, helping mask a force’s signature. Finding better power management to reduce the need for 30 to 40 generators will free up space for ammunition, food and water on shipments to the force.

Readying the force goes beyond equipment, knowing what’s happening on the modern battlefield and funneling that into relevant training is key.

George expects current battlefield lessons, such as those in Ukraine, to be captured, analyzed and then, if validated, fed into training cycles from home station to the schoolhouses to the combat training centers.

One such example is a top-to-bottom look at putting unmanned aerial and ground systems at nearly every echelon and troubleshooting how they’re deployed in a variety of formations.

Those rapidly evolving systems are getting cheaper to produce and easier to use. He wants each formation thinking about how to use that technology at their level, and how to protect themselves from it.

The Fires Center of Excellence in Fort Sill, Oklahoma established a Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems University this past year that seeks to train commanders on best practices for the threat.

Such efforts also feed another focus: Fighting at echelon. In layman’s terms, this means that at the squad level, soldiers better know their roles and master their tasks, and that flows up the chain for platoons, companies, battalions and beyond. If half the squads in a platoon can’t perform, the platoon is ineffective, which has a ripple effect on what company, battalion and brigade commanders can expect from their formations.

In recent years there’s been an ongoing push to shift the Army’s unit of action from the brigade to the division, part of the Great Power Competition shift to readying the force for the possibility of large-scale combat operations. George doesn’t see the future fight as binary — brigade versus division.

“We need to be good at fighting at echelon,” George said. And that means all echelons from squad to corps.

While adding new tech, equipment and even headquarters to coordinate it all has remained a steady effort, those larger formations don’t fight well if the subordinate units don’t perform.

George made a point to say there are situations in the Indo-Pacific theater where an Army battalion or even company may serve as the focus of an effort or a joint force enabler. If soldiers can’t manage the company-level tasks, then that unit is ineffective.

Having led at every level, George has seen the massing of equipment in command centers on the battlefield. It’s a problem the Army’s been seeking to change for at least the past decade.

The Why

George had a long career before sitting as acting chief. He started out enlisted before becoming an officer. He served multiple combat tours, ran

units at various levels and did his time in the Pentagon.

He’s seen a lot. And while there are always new things in the sight picture, many have a familiar feel.

The four-star said he hears a lot of talk about generational differences with new soldiers, how Generation Z youth expect leaders to explain their reasoning, not something past generations of soldiers may have even been allowed to ask.



Former U.S. Army Capt. Larry L. Taylor speaks with then-Vice Chief of Staff of the Randy A. George after receiving the Medal of Honor at the White House in Washington, D.C., Sept. 5, 2023. Taylor was awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving in the Vietnam War. (Henry Villarama/Army)

As a brand new private, George remembers his platoon sergeant being the kind of soldier who would explain to troops what was going on, why it was important and what they had to do, even if it didn’t always make sense at their level.

“And sometimes doing something that wasn’t important, but we had to do it anyway,” he said. “I appreciated that he was truthful with everyone.”

Even Pvt. George had questions.

“I think I always wanted to know, it’s important to explain why,” he said.

About Todd South

Todd South has written about crime, courts, government and the military for multiple publications since 2004 and was named a 2014 Pulitzer finalist for a co-written project on witness intimidation. Todd is a Marine veteran of the Iraq War.

Nearly 70% of active service members are overweight, report finds

By Meghann Myers. Army Times . October 13, 2023



A new report sounds an alarm about keeping track of troops' body composition. (Terrance Bell/Army)

More than two-thirds of active duty service members are within the overweight or obese ranges of the body mass index, according to a report by the American Security Project released Thursday.

Defense Department data shows that the obesity rate, calculated using a person’s age, height and weight, has more than doubled over the past decade, from 10% to roughly 21%. At the same time, more than half of young Americans now qualify as obese, and it’s the no. 1 disqualifier for recruiting prospects.

“At a time when we are struggling to recruit an adequate labor force for the military, the

growing rates of obesity are especially alarming,” said Matthew Wallin, chief operating officer of the American Security Project. “No person defending our country should find themselves unsupported and unequipped to fight a personal battle against obesity.”

The report’s major recommendations include reviewing body composition standards, as BMI tends to underestimate obesity when compared to more high-tech body fat measurement devices; troops with high BMI should be referred to credentialed doctors with an expertise in treating obesity; and DoD should include BMI data on reports it provides to Congress on recruiting and retention.

“The growing prevalence of obesity in service members reduces the readiness of the all-volunteer military, but it isn’t a moral failing; it’s a health crisis,” the report reads. “Framing obesity as an issue of insufficient willpower or discipline prevents soldiers from seeking and receiving treatment, makes commanders and healthcare workers less inclined to intervene, and worsens health outcomes across the services.”

