

OFFICER REVIEW

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Effective Communication—The Key Pillar for Success

In order to achieve strategic goals and objectives, it is imperative for organizations and their leaders to bolster their communication channels both internally and externally. As such, leaders must invest in strengthening communication to ensure their organization is well-positioned for growth and achievement. We all have to agree that it has been a challenge in the past, and it continues to be a subject that requires our close attention and smart use of resources.

Recognizing the importance of communication, we accept redundancy, ensuring it extends the full spectrum of our Order and abroad, up, down, and across all levels of our organization and targeted audience. In a united effort, every Companion and leader must effectively communicate our message of “Serving Others” and our mission of empowering youth, communities, and the nation.

At our 2023 National Convention, we ratified Strategic Plan 2023-2028, focused primarily on outreach programs. Our objective is to enhance communication, ensuring that all veterans are aware of our organization and become a part of our community (SG #3). It is essential to encourage innovative and creative thinking, which includes effective communication. The plan acknowledges that in today’s world, social media plays a crucial role in ensuring that our message reaches our intended audience, especially the younger generation of veterans and new partners who can support our outreach programs and purpose.

Effective communication requires us to know where we stand, how we are doing, what to change, and where we are heading to achieve success. There are many resources and forums available to all Companions that need to be accessed, read, utilized, and shared (not all-inclusive):

- MOWW National website: www.moww.org.
- This *Officer Review* magazine is sent to every Companion, State and Federal Agencies, partners, and many others.
- National Convention and Region Conferences (we all must participate and attend).
- MOWW National, Region, and Chapter Facebook pages (we all need to browse and share).
- MOWW HQ’s National Newsletter (quarterly distribution).
- Region and Chapter Newsletters (include distribution to other partner organizations).
- Our frequent involvement in our outreach programs (meeting and communicating with new interested parties).

These listed resources and others are imperative to educate our stakeholders, partners, and associates, increasing their knowledge about our Order and enabling all of us to promote the MOWW’s “It is Nobler to Serve, than to be Served.”

Constructive communication requires all of us to be strong listeners. We need to keep open channels of communication to share our concerns, ideas, and proposals and then consider all possible options in consensus to improve and meet our expected end state.

Effective communication enables collaborative voluntarism, participation, partnership, trust, respect, and the ability to grow as we progress as the Veterans Service Organization (VSO) every veteran will join in the service of “A Stronger America.”

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Commander in Chief, MOWW & CEO, MOWW, Inc.

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SEAL team member moves through deep mud as he makes his way ashore from a boat, during a combat operation in South Vietnam, May 1970. Source: United States Navy ID K-84315



Priority Support to Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) in Vietnam

LTC WILLIAM F. PENNOCK, USA (RET)
PUERTO RICO CHAPTER, PR

In February 1969, when CPT Fletcher was ordered to relocate the Company to LZ Bayonet, I witnessed a life-and-death battle on Hill 707. This mountain range was located four clicks (each click equals 1000 meters) to our west and eight clicks from Chu Lai, South Vietnam. I was talking with the Fire Direction Center (FDC) of B Battery of the 1/14 Artillery on my radio when a priority mission came up on the net from Division Artillery. I was placed on hold but kept monitoring the net to hear the Forward Observer (FO) talking with the FDC.

The urgent Contact Fire Mission, a top priority fire mission from a unit in a firefight with the enemy, came from an Australian long-range reconnaissance patrol on top of Hill 707. A

long-range reconnaissance patrol, or LRRP, is a small, well-armed reconnaissance team that patrols deep in enemy-held territory. The North Vietnamese Army (NVA) had the patrol trapped on the top of some old bunkers left from the Tet Offensive. The Australian LRRPs were part of two eight-man teams in a search and destroy mission to locate the NVA rockets attacking Chu Lai. The first team served as a communication relay while the second team searched for the enemy. The second team found a regimental-sized NVA force stronghold in the mountains and needed to be urgently extracted, while the first team continued to relay and coordinate their extraction. That gave the NVA the opportunity to triangulate their communication to determine their location.



MAG-36 helicopter landing pads at Chu Lai, September 1965." From the Frank Harris Collection (COLL/3731) at the Marine Corps History Division. Official USMC Photograph.



The Australians had to radio in their position, which I could monitor, decode and plot on my map. Hill 707 was on the highest peak of the ridge that ran north to south on our western side. Once I plotted the Aussie's position, I studied the land's topography around Hill 707. I then realized that the only option for the NVA to attack the 8-man crew was from the north and south since the terrain drop from their position was extremely sharp to the east and west. I trained my powerful telescope on Hill 707, which permitted me to not only see the bunkers but also observe some of the Australians moving from one side to the other as they defended their position from the advancing NVA.

B Battery quickly coordinated with the Australian FO to fire artillery on both sides from their observation point (OP) by splitting the Battery into two, 3-gun platoons controlled by their FDC. It's what's called, at Fort Sill, a two-target simultaneous mission. I knew I was in for a real treat because you don't get that type of mission very often, and I had a front-line view and audio of the whole thing. In that terrain, with the enemy inching closer each time, the only thing keeping that Australian team from being overrun and killed was B Battery's accurate fire.

The Australian LRRPs had to wait for Division HQ to coordinate an extraction with Cobra gunships and Huey helicopters from a hot location, which was communicated to the FO. The only comment from the FO was, "That's OK mate, just drop me more ammo so we can keep the bloody gooks off the place." Soon, the artillery fire became danger close to the Australians, and the FO was worried about the risk of getting a round hung up on trees close to the gun-target-line (GTL). The Fire Direction Officer called back and told him they could continue the mission as planned without any problems.

Australian LRRP in Vietnam during a three-day search and clear mission, seeking out a Viet Cong base camp. (AP Photo/Henri Huet)



America Division HQ devised an extraction plan just before dawn started to settle in. The mission would involve the deployment of two Cobra gunships and two Hueys. The FO was to coordinate the effort so the artillery fire would not interfere with the flight plan of the helicopters as the extraction force got close to Hill 707.

At that time, the Forward Observer radioed that he believed a large group of North Vietnamese Army soldiers, about the size of a battalion, were approaching the hill from both sides. He expressed frustration, saying, "The NVA soldiers seem determined to capture this place, Mate, and I'm almost willing to let them have it." However, he quickly added, "Let's get the show going." The accurate and lethal artillery, skillfully guided by the Forward Observer, held the NVA at bay. However, it had to stop so that Cobra gunships could be called in, with one assigned to each side.

It was fascinating to see the raging battle from my Base Camp at Hill 270, where I was safe. It was dark enough to see the red tracer rounds fired by the Australian LRRP's MGs down on the NVA as some green tracer rounds were fired back up at the bunkers. The tracer rounds help the gunner see where his bullets are hitting, but those at the receiving end can also see where the fire is coming from. Everyone already knew where the Australians were, so they could freely use that type of ammo, but the enemy on that exposed ridge could not use it so freely.





As the Australian FO coordinated the approach pass of the Huey for their pickup, the Cobras continued to attack the NVA forces to the north and south. As the first Huey was almost on the bunker, at the last minute, I heard the FO say, "Go up, go up. A bunker pole is in the way."

In battle, the flow of action constantly changes, and the tactical situation can quickly change. Before the arrival of the Cobra gunships into the struggle, the LRRPs were trapped on Hill 707 by a battalion-sized NVA force. The LRRPs had not been overrun because the use of artillery fire had created a steel wall between them, yet they were still trapped. The tide of war seemed to favor the NVA as the sun went down. When the two Cobra gunships, with night vision capabilities and their super fast Gatling guns, entered the battle, the NVA forces were trapped and exposed on the ridgeline since most of the trees had been blown away by the artillery fire.

Our forces had the upper hand for the moment as the Cobras gunships, flying like giant dragonflies, came in and out of the battle as they sprayed deadly streams of red tracer rounds on the exposed enemy caught in the open. When an occasional burst of green tracer rounds fired at the Cobras, the quick and accurate response of the angry red tracers convinced the enemy that firing a green tracer round was a death wish.

"Go around as I fix it. Do you Roger?" Chopper answered, "We Roger that, let us know when to come back." "Roger." replied the FO. The Cobras and Hueys continuously fired tracer rounds at the enemy. As the Huey made its turnaround, something exploded on the bunker, and the FO called, "Sorry Mate, had to blow away some of the bunker's top to clear a path." "You can come in now." The second extraction pass was a total success. All eight LRRPs and their equipment left the bunkers on Hill 707 while the Cobras and the Hueys kept their covering fire.

As the extraction team was nearing Chu Lai, I saw a massive fireball explosion that destroyed the bunker on Hill 707. I called and identified myself to B Battery of the 1/14 and told them what I saw. They quickly relayed the information to the Australian FO, who answered, "Don't worry, that was a little surprise I left behind for the bloody NVA, Mate." That was an incredibly intense firefight in which the Australian LRRPs emerged victorious, and the NVA not only came out empty-handed but got hit by, as the Australians would say, "a Bloody Booby Trap." They got a payback for all the booby traps they leave us.



I was impressed by how well our forces worked with our allies in combat, especially when lives were at stake. ★

The Long Cold Night

LTC DON B. MUNSON, USA (RET)
DALLAS CHAPTER, TX

It was December 1967. I was naked when it happened. But then, I'm always naked when I shower.

The clock in the tactical operations center said midnight—my favorite time of day. I had removed my grungy fatigues, slipped on a pair of Ho Chi Minh sandals, grabbed a bar of soap, and arrived at the lone showerhead outside of the sandbag wall that surrounded the Tactical Operations Center of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Cavalry.

I twisted the Australian showerhead a quarter turn to make it drip slowly, to prolong the sweet feel of the day's grime washing away. It was then that I heard the unmistakable sound of mortars—from three clicks away: Thump. Pause. Thump. Long pause. Thump. Three rounds were now “incoming.”

Funny thing about being in combat: you soon recognize the difference between the ones about to rain down on you and those that will land over in some other guy's area. And so they did—three rounds—arriving with the same time interval as the outgoing thumps.

By the time they impacted, the Division siren was already wailing the alarm, and troops were

running to man the sandbag wall. I reluctantly shut off the water, abandoned my soap, and began the long walk back to the protection of the sandbags.

It was a full moon that night. And a full moon, on a clear night, miles from civilization, is like a Halon streetlight on a stateside freeway. Just because I could, I often enjoyed reading the latest *Stars and Stripes* by the light of a full moon while answering nature's late-night call.

Approaching the perimeter, I could see the barrels of a half dozen rifles pointing in my direction. I could only imagine what was going through their minds as they observed a tall, white-skinned, unarmed, butt-naked apparition approaching. Remembering basic training, one of the men actually called out, “Halt! Who goes there?” I was very impressed. It was Challenge and Password time. “It's me, a*****e. Who else do you know that takes a shower every night at midnight?”

The Command Sergeant Major enjoyed the exchange but was concerned that it might get out of hand. So he defused the incident by observing: “You really need to work on your tan, sir.” ★



MACV-SOG: A Task Force of Exceptional Valor

COL LEE VAN ARSDALE, USA (RET)
LTC MIKE BERENDT, USA (RET)
COLORADO SPRINGS CHAPTER, CO



The Military Assistance Command, Vietnam-Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) was established on 24 January 1964 in the Republic of Vietnam as one of the US military's first Joint

Special Operations Task Forces. Commanded by a US Army Special Forces Colonel, the unit was a highly classified, multi-service team that conducted covert, unconventional warfare operations in North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. SOG expanded in size and scope until it was disbanded in 1972 after having participated in most of the significant campaigns of the Vietnam War, primarily conducting clandestine missions. SOG missions included: Strategic reconnaissance; Direct action; Sabotage; Personnel recovery (friendly and enemy); Psychological Operations (PSYOPS); Counter-Intelligence; Bomb damage assessment, and Rescue of downed pilots.



(L-R): COL Lee Van Arsdale and his wife Marilee with former Green Beret Keith McKim at the Colorado Chapter meeting.

Keith McKim is a highly decorated Army Veteran who served as a Green Beret and retired as a Sergeant First Class. He served multiple tours of duty with MACV-SOG, earning numerous awards for his service, including the Silver Star for Valor, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart. In honor of the nine exceptional men in his unit who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, Keith wrote two audio CDs to pay tribute to their bravery. Recently, Keith was invited by his close friend and Army Colonel, Lee Van Arsdale, a Companion of the Colorado Springs Chapter of MOWW, to speak at a Chapter meeting.

COL Van Arsdale is a 1974 Distinguished Graduate of the United States Military Academy and a decorated combat veteran. In the course of his 25-year Army career, he served in leadership positions in three combat zones, primarily in Special Forces, with 11 years spent in the 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Airborne). He was also awarded the Silver Star for his actions during Operation Gothic Serpent, the August-October 1993 Task Force Ranger deployment to Somalia, where he heroically led a relief column to rescue the survivors of downed helicopters in Mogadishu, an operation depicted in the book and movie *Black Hawk Down*.

The following is a summary of Keith McKim's talk about MACV-SOG by COL Van Arsdale.

Keith McKim, a Vietnam veteran who served multiple tours with the Special Operations Group (SOG), recently gave a captivating presentation to the Colorado Springs Chapter of MOWW. The SOG, previously known as the Studies and Observation Group, was responsible for more Medals of Honor and enemy casualties per capita than any other unit in the war. McKim's firsthand account provided insight into this highly secretive and successful unit, which has since been declassified.



Keith mesmerized the audience with his storytelling skills, starting with humor and anecdotes that set a relaxed tone before moving on to the main presentation. This included an overview of SOG and an incredible account of Master Sergeant Roy Benavidez's heroic actions, which resulted in him receiving the Medal of Honor.

As Keith recounted, SOG was a highly classified unit, so by definition everything it did was also classified. It wasn't until a few years ago that the Department of Defense declassified much of what SOG did, including the unit's existence.

Until then, the many people who served with such distinction could not talk about what they did, let alone write about it or give a public presentation.

Keith pointed out one remarkable statistic that struck us all: SOG had over a 100% KIA/WIA rate, made possible by the fact that many of the SOG men were wounded multiple times. Such was the nature of the *esprit* in SOG, that as soon as a wounded member was able, he was back conducting operations with his old mates when many of them could have used their wounds as a ticket home.

Another remarkable statistic is the damage inflicted on the enemy by these small teams. Typically, a small group of Americans lead indigenous troops, such as Montagnards and Hmong. This damage resulted from both direct action and the highly lethal use of various aerial munitions called in from the SOG men on the ground. A number of SOG men were so effective that they had bounties placed on them by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong.

MOH Recipient MSG Roy Benavidez

As impressive as the SOG overview was, Keith's recounting of MSG Roy Benavidez's actions that led to his Medal of Honor was riveting. A quick read of MSG Benavidez's Medal of Honor citation tells us why he richly deserved our nation's highest award for valor. Keith wove an incredible tale of sacrifice, bravery, and character, expanding upon the following citation:

"Master Sergeant (then Staff Sergeant) Roy P. Benavidez, United States Army, distinguished himself

by a series of daring and extremely valorous actions on 2 May 1968 while assigned to Detachment B56, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, Republic of Vietnam. On the morning of 2 May 1968, a 12-man Special Forces Reconnaissance Team was inserted by helicopters in a dense jungle area west of Loc Ninh, Vietnam, to gather intelligence information about confirmed large-scale enemy activity. This area was controlled and routinely patrolled by the North Vietnamese Army. After a short period of time on the ground, the team met heavy enemy resistance and requested emergency extraction. Three helicopters attempted extraction but were unable to land due to intense enemy small arms and anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Benavidez was at the Forward Operating Base in Loc Ninh, monitoring the operation by radio when these helicopters returned to off-load wounded crewmembers and to assess aircraft damage. Sergeant Benavidez voluntarily boarded a returning aircraft to assist in another extraction attempt.

Realizing that all the team members were either dead or wounded and unable to move to the pickup zone,



MSG Roy P. Benavidez (center) is flanked by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger (left) and President Ronald Reagan at his Medal of Honor presentation ceremony in 1981. The Special Forces soldier was cited for heroism in Vietnam in 1968. Source: Ronald Reagan Presidential Museum and Library. Photo by Ron Hall, USAF

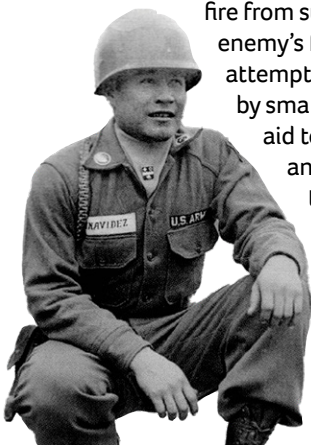


he directed the aircraft to a nearby clearing where he jumped from the hovering helicopter and ran approximately 75 meters under withering small arms fire to the crippled team. Prior to reaching the team's position, he was wounded in his right leg, face, and head.