The BMI, which is based on a 200-year-old calculation that sought to define the body composition of the “normal man,” has faced controversy in recent years.

The American Medical Association in June updated its policy on BMI, acknowledging “historical harm” and “racist exclusion” associated with the index, “because BMI is based primarily on data collected from previous generations of non-Hispanic white populations.”

The new policy urges doctors to use BMI as one measure of body composition, complemented by measurements of visceral fat, body adiposity index, body composition, relative fat mass, waist circumference and genetic/metabolic factors.”

Still, the report's author told Military Times on Thursday that the BMI is still medicine's best indicator that someone should be screened for chronic conditions associated with high body fat percentage.

"It's important to note that the AMA hasn't called for doctors to step back from BMI," said Courtney Manning. "The report that led to their most recent recommendation actually found the opposite, that BMI is more accurate than other commonly used measurements," but that it shouldn't be used alone to diagnose obesity.

"They also reiterated that a BMI above 30 remains a key indicator that someone should be immediately checked out for conditions highly correlated with obesity, such as insulin resistance, high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, and vascular dysfunction," she added.

The report's main message, though, is to push DoD to put more effort into helping those struggling with their weight, whether it's high numbers on the scale or disordered eating in general.

"The growing prevalence of obesity in service members reduces the readiness of the all-volunteer military, but it isn't a moral failing; it's a health crisis," the report reads. "Framing obesity as an issue of insufficient willpower or discipline prevents soldiers from seeking and receiving treatment, makes commanders and healthcare workers less inclined to intervene, and worsens health outcomes across the services."

Treating a failed height-weight test as an administrative issue, Manning said, rather than a health issue, is not doing troops any favors.

If a service member fails their tape test, it goes in their personnel record and they may be ordered into a remedial program to increase their exercise and adjust their diet, with the

consequence that they can be involuntarily separated if they don't lose weight.

But they should be sent to a doctor, Manning said, to examine what factors might be contributing to their weight and whether any other health issues are developing as a result.

Meghann Myers is the Pentagon bureau chief at Military Times. She covers operations, policy, personnel, leadership and other issues affecting service members.

Republicans and Dems agree Afghanistan war wasn't worth it, poll shows

By Linley Sanders and Rebecca Santana,
The Associated Press. Oct 18, 2023



A Marine assigned to the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response-Central Command escorts a child during an evacuation at Hamid Karzai International Airport, Kabul, Afghanistan, August 2001. (Sgt. Isaiah Campbell/Marine Corps)

At a time when Americans are deeply divided along party lines, a new poll shows considerable agreement on at least one issue: The United States' two-decade-long war in Afghanistan was not worth fighting.

The poll from the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts and [The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research](#) comes [two years after the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan in August 2021 and the Taliban returned to power.](#) The war was

started to go after the masterminds of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the Taliban who allowed them to use Afghan territory. It ended in frantic scenes of Afghans and Americans desperately trying to get on one of the last flights out of Kabul.

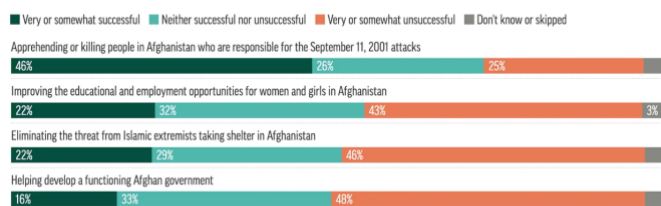
Polls suggest the withdrawal, seen by many as chaotic and ill-planned, may have been a turning point for President Joe Biden’s approval ratings, which started a downward slide around that time and have not recovered since.

Two-thirds of Americans say the war in Afghanistan was not worth fighting; 65% of Democrats and 63% of Republicans agree on that evaluation. Many have doubts about how successful the U.S. was at accomplishing more specific goals such as eliminating the threat from extremists or improving opportunities for women.

Many Americans say US did not meet key goals in Afghanistan

An AP-NORC poll finds just 16% of Americans believe the U.S. helped develop a functioning Afghan government.

Percent of U.S. adults who say the policy goal during the war in Afghanistan was:



Results based on interviews with 1,191 U.S. adults conducted Sept. 21-25, 2023. The margin of error is ±3.8 percentage points for the full sample. Source: AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Poll results based on interviews with 1,191 U.S. adults conducted Sept. 21-25, 2023. The margin of error is ±3.8 percentage points for the full sample. (AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research via AP)

“It was unwinnable from the beginning,” said Martin Stefen, a 78-year-old Republican who lives in Carson City, Nevada. He said the U.S. should have paid closer attention to what happened to the Soviet Union, which waged a decade-long war in Afghanistan during the 1980s only to pull out in defeat in 1989. And, he said, the U.S. should have had a more specific end goal for how it wanted the war in Afghanistan to go and a better understanding of the country’s tribal politics.