Despite these painful injuries, he took charge, repositioning the team members and directing their fire to facilitate the landing of an extraction aircraft and the loading of wounded and dead team members. He then threw smoke canisters to direct the aircraft to the team's position.

Despite his severe wounds and under intense enemy fire, he carried and dragged half of the wounded team members to the awaiting aircraft. He then provided protective fire by running alongside the aircraft as it moved to pick up the remaining team members. As the enemy's fire intensified, he hurried to recover the body and classified documents on the dead team leader. When he reached the leader's body, Sergeant Benavidez was severely wounded by small arms fire in the abdomen and grenade fragments in his back. At nearly the same moment, the aircraft pilot was mortally wounded, and his helicopter crashed. Although in extremely critical condition due to his multiple wounds, Sergeant Benavidez secured the classified documents and made his way back to the wreckage, where he aided the wounded out of the overturned aircraft, and gathered the stunned survivors into a defensive perimeter.

Under increasing enemy automatic weapons and grenade fire, he moved around the perimeter, distributing water and ammunition to his weary men, re-instilling in them a will to live and fight. Facing a buildup of enemy opposition with a beleaguered team, Sergeant Benavidez mustered his strength, began calling in tactical air strikes and directed the fire from supporting gunships to suppress the enemy's fire and so permit another extraction attempt. He was wounded again in his thigh by small arms fire while administering first aid to a wounded team member just before another extraction helicopter was able to land. His indomitable spirit kept him going as he began to ferry his comrades to the craft. On his second trip with the wounded, he was clubbed with additional wounds to his head and arms before killing his adversary. He then continued under devastating fire to carry the wounded



to the helicopter. Upon reaching the aircraft, he spotted and killed two enemy soldiers who were rushing the craft from an angle that prevented the aircraft door gunner from firing upon them. With little strength remaining, he made one last trip to the perimeter to ensure that all classified material had been collected or destroyed and to bring in the remaining wounded. Only then, in extremely serious condition from numerous wounds and loss of blood, did he allow himself to be pulled into the extraction aircraft. Sergeant Benavidez' gallant choice to join voluntarily his comrades who were in critical straits, to expose himself constantly to withering enemy fire, and his refusal to be stopped despite numerous severe wounds, saved the lives of at least eight men. His fearless personal leadership, tenacious devotion to duty, and extremely valorous actions in the face of overwhelming odds were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflect the utmost credit on him and the United States Army."

All told, 13 warfighters of the MACV-SOG were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, and 22 received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's two highest awards for valor. Due to the classified nature of the organization, their citations never acknowledged their service with the MACV-SOG Task Force, only the Military Service unit to which they were assigned. One USAF helicopter pilot, two Navy SEALs, one Army medic, and nine Army Green Berets were awarded the Medal of Honor—three of them posthumously.

The Colorado Springs Chapter is proud to salute Keith McKim for an exceptional presentation, especially his service to our nation. ★



(L-R): Keith McKim received a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation from Chapter Commander COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret).



MOWW MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL INCREASE ON 01 JAN 2024

The General Staff at the 2023 MOWW National Convention in Annapolis, MD, voted to increase the dues on 1 January 2024.

Please see the below dues increase amounts:

Perpetual Member:
\$350 increases to \$500

Installment Plan:
\$87.50 (x 4) increases to \$125 (x 4)

Regular Member:
\$40 increases to \$60

Memorial:
\$250 (increased from \$200 and currently in effect).

Note 1:
First Year of Commission (Veteran):
\$200 (will not change)

18-20 year-olds (Hereditary):
\$200 (will not change)

Note 2:
All Installment plans started before 31 December 2023 will be allowed to finish at their currently scheduled amount without penalty of increase.

Sincerely,

Col Michael Farrell, USMC (Ret)
Chief of Staff and Chief Operating Officer

COMPANIONS: YOUR RESPONSE IS CRUCIAL

The Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) is conducting a comprehensive review of whether to
1.) Change the Order's name; and
2.) Change eligibility criteria for membership.

To facilitate this review, MOWW has established two *ad hoc* committees tasked with examining these issues in detail.

The first committee is focused on exploring potential changes to the organization's name, while the second committee is studying the eligibility criteria for membership. As part of this process, MOWW requests that Companions participate in a combined "Ad Hoc Naming and Membership Committee Companion Survey." The survey will gather direct feedback from all Companions on these important issues, and the results will inform the committee's deliberations and recommendations.

The survey can be accessed using the QR Code (below). Companions will receive an e-mail directly from the Survey Monkey application. The survey only takes about 10-15 minutes to complete. Please encourage and motivate all the Companions in your chapter to complete this survey.

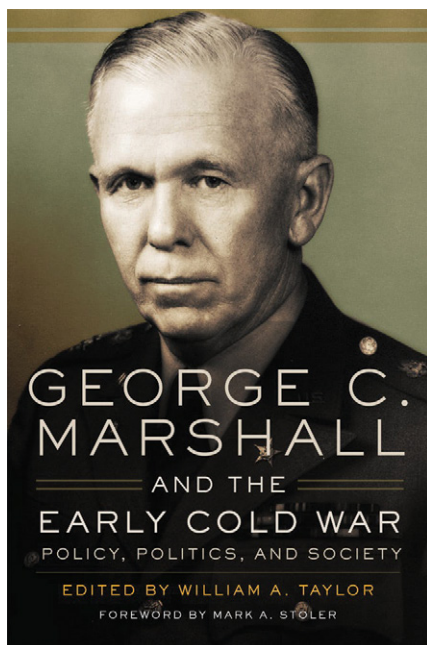
The survey will be open from November 10-24.

TO ACCESS THE SURVEY FROM THIS PAGE, SIMPLY OPEN YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA, FOCUS ON THE QR CODE AND THE LINK FOR SURVEYMONKEY WILL APPEAR.



‘George C. Marshall and the Early Cold War: Policy, Politics, and Society’ by William A. Taylor, Ed.

LT COL SHELDON A. GOLDBERG, PH.D., USAF (RET)
 COMMANDER, DEPARTMENT OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
 GENERAL MEADE CHAPTER, MD



George C. Marshall and the Early Cold War: Policy, Politics, and Society
 William A. Taylor, Ed.,
 University of Oklahoma Press

In this nine-chapter anthology, Professor William Taylor has assembled a group of expert historians to write about aspects of George C. Marshall's life and career that others have not. Each chapter in this anthology underscores the respect and admiration felt by Marshall's colleagues for him. Mark A. Stoler, a Marshall scholar and military historian, noted that Marshall's critical post-World War II role was not given adequate recognition. This book corrects that omission.

Three key attributes that Marshall possessed form a common thread that runs through this book: Firstly, his firm belief in “Peace through Strength” was demonstrated by his full support of Universal Military Training (UMT). Secondly was his keen ability to recognize excellence in others. Finally, his most significant trait was his visionary mindset.

Professor Katherine K. Reist leads off by taking us to President Truman's appointment of General Marshall to implement the US plan to establish a coalition government in China. Unfortunately, Marshall's hope of laying the groundwork for a peaceful Chinese resolution was not to be. Heavily criticized by both sides, Marshall realized neither party would accept compromise. He ended this unsuccessful mission in June 1947 after accepting

Truman's offer to become Secretary of State.

Marshall's keen ability to recognize excellence in others led him to discover John McAuley Palmer, who fought alongside him in the UMT battle, Henry H. “Hap” Arnold, who later became the head of the US Army Air Corps, and General Matthew Ridgway, the Allied commander in the Far East during the Korean War. John Curatola turns his sights to Marshall's advocacy for airpower. He describes how Marshall facilitated the development and employment of air power to defeat the Axis powers in World War II, eventually leading to the establishment of an independent air force.

Marshall's vision came to the fore as Secretary of State, as described by Michael Holm in his chapter on the European Recovery Program (ERP), commonly known as the Marshall Plan. Marshall recognized both the communist threat to Europe and the impending economic collapse. Marshall's Harvard speech proposing the European Recovery Program was not a plan but a vision. Here, too, Marshall's ability to select the right individuals was realized in his selection of Robert Lovett, George Kennan, and his successor, Dean Acheson. Through their efforts, the Marshall Plan became the foundation of the united Europe we see today.

In his chapter on Marshall and the National Security Act, Sean Kalic writes that Marshall did not directly participate in the creation of the National Security Act of 1947. However, his ideas, vision, and testimony during the unification debates had a significant impact on the changes made in the US national security structure when President Truman signed the Act.

According to Frank A. Settle, Jr., Marshall was “one of the few senior officials who participated in or witnessed all the major decisions involving nuclear weapons during the first decade of the atomic age.” It was clear to Marshall that the use



Passive inactivity, because you have not been given specific instructions to do this or to do that, is a serious deficiency.

—GEORGE C. MARSHALL

of the atomic bomb had altered the nature of war and diplomacy. Marshall spent much time considering the effect of nuclear weapons and the more advanced weapons yet to come. Marshall's conclusions led to his warning against a major reduction in military manpower in favor of relying on nuclear weapons.

Regarding the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Ingo Trauschweizer points out that the plan foreseen by Marshall and George F. Kennan was the formation in Western Europe of a political and economic bloc, not a military alliance. As Secretary of Defense, however, Marshall helped transform NATO from a political coalition to a military organization and was critical in the creation of the alliance's framework of containment.

With Marshall's return to the Pentagon, this time as Secretary of Defense, Jared Dockery provides us with an excellent picture of the situation at the beginning of the Korean War, the sorry state of the US military in 1950, and the history of the professional, but somewhat unfriendly relationship between Marshall and General Douglas MacArthur. The author also provides an enlightening discussion of the Truman-MacArthur controversy, which led to the latter's firing. Marshall had supported MacArthur, but Marshall's belief in civilian control of the military saw him not interfering with the decision to fire MacArthur.

Jeremy P. Maxwell's final essay in this book discusses the topic of racial integration and its connection to Marshall's career, tracing it back to the Civil War. Maxwell provides a condensed history of black units in the military from the Army Reorganization Act of 1866 and informs us that Marshall's authorization of "5th platoons," served as a significant step toward integration.

Taylor's conclusion underscores Marshall's impact in the Cold War era. It describes three key lessons that not only define Marshall's influence throughout his career but are lessons to be followed today. ★



Virginia Military Institute cadet George C. Marshall, class of 1901, stands for the camera in dress uniform while holding his elaborately-plumed shako. The image is credited to the M. Miley & Son photo studio in Lexington, Virginia.

William A. Taylor is Associate Professor of Global Security Studies in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Center for Security Studies at Angelo State University. He is the author or editor of four books, including *Military Service and American Democracy: From World War II to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars*.

Mark A. Stoler is Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Vermont, the editor of the *George C. Marshall Papers*, and past president of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. He is the award-winning author or editor of twelve books, including *George C. Marshall: Soldier–Statesman of the American Century*.





Keep Calm & Carry-On

HPM MAJOR DAVID MUMMERY
CANADIAN AF, TSA OFFICER
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA

The United States Department of Homeland Security, DHS, is the US federal executive department responsible for public security. Its stated missions involve anti-terrorism, border security, immigration, customs, cyber security, and disaster prevention and management.

Our Order's outreach programs includes Homeland Security, and is vital for keeping our country safe. The Air Marshal Service and Air Defense Forces are part of the picture, but the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is the most visible to the average person. The author is intimately familiar with TSA Seattle (SEA), so general TSA requirements and Seattle Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is our primary starting point.

The TSA is dedicated to protecting the nation's transportation systems, with the ultimate goal of promoting the freedom of movement for people and commerce. In the pursuit of this mission, the TSA strives to foster an agile security agency, led

by a professional workforce that works closely with its partners and the American people to effectively address the dynamic security threats of today. The TSA is guided by the core values of integrity, respect, and commitment, and its workforce is expected to embody the highest standards of hard work, professionalism, and integrity.

TSA HISTORY On the morning of 9/11, nearly 3,000 people were killed in a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The attacks resulted in the creation of the Transportation Security Administration, designed to prevent similar attacks in the future. Driven by a desire to help our nation, tens of thousands of people joined TSA. They committed themselves to strengthening our transportation systems while ensuring the freedom of movement for people and commerce. The Aviation and Transportation Security Act, passed by the 107th Congress and signed on November 19, 2001, established the TSA.



Transportation Security Officers (TSO) from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) with executives from the TSA and Department of State under the American flag after a commemorative march at the Philadelphia International Airport, PA, on September 11, 2021. The march consisted of a moment of silence at each security checkpoint to honor and remember the 2,996 Americans who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Source: US Air National Guard photo by Airman First Class Thomas Cox.





Now, to focus on what TSA is to the traveling public. For most of us, TSA is the screening of passengers at US Airports. The Port of Seattle operates SEA, and TSA is responsible for the security of the traveling public. A quick internet

search for “Obscure Prohibited Carry-On Items Not Allowed by the TSA” will serve you well, but for the “honest” traveler, the checkpoint for carry-on luggage is what leads to problems. The most common items that will slow you down in security are liquids, aerosols, and gels greater than 3.4 ounces or 100 ml (water bottles, shave cream, hair spray, anything that can be spread that is wet and needs its container to maintain its shape). Also, pocket knives, wine openers (they have a knife on the end), wrapped Christmas cheese cutting board and knife, or the beautifully wrapped steak knife set still does NOT allow them on an aircraft. By all means, pack any TSA-permitted gift, but place the wrapping paper and tape in your bag for later.

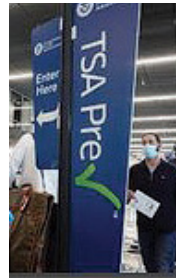
The MyTSA app provides airline passengers with 24/7 access to the most frequently requested airport security information on any mobile device. Save time and money with our helpful tips for preparing for security, including a searchable database of items that can and can't go in checked or carry-on bags: <https://www.tsa.gov/mobile>

Today, there are many forms of screening and other layers designed to facilitate travel and increase security. However, for most of us, it is STANDARD SCREENING or PRECHECK. Common to both is the screening of bags using X-ray technology. Follow the advisements of the TSA Divesting Officer as you approach the screening area. If something should not be X-rayed, let them know, but remember, if you bring such an item, it will slow you and others down.

STANDARD SCREENING – Shoes off in a bin by themselves. Coats off. Pockets empty. Electronics (i.e., computers, e-readers, gaming systems, notebooks) single layer in a bin. Everything goes in a bin, but do not overfill—the bin will enter the system and first encounter a lead-lined curtain that will sweep any light object (coat, hat, scarf) out of the bin, and could result in TSA system damage and they would temporarily stop baggage screening.

STANDARD SCREENING EXEMPTIONS

Passengers who have reached the age of 75 or older are exempt from removing their shoes. However, if a screening alarm is detected, the shoes must be removed for screening (metal shanks in shoes often cause an alarm).



PRECHECK SCREENING A form of screening for vetted, trusted travelers. If you are a PRECHECK traveler, your boarding pass (paper or electronic) will indicate PRECHECK. If there are NO PRECHECK markings, arguing will not help, proceed to STANDARD SCREENING.



SKIP THE SECURITY LINE FROM 5 A.M. TO 1 P.M. Your time while traveling is important; let TSA help with **SPOT SAVER**, a reservation program for TSA screening for passengers flying out of Seattle and LAX. Experience expedited screening without a membership, and all contact-free. Schedule your appointment for screening beforehand or when you are at the terminal. SEA Spot Saver is only available to general screening passengers. Check to see if Spot Saver is available at an airport near you.



FOR VETERANS AND WOUNDED WARRIORS

Injured, wounded service members, veterans, and wounded warriors may contact TSA Cares to request assistance with the security screening process. TSA Cares is a helpline to assist travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. Call TSA Cares 72 hours before traveling with questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint at (855) 787-2227. Veterans who are not enrolled in TSA PreCheck™ will be screened in standard screening lanes. Happy Travels. ★

MOWW Running Team

COL MIKE FARRELL, USMC (RET)
BG BULTMAN CHAPTER, VA



Alexandria City High School Army JROTC Color Guard presenting the Colors at the Run-Geek-Run Charity 5K race on Sunday, 24 September 2023. Pictured L to R: CDT Helwing Ortiz, CDT Robert Salgado, CDT Jocelyn Ortiz, CDT Abenna Buabeng.