That thought was echoed by Justin Campbell, a 28-year-old Democrat from Brookhaven, Mississippi. He said it was clear after the U.S. was entrenched in Afghanistan that it didn’t have very deep support. Campbell said he’s not pleased that the Taliban is back in control.

“But I don’t think it was worth us staying over there,” he said.



Soldiers walk as a NATO helicopter flies overhead at coalition force Forward Operating Base Connelly in Nangarhar. (Wakil Kohsar/AFP/Getty)

Maliha Chishti, a lecturer and research associate at the Pearson Institute, said she was struck by the fact that after 20 years of war, so many American and Afghan lives lost and billions spent, the vast majority said they felt Afghanistan was not friendly to the U.S. or was an outright enemy. She said the responses demonstrate a frustration on the part of Americans and the need to ask questions about what went wrong with America’s attempts to intervene in Afghanistan.

“We invested all of this money to really build a state from scratch and when we left, that state completely collapsed,” she said.

Many Americans also say the United States was not successful with many of its key objectives in Afghanistan.

Eliminating the threat from Islamic extremists in Afghanistan during the war is still seen as an

important goal by many across party lines: 46% of Democrats and 44% of Republicans called that highly important. But only about one-quarter in each group said this successfully happened during the war.

Slightly fewer than half — 46% — say the U.S. and its allies were successful at the goal of apprehending or killing the individuals in Afghanistan who were responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks, compared with 25% who think the U.S. was unsuccessful in achieving that goal.

Only about one in five Americans say the U.S. successfully improved opportunities for women and girls in Afghanistan, with 43% saying such efforts were unsuccessful. But many said advancing the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan was important to them. About three quarters said that goal was extremely, very or somewhat important to them. Those figures are similar to the level of support for the goal of eliminating the threat of Islamic extremists sheltering in Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban's return to power, they have restricted women's rights to education and work and even barred them from public parks.



Taliban fighters display on patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan.
(Rahmat Gul/AP)

Women were more likely than men across party lines to call advancing the rights of women in Afghanistan an important goal. Toni Dewey, a 75-year-old Democrat from Wilmington, North Carolina, said she wasn't sure how much the U.S. could do at this point to improve the rights of women in Afghanistan but she did feel their educational opportunities were greater while America was there.

"I think any population that doesn't respect their population, they're missing out because women do contribute to the benefit of everyone," she said.

Even as Democrats and Republicans have similar views on policy goals for Afghanistan, they differ on whether the U.S. should take a more active role in solving the world's problems: 55% of Republicans say the U.S. should take a less active role, compared with 15% of Democrats. The responses also demonstrate the ongoing shift in the Republican Party, which has traditionally been more hawkish and interventionist.

Nola Sayne, a 59-year-old Republican from Loganville, Georgia, said she is "wary of the United States being the world's police." Up until quite recently she had been supportive of policies limiting American involvement abroad — like the war in Ukraine — to instead focus American attention and funding at home. But the Hamas attack on Israel, which took place after the poll was conducted, is making her rethink that position.

"They are our friends, our allies. We can't let this heinous act go unanswered," she said.

When it came to general awareness about issues related to the war in Afghanistan, the poll shows 68% of U.S. adults had heard at least some about the U.S. withdrawal; 59% said the same about the Taliban taking control in 2021; and 64% about the Taliban's restrictions on women.

But fewer had heard about the treatment by the Taliban of Afghan citizens who worked with the United States during the war; 52% had heard a lot or some information while 47% said they had heard little or not a thing.

The U.S. evacuated tens of thousands of Afghans in an August 2021 airlift from Kabul airport. But hundreds of thousands of Afghans — many who worked closely with the U.S. government — are still trying to flee Afghanistan. Groups helping them have warned that Afghans who worked closely with the U.S. military have faced retribution from the Taliban and say the U.S. has a moral responsibility and national security interest in helping them.

Mike Mitchell is executive director of No One Left Behind, which helps Afghans who worked with the U.S. relocate. He said the poll results echo what his organization has noted anecdotally: Many Americans are surprised to learn that so many Afghans who worked with U.S. troops were left behind. He said Americans are inundated with information from crisis after crisis around the world. And he said when people learn about the problems Afghan allies are having, they want to help.

He recently spoke at an event connected to the two-year anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal.