The BG Bultman Chapter and the Northern Virginia Chapter joined forces to sponsor the Annual **RUN! GEEK! RUN!** 5K charity road race in Alexandria, VA. **RUN! GEEK! RUN!** is organized by our partners and friends at Ironicist.

The annual 5K race benefits a different Alexandria-based non-profit each year. This year, the 16th Annual running benefited Move2Learn, an award-winning non-profit that works to level the learning field for marginalized and underserved students in Alexandria City Public Schools.

We sponsored Cadets from the Chantilly Academy AFJROTC unit to run as members of the MOWW Running Team. Not only did we take home the 2nd place team trophy, but we had team members who finished 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in their respective age groups! A special recognition to the Alexandria City High School Army JROTC unit for providing the Color Guard on a rainy day. ★



The MOWW Running Team pre-race photo. (L-R): NOVA Chapter Commander COL Vince Ogilvie, CDT Tristan Kiser, CDT Arvind Sunkara, CDT Dohoon Park, CDT Rudra Dave, CDT Connor Lanberg, and Mike Farrell (MOWW Chief of Staff).



Share Knowledge, Make A Difference

VCINC CAPT EDWARD W. GANTT, USN (RET)
CHAIR, NATIONAL YOUTH CIVICS SUMMIT

Companions, the planning committee is still progressing toward an MOWW National Youth Civics Summit to be held in Washington, DC, July 7 – 13, 2024. Our MOWW Foundation has moved along but may not be fully operational before early 2024. CINC Perez was recently elected to head the MOWW Foundation's Board of Directors.

As you look over the proposed summit (those details are available on the MOWW website under the convention presentations), I sincerely hope that you will see something in that one-week summit that excites you personally. And then you would become energized to take on an active role in the summit's planning, or the execution, or both.

Since the summit includes U.S. Government portion, a U.S. History portion and citizenship development portion, your area of interest would be greatly appreciated early in the planning. This does not necessarily involve travelling to Washington, DC. Our planning committee meets via video conference on zoom.

You, or a Companion you know well, has expertise in the education and development of our nation's future leaders. I urge you to contact me and offer your assistance to this MOWW National Youth Civics Summit in creating an experience that will be inspiring, educational and enjoyable, as well as unforgettable, in Washington next summer.

CAPT Ed Gantt, USN (Ret.)

Email: ed_gantt@hotmail.com

Beginning in July 2024, MOWW plans to introduce a National Youth Civics Summit. This advanced residential program will begin on a Sunday evening as the students arrive on the campus of American University, in Washington, DC.

Our main goal is to focus on the establishment and evolution of our government over the past 236 years and how it conducts the people's business in the 21st century. We plan to dedicate the first two days to this topic.

We expect to spend one afternoon learning about the Departments of our Executive Branch of government, those Cabinet-level organizations that our nation relies upon daily. A highlight will be the day spent on Capitol Hill, which includes an audience with at least one member of the US Congress. Schedule permitting, there could be an opportunity for each participating student to meet with their Congressional Representative or Senator.

One day this week, the focus will shift to significant American History sites near Washington, most likely Harpers Ferry, WV, and Gettysburg, PA.



While in Washington, we hope to visit some college campuses and receive information regarding ROTC scholarships and US Service Academy selection. There is plenty to explore in our country's capital, all located near each other, allowing the group to visit Arlington National Cemetery, the World War II Memorial, and part of the Smithsonian Institution in one day.

By the end of the week, the students will have a far better understanding of what a Foreign Service Officer does for our nation around the world, or of the many different internships available to future executives in our civil service, and even the broad and varied career opportunities that uniformed officers can pursue and enjoy. This group of outstanding students will be equipped to eventually make their college and career decisions with "service to our nation" as a component of their individual decision matrices.

Our first National Youth Civics Summit (NYCS) in 2024 will only accommodate 16 students. Applications for the July 2024 NYCS will be open in October 2023. ★



Red, White, and Blue

PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER, WA



The question has been often asked, “What does electrification and reduction of fossil fuel consumption in the United States have to do with national security.” The bottom line: the mix of consumption and production of all types of energy by our country is directly related to our ability to be strong and independent and to project power (economic and military) as necessary.



Here, at the MOWW Puget Sound Chapter, one of our members, Lt Col Dick Muri, USAF (Ret), and past chapter commander, started an electric vehicle festival in our little Town of Steilacoom, WA, in 2014. His goal was to help inform people how citizens can reduce their oil consumption by driving electric. The festival has grown to be one of the largest in the country and number one in electric vehicle model types. Also, every year, the number of MOWW Puget Sound chapter companions driving electric vehicles has increased.



So, we set up a couple of tents at this year’s festival, had some refreshments for visitors, and talked to the many festival visitors. Now, we have additional potential Companions ready to join us! Membership growth is a byproduct of being visible to the public.

The concept that energy security is closely linked with national security is not a novel idea. In 2006, an organization was formed called ‘Securing America’s Future Energy’ (SAFE), with a mission to ensure the availability of energy for the future of our great nation.

The organization is under the guidance of esteemed leaders from the business and military sectors and has impacted federal and state policies. A quote from their website, “Advocates who are committed to strengthening US economic and national security through measures that reduce our dependence on oil, produce domestic resources with strong environmental standards, accelerate measures to diversify our nation’s fuel sources, and build secure supply chains for batteries, semiconductors and other technologies that will power a 21st-century economy that will run on connected, autonomous, shared electric transportation.” ★

For more information, go to their website,
<https://secureenergy.org/energy-security-leadership-council/>



An Excellent Solution

COL RAOUL H. ALCALA, USA (RET)
COMMANDER, GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER

How does a chapter bring into closer association speakers who commonly appear at chapter meetings but who do not qualify for membership - for example, police officers? How does a chapter form closer ties with Girl and Boy Scout officials with whom it has worked for long years but who are not persons who would wish to become Companions? How does a chapter recognize those in the academic world who support patriotic values? How does a chapter confer a special honor and status to a local mayor who works with the chapter for veterans and patriotic issues? How does a chapter honor the leaders of counterpart organizations?

IPCINC LTC Michael Okin approved rules creating the concept of an MOWW Patriot. Under the rubric of those rules, a chapter may honor any number of worthy people by conferring this designation - an honor - upon them.

The Greater Boston Chapter was quick to put this technique to use. Our first MOWW Patriot

was Neal Finnegan, Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern University. Fittingly, Chairman Finnegan was extended this honor on Veterans Day, 11 November 2022, at the ceremony where he delivered his annual keynote address at the remarkable Northeastern University Veterans Memorial he was instrumental in creating. Chairman Finnegan was previously awarded a Silver Patrick Henry Award in 2007 for his leadership in this patriotic work, which was, to say the very least, a landmark event in the Boston academic community.

At the 13 June 2023 chapter meeting, Chapter Commander COL Raoul H. Alcala took an opportunity to bring us into a closer relationship with leaders of other local organizations with which we have overlapping membership. Four prominent local citizens were named for the honor.

With thanks to the National leadership for this new technique, we at the Greater Boston Chapter intend to make active use of this new technique to bring those in sympathy with our purposes and work into a closer relationship with the Order. ★



Above, (L-R): Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern University, Neal Finnegan, with Greater Boston Chapter Commander COL Raoul H. Alcala, USA (Ret), reading the MOWW Patriot Designation. Right: The Veterans Memorial at Northeastern University.



Our New Group of MOWW Patriots. From Left: Charles Fazio, Curator of the Museum and Library of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; Stephen M. Schnitzer, Member of the Navy League and Wardroom Club of Boston; Joseph Giacobbe, Member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; Jerome V. Sweeney, II, Past Commander of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts; and COL Raoul H. Alcala, Greater Boston Chapter Commander, their sponsor.



“Serve And Succeed”

National Wreaths Across America Day Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023

Volunteers can get involved at any of the 3,700+ participating locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and on foreign soil. Join us and over 2 million volunteers nationwide in placing wreaths on veterans' headstones. Invite your family and friends to an experience you will never forget, as we take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to honor our service men and women and their families.

For a complete list of participating locations, visit
WreathsAcrossAmerica.org



Please note that we have identified several errors and omissions in the content published in the September-October issue, and we would like to take this opportunity to provide the necessary corrections and clarifications. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience caused by these mistakes and hope that the updated information will address any concerns or questions you may have.

Error highlighted below:

ROTC AWARDS

The ROTC Annual Award is presented to the chapters providing the best support of ROTC units.

CATEGORY 1:

SUPPORTING 1-9 ROTC UNITS

- **1ST PLACE:** Col Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **2ND PLACE:** Roanoke Chapter, VA
- **3RD PLACE:** Maj Gen Wade Chapter, DC

CATEGORY 2:

SUPPORTING 10-17 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
- **2ND PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ

CATEGORY 3:

SUPPORTING 18-23 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Atlanta Area Chapter, GA
- **2ND PLACE:** COL Stephens–Apache Trail Chapter, AZ
- **3RD PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY

CATEGORY 4:

SUPPORTING 24-29 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Denver Chapter, CO
- **2ND PLACE:** Clearwater Chapter, FL
- **3RD PLACE:** Greater El Paso Chapter, TX

CATEGORY 5:

SUPPORTING 30-83 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Philadelphia Chapter, PA
- **2ND PLACE:** LTG Walker Chapter, MS
- **3RD PLACE:** Fort Worth Chapter, TX

CATEGORY 6:

SUPPORTING 84+ ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **2ND PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL
- **3RD PLACE:** Houston Chapter, TX

Category Size and Winners corrected below:

ROTC AWARDS

The ROTC Annual Award is presented to the chapters providing the best support of ROTC units.

CATEGORY 1:

SUPPORTING 1-17 ROTC UNITS

- **1ST PLACE:** Col Woolsey Chapter, CA
- **2ND PLACE:** Roanoke Chapter, VA
- **3RD PLACE:** Maj Gen Wade Chapter, DC

CATEGORY 2:

SUPPORTING 18-20 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA
- **2ND PLACE:** Fort Hood Chapter, TX
- **3RD PLACE:** Santa Cruz Valley Chapter, AZ

CATEGORY 3:

SUPPORTING 21-27 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** San Diego Chapter, CA
- **2ND PLACE:** Hampton Roads Chapter, VA
- **3RD PLACE:** Fort Knox Chapter, KY

CATEGORY 4:

SUPPORTING 28-34 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Northern Virginia Chapter, VA
- **2ND PLACE:** Capt Dillingham Memorial Chapter, HI
- **3RD PLACE:** San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, CA

CATEGORY 5:

SUPPORTING 35-60 ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Ft. Worth Chapter, TX
- **2ND PLACE:** Denver Chapter, CO
- **3RD PLACE:** Dallas Chapter, TX

CATEGORY 6:

SUPPORTING 61+ ROTC UNITS:

- **1ST PLACE:** Philadelphia Chapter, PA
- **2ND PLACE:** Puget Sound Chapter, WA
- **3RD PLACE:** Sun City Center Chapter, FL

Two email addresses were incorrect on page 11 (Boards, Committees, Working Groups & Councils), and corrected below:

COUNCIL OF AREA COMMANDERS

- CDR George T. Parsons, CDR (USN) (Ret)
EMAIL: gt.parsons@sbcglobal.net

PUBLIC SAFETY / LAW & ORDER

- Maj James H. Haney, USMC (Ret)
EMAIL: jhhaney1@gmail.com



Medical Advances Benefit Society

CPT ROBERT E. MALLIN, MD, USA (FMR)
SURGEON GENERAL, MOWW

Whenever I discuss health issues, I always point out that we are living with the blessings of medical advancements that didn't exist a short time ago. In this article, we shall explore that statement further. Here are a few recent advances that have changed treatment and/or prolonged life.

Immediately, **Immunotherapy** comes to mind. It has emerged as one of the most widely recognized breakthroughs of the 2010s due to its promise to treat cancers. The improvements researchers have made in this treatment's safety and efficacy and its rapid growth in popularity over the past decade boggle the mind. In many cases, the dreaded "Chemotherapy" has become an infusion that lasts a half hour; you drive yourself home and experience few if any, complications. And it can work well.

Next, in the vast field of cancer research, **The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA)** is a remarkable achievement. The TCGA is a publicly funded project to catalog and discover significant cancer-causing genomic alterations. Cancer Genomics studies the totality of DNA sequence and gene expression differences between tumor and normal host cells. This contributes to precision treatments, as it defines cancer types and subtypes based on their genetics. This can provide patients with a more precise diagnosis and, therefore, a more personalized treatment strategy. For example, doctors have changed the way they treat a form of childhood leukemia. Now, doctors can do a genetic screening and prescribe the correct dose for each child.

In **Ophthalmology**: Anti-VEGF therapy treats macular degeneration. These treatments can improve vision in about one-third of people who take it by stopping the growth of new blood vessels that can prevent damage to the retinal light receptors that cause loss of central vision.

Emergency medicine: **Ultrasound**. Prehospital ultrasound is the specialized application of ultrasound by paramedics to guide immediate care and start some

treatment procedures. This treatment plan is often started before arrival at the hospital. Traditionally, ultrasound requires ordering, imaging, a trip to the radiology department, etc., and waiting for the results. With portable ultrasound, the patient can be diagnosed and benefit if appropriate immediately.

Multipotential **Stem Cells**. We can make stem cells directly from skin cells, making it possible to model a multitude of human diseases in the petri dish. New drugs based on stem cells are being developed. Stem cell therapies will become more specific and customizable within the next decade.

Another here-to-fore unthinkable medical breakthrough is being able to produce **Printed Body Parts**. The shortage of organs is a major health crisis; over the past 10 years, the number of people who need transplants has doubled, but the number of available organs has stayed the same. Enter 3-D printers, which, because of their precise process, can reproduce the vascular systems required to make organs viable. Scientists are already using the machines to print tiny strips of organ tissue. And while printing whole human organs for surgical transplants is still years away, the technology is rapidly developing.

Laparoscopic Surgery has become as much of a standard procedure as conventional surgery used to be. This surgery uses small incisions, tiny cameras, and instruments, resulting in faster recovery and less pain.

RNA Vaccines. In 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer BioNTech was the first mRNA product approved by the FDA. This technology has taken vaccine development to a new level. These vaccines contain a genetic blueprint that tells the body how to produce a protein. That protein triggers the immune system to generate the exact antibodies and immune cells needed to destroy a particular bacteria or virus.



These are just a few of the advances today. Be well. ★



Who is Going to Set the Course for the Future and Build the Wall?

LTC VICTOR W. BURNETTE, USA (RET)
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW

And the king said to me, "Why is your face sad, seeing you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of the heart." Then I was very much afraid. I said to the king, "Let the king live forever! Why should not my face be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' graves, lies in ruins, and its gates have been destroyed by fire?" Then the king said to me, "What are you requesting?" So, I prayed to the God of heaven.

—Nehemiah 2:2-4 (English Standard Version)

For the 2023 National Convention, we were reminded of our organizational motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served," and our convention's theme, "Setting a course for our Future." I want to recap our 2023 Worship Service entitled, "Who is Going to Set the Course for the Future and Build the Wall?"

Nehemiah, one of Israel's great leaders, tells of rebuilding a two-and-a-half-mile wall around Jerusalem. The Israelites were returning after their defeat and exile from the city, and the wall was a necessary defense—they rebuilt it in 52 days. Nehemiah led Jerusalem by rebuilding that wall and the spiritual lives of the Jews returning from captivity. Nehemiah was a king's cup-bearer, a life-or-death job. He did not start as a leader, not trained to be a Soldier—essentially an unlikely hero.

There were seven key points from the book of Nehemiah's walk with God that I want to point out how we, as Companions, can live better and build MOWW to become better with the Lord. The seven points are:

- 1) **Be Still and Listen!** "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices." In Psalm 37-7, Nehemiah was "all ears" when he heard about the plight of Jerusalem.
- 2) **Ask God for Wisdom!** "When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days, I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven." In Nehemiah 1:4, his request for wisdom was a wise decision when facing a complex issue.
- 3) **Develop an Operation Order that Glorifies God.** Psalm 33:11 states, "But

the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations." Nehemiah set his bold God-given plan into motion: he asked the king for safe passage and requested timber to rebuild. His plans did not make him a king of Jerusalem but a willing servant.