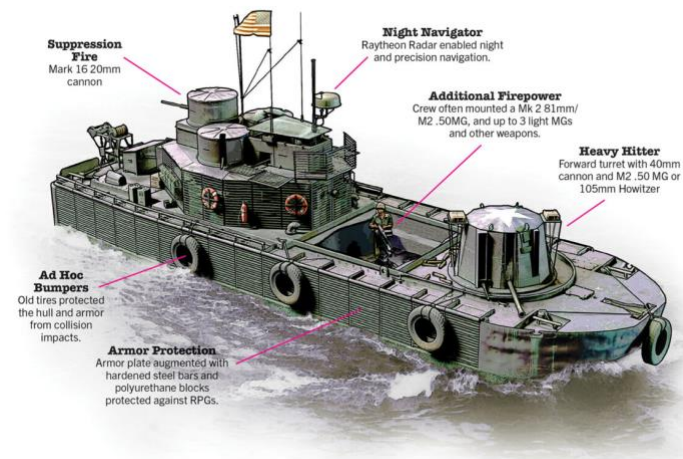
“At the end of the talk, so many people came up and said: ‘I had no idea. ... What can we do about it?’” Mitchell said.

The poll of 1,191 adults was conducted Sept. 21-25, 2023, using a sample drawn from NORC’s probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, designed to represent the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.8 percentage points.

THE TECHNOLOGY BEHIND THE NAVY’S RIVER MONITORS IN VIETNAM

Similar to landing craft from WWII, these souped up rivercraft essentially became floating river fortresses.

By CARL O. SCHUSTER. VIETNAM MAGAZINE 8/14/2023



Monitor M-92-1. (Illustration by Greg Proch)

On May 24, 1969, a B-40 rocket hit Monitor M-92-1 of River Squadron (RIVRON 9) as it was supporting a reconnaissance mission on the My Tho River, wounding three crewmen with fragments. The monitor turned and returned fire with its 40mm and 20mm cannon while the embarked Army liaison directed artillery fire and a helicopter strike on the enemy position. Nine Viet Cong reportedly were killed during the 30-minute engagement. The monitor itself suffered no significant damage.

Introduced into service in September 1967, the monitors constituted the battleships of the Mobile Riverine Force. Heavily armed and armored, they suppressed enemy fire during ambushes and river assaults. Like the force’s armored transport carriers (ATCs), they were modified Landing Craft Mechanized 6 (LCM-6) boats from World War II. They differed from the ATCs in having the landing ramps removed and their bows rounded off to reduce water resistance.

Monitor gun turrets were armored against shrapnel and small arms fire. The hull and superstructure were better protected with an armor plate covered by 18 to 24 inches of polyurethane and welded hardened steel bars that either detonated or “shorted-out” enemy shaped charge rounds. The polyurethane absorbed the warhead’s blast stream. Below, water blisters protected against underwater damage and added buoyancy that reduced the boat’s draft.

Two sets of river monitors were built during the Vietnam War. Eight were converted into flamethrower variants called Zippos. The last 10 of the 24 built replaced their 40mm cannon with a Mk 49 105mm howitzer turret with a ring of bar armor and better superstructure protection.

The monitors were turned over to the South Vietnamese Navy on June 30, 1969. They had played a key role for two years, delivering firepower to support the troops operating along the riverbanks, but had no role in the U.S. Navy’s post-Vietnam “blue water” operations.

MONITOR

Crew: 11-13

Length: 18.5m/61ft

Beam: 5.3m/17ft 6 inches

Draft: 1m/42 inches/3ft 6 inches (full load)

Displacement: 76 tons (full load)

Propulsion: 2 x 220shp GM/Detroit Diesels – 2 propellers

Top Speed: 8.5kts

Fuel: 450 gallons diesel in two tanks

Max Range: 200km/110nm@6kts

Electronics: 1 x Raytheon 1900 Nav Radar, 2 x AN/ARC-46 & 1 x AN/PRC-25 radios

Armor: Hull/Superstructure: 20mm steel splash plate covered by urethane blocks & spaced XAR-30 22mm hardened steel bars;

Turrets: 22mm hardened steel armor plate

Armament: FWD Turret: 1 x 40mm Mk 3 & M2

.50 MGs; Aft Turrets: 3 x 20mm Mk 16 cannon; Well Deck: 1 x Mk 2 Mod 1 Combined 81mm mortar/ .50 M2 MG Mount, 4 x .30 M1917 initially/later M60 7.62mm MGs, 2 x Mk 18 40mm MGs (hand cranked), crew small arms (M16s, M79s)

This story appeared in the 2023 Autumn issue of Vietnam magazine.

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.

VVA 535 Member Biographies

Do you know _____

Now, our readership and Brotherhood knows _____ better than we might ever have known this man, this leader.

Who will be next to share?

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

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 NCCVC VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	6	7
8	9 Columbus Day (Observed)	10	11	12	13 Navy Birthday Nevada County Stand Down	14 Nevada County Stand Down
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 CSC Visalia	28 CSC Visalia
29 CSC Visalia	30	31 Halloween				

November

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	3	4
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting & holiday potluck. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Hanukkah Begins	8	9
10	11	12	13 National Guard Birthday	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22	23
24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve						

JANUARY

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 NCCVC VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			