4) **God Leads, and you Follow.** "You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." Psalm 16:11 and, "He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake." Psalm 23:3

5) **Take Action and Stay the Course.** "The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty." Proverbs 21:5

6) **Trust God to Make It Happen.** "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. Can we put our faith into Google, what our friends say, your Zodiac sign, or what we learned in a college philosophy class?

Finally, point 7) **Share what God has Done.** "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16.

Companions, our message during the convention encouraged us to establish the course for the future by repairing or fixing something in our homes, work areas, MOWW chapter, JROTC/ROTC programs, or our community. Nehemiah's task was enormous, but don't we have an enormous task

in our communities and our nation, too? We have the skill sets, training, and experience to execute a plan for a successful closure. Let's all be noble servants. Seek the Lord for wisdom, make plans that glorify God, follow where God leads, be diligent and proactive, and trust God to provide. ★





MG Miles Chapter, NM

Renowned Expert Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker

BY LTC GREGG C. GIESLER, USA (RET)

Chapter Commander LTC Gregg C. Giesler, USA (Ret), presented a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation to Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker, Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Emeritus, for his presentation on how Putin's invasion of Ukraine destroys the global nuclear order. Dr. Hecker is an internationally known expert on nuclear disarmament and proliferation. He has visited the North Korean nuclear program seven times at their invitation, the Chinese nuclear program several times, and the Soviet Union over thirty times on nuclear disarmament and proliferation issues.

(L-R): LANL Director Emeritus Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker and LTC Gregg C. Giesler, USA (Ret).



Virginia Piedmont Chapter, VA

Chapter Recognizes WWII-Era Marine

BY HPM MR. CHARLES W. BENNETT, JR.

Sergeant Daniel A. Villarial, USMC, who served during WWII and the Korean War era, was awarded a MOWW Certificate of Merit. The certificate recognizes his patriotism and indomitable spirit, as he continued to serve his country as a veteran through loyal participation in the weekly Lynchburg Support the Troops rally and other Central Virginia patriotic activities. Sergeant Villarial is 95 years old.

(L-R): Immediate Past Chapter Commander C. Michael Reeves presents the MOWW Certificate of Merit to Sergeant Daniel A. Villarial



San Diego Chapter, CA

MOWW San Diego June Luncheon

BY HANNAH JAIME

CPO Joey Jerome was the guest speaker at the San Diego June meeting. He is the Director of Military Operations for the Armed Services YMCA of San Diego. The ASYMCA provides quality programs for military service members and their families, supporting healthy lifestyles and reducing isolation. Jerome spoke about the organization's mission at the luncheon, which was held at the San Diego Unified School District's Revere Center on 17 May.

Cape Cod Chapter, MA

VCINC Swears in Chapter Commander

BY COL LAWRENCE A. WILLWERTH, USA (RET)

At the MOWW Region I Meeting on 10 June 2023, VCINC CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret), administered the oath of office to the new Cape Cod Chapter Commander, HPM Peter Nee. COL Lawrence A. Willwerth, USA (Ret), the Region I Commander, assisted in the ceremony at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

(L-R): CAPT Edward W. Gantt, USN (Ret); HPM Peter Nee and COL Lawrence A. Willwerth, USA (Ret).



CPT Grevenberg Chapter, LA

Revitalizing the CPT Grevenberg Chapter

BY PCINC COL CLAY C. LE GRANDE, JR., USA (RET)



The CPT Grevenberg Chapter held a meeting on 11 July 2023, at the conference area in LCDR Drew Dodenhoff's office in New Orleans. The purpose of the meeting was to plan the chapter's revitalization. Due to the impact of COVID and the high cost of restaurant meetings in New Orleans, the chapter had experienced a decline in participation. To address this issue, the chapter sent out letters to its members, outlining the situation and requesting support. The members responded positively, and volunteers offered to serve in chapter officer positions. The meeting focused on determining the best meeting frequency, days, times, and locations to maximize participation. To ensure the chapter's long-term sustainability, the chapter plans to establish a viable MOWW Program and recruit more members.

(Seated L-R): New Adjutant Lt Col Thomas Gorham, USAF (Ret); HPM Montez Le Grande; PCINC COL Clay Le Grande (Region VII Cdr); Ms. Brenda Fortmayer. (Second Row L-R): HPM Ellan F. Vavrick; Capt Ruby Roberts, USAF (Ret); Chapter Cdr LCDR Andrew C. Dodenhoff, USN (Ret); Former MOWW VCINC HPM Jennie McIntosh; Region VII Treasurer HPM Donna Widner; LTC Keith Menyweather, USA; Lt Col Carrol Fortmayer, USAF (Ret). (Third Row L-R): CPT John Wilson, USA (Fmr); LTC Patrick L. Widner, USA (Ret). Photo by Col Frank B. Arнемann, USAF (Ret), (new Chapter Vice-Cdr).





Colorado Springs Chapter, CO

Near Space Airships

BY LTC MICHAEL D. BERENDT, USA (RET)

The Colorado Springs Chapter held its monthly membership meeting on 28 July and welcomed Lt Col Ed Herlik, USAF (Ret), to discuss Near Space Airships (i.e., Chinese Surveillance “Balloons”). Ed is a highly experienced professional with a distinguished career as a fighter pilot and a previous role as an HQ Air Force Space Command member. He possesses extensive expertise in the realm of stratospheric unmanned systems. Ed’s presentation served to awaken among the attendees the threats our nation will encounter in this domain in any future engagement with China.

Col Kermit D. Neal, USAF (Ret), (left) and COL Stephen A. Shambach, USA (Ret), (right), presented Lt Col Herlik a MOWW Certificate of Appreciation.



MG (Bvt) Chamberlain Chapter, ME

Legion of Valor Silver Cross Bestowed

BY LTC DAVID A. ANDERSON, USA (RET)

On 5 August 2023, CPT Alan D. Johnston, USA (Fmr), received the Legion of Valor Silver Cross Medal at the Legion of Valor’s 131 National Convention in Washington, DC. He was recognized for his heroic actions during a suicide attack at the Al Kasik Military Base in Iraq. Special guest Capt Aaron P. Hill, USMC, praised CPT Johnston’s bravery and stated that his actions would have earned him a medal if he had been in military uniform. At the time of the attack, CPT Johnston was a civilian contractor overseeing the construction of two medical clinics. <https://youtu.be/r2wnG7r5c7k?feature=shared>

Left, National Commander of the Legion of Valor, SgtMaj Justin LeHew USMC. CPT Alan D. Johnston, USA (Fmr), stands center. and Capt Aaron P. Hill, USMC, to his left.



Puget Sound Chapter, WA

Ensuring the Safety of Our Shores

BY PCINC COL DAVID B. GIBSON, USAF (RET)

The Puget Sound Chapter had the pleasure of hosting CAPT David Melin, USN (Ret), who delivered a highly insightful briefing on the Homeland Security program on 10 September at the Steilacoom Town Hall. His extensive experience as a maritime pilot for large ships in the Puget Sound waters was both impressive and reassuring, highlighting his critical role in ensuring the safety of our shores. The chapter was grateful for his time and expertise, and we look forward to any future opportunities to benefit from his valuable insights.

(L-R): Chapter Commander Capt Ed Murphy, USAF (Fmr), shows his appreciation to CAPT David Melin, USN (Ret), for his presentation to the Chapter.

Dallas Chapter, TX

Green Berets Dallas Chapter Luncheon

BY CPT ALLEN B. CLARK, JR., USA (RET)

On 5 September 2023, MSG Darrell Utt, USA (Ret), who served in Army Special Forces, gave a presentation to the Dallas Chapter about the progress of the construction of the Medal of Honor Museum in Arlington, TX. A special guest was Medal of Honor Recipient SSG Salvatore A. Giunta, USA. All Green Berets in attendance gathered for a group photo.

(L-R): MAJ Douglas Gagliano, USA (Ret); Honorable MG Albert C. Zapanta, USA (Ret); PCINC LTC Chuck Chamberlin, USA (Ret); MOH SSG Salvatore A. Giunta, USA (Ret); MSG Darrell UTT, USA (Ret); CW3 Ronald A. Crenshaw, USA; SSG Gene Pugh, USA (Ret); LTC Don Munson, USA (Ret); CPT James Runzheimer, USA (Ret) and Chapter Commander CPT Allen Clark, Jr. USA (Ret).



Sun City Center Chapter, FL

Cadets Tour the USS Lucas

BY COL LONNIE D. VONA, USA (RET)



On 5 October 2023, cadets from the Tampa Bay area were given a unique opportunity to tour the USS Lucas. The Sun City Chapter played a valuable role in helping to spread the word and make this experience possible for the cadets. It's great to see such collaborative efforts in providing educational experiences for our future leaders.



Puerto Rico Chapter, PR

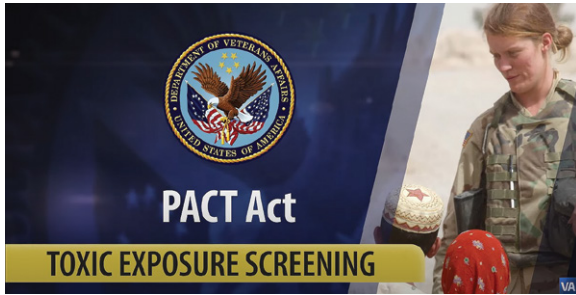
In Support of Flag Retirement Ceremony

BY COL ADOLFO MENÉNDEZ, USAF (RET)

The Flag Retirement Ceremony occurred on 15 June 2023 at the National Cemetery in Bayamon, PR. Chapter Commander Col Adolfo Menéndez, USAF (Ret), was the guest speaker. Chapter Scouting Coordinator, COL Hector Sánchez, USA (Ret), assisted in the events. Companion and Patriot Mr. Edwin Ramos-Jourdan managed the proceedings as the Master of Ceremonies. Scouts and their families from various areas of Puerto Rico attended the ceremony and provided a dignified end to worn-out flags.

Left: Scouts and members of the Puerto Rico National Guard render their last respects, then placed the flags in the fire pit. Right: Gladys Figarella, Girl Scouts of America Troop 11, gently casts her flag into the fire pit.





PACT ACT TOXIC EXPOSURE SCREENING

One of the best ways to manage your health is to develop a long-term health care plan with your VA providers. VA's new toxic exposure screening can help you plan for future concerns. If you're enrolled in VA health care, you'll receive an initial screening and a follow-up screening at least once every 5 years. If you're not enrolled but meet eligibility requirements, you'll have an opportunity to enroll and receive the screening.

During your screening, you'll be asked if you believe you experienced toxic exposures during your military service. The screening is quick—it only takes around 5-10 minutes to answer the questions. You can even complete the screening during one of your regular health care appointments.

You can decline the screening. If you decline, it'll be offered to you the following year.

The new toxic exposure screening documents different kinds of exposures. There are several types of possible exposures or hazards you may have experienced during your military service. If you report a potential toxic exposure, it'll be included in your health record.

The screening makes your VA health care team aware of any potential exposures to toxins during your military service. Your VA health care team can provide ongoing care with a focus on early diagnosis and treatment of any health concerns that might be connected to your exposure(s).

After your screening, VA will provide information about benefits, registry exams, and clinical resources. Being screened is separate from joining a VA environmental health registry, like the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pits registry.

Even if you don't have concerns now, you might in the future. You'll be screened at least once every 5

years. The screening is not part of the VA benefits claims process. Learn more about filing a claim by visiting va.gov.

How to get screened

You may receive the screening at your next VA health care appointment. If you want to be screened sooner, contact your local VA facility and ask to be screened by the Toxic Exposure Screening Navigator.

The screening isn't diagnostic, but it identifies and records potential exposures. If needed, it'll support you in connecting with your VA health care team. You can always send your VA health care team a Secure Message if you have questions or concerns.

<https://youtu.be/0S9CgmK3-Rs?feature=shared>



LARGEST-EVER GENETIC STUDY OF SUICIDE FINDS GENETIC RISK FACTORS

In the largest-ever genetic study of suicide, researchers identified 12 gene variants that increase the risk of suicide attempts.

The international study used data from VA's Million Veteran Program and the International Suicide Genetics Consortium to analyze the genomes of more than 43,000 people with documented suicide attempts and 915,000 controls without a history of suicidal behavior.

The findings showed suicide attempts share genetic risk factors with several other conditions, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, smoking, and risk tolerance, which is associated with engaging in dangerous behavior. The results increase understanding of the biological causes of suicide and could lead to improved suicide prevention and treatment. (American Journal of Psychiatry, Oct. 1, 2023)





Reveille

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NEW MEMBER

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Ms. Linda Ariff

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MAJ Andrew J. Rodnite, Sr., USA (Ret)

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LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)

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LTC Paul F. Farinella, USA (Ret)

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COL STEVE STANFORD, OKARNG**

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Taps

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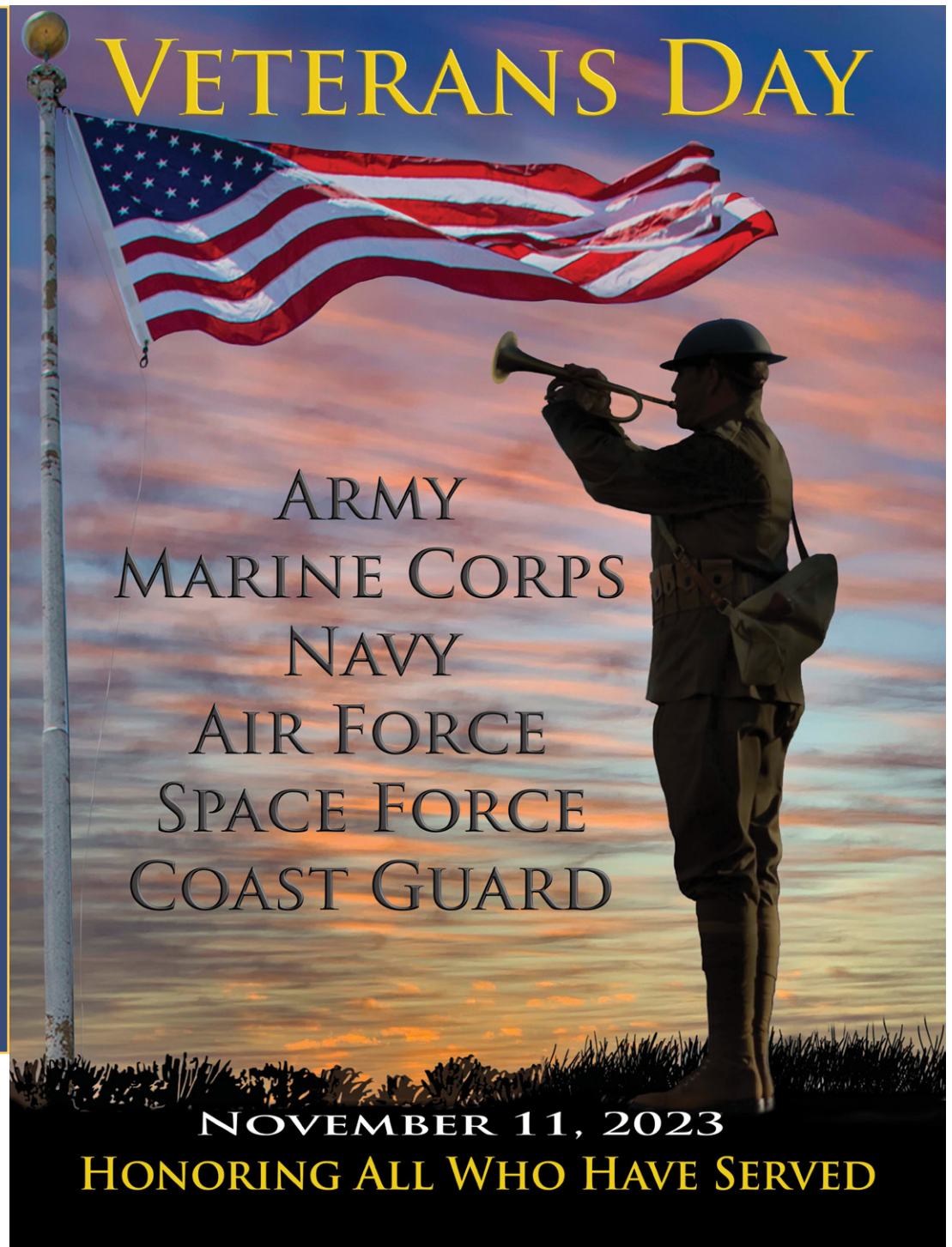
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NOVEMBER 11, 2023

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