

# OFFICER REVIEW

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE WORLD WAR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

Volume 55 • Number 6



## Scarsdale Jack & The Flying Tigers

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Pershing Rifles In Harm's Way
- MOWW Honors LANL Director
- BRAVO ZULU: Enhancing ROTC Outreach



# Community & Companionship

Dear Companions,  
Happy New Year—2016!

In this New Year, each of us will have many opportunities to serve the Order and others by supporting or running youth leadership conferences, awarding certificates to Boy and Girl Scouts, medals to JROTC and ROTC cadets, and by recognizing excellence in law and order personnel. All of these outreach activities give us a chance to tell others we appreciate them, and who we are, and what we represent.

Another way to serve others in keeping with the MOWW motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served," is to become personally involved in community events. This doesn't have to be a daunting task, and it can reap huge rewards.

A number of our chapters (you know who you are) regularly participate in community events such as Cowboy Breakfasts, Wreaths Across America, fundraisers for local monuments, community ceremonies, and veteran support activities. Consider following that example, or expanding on it, and partner with other non-profit agencies in your community.

Being part of community events gives Companions a sense of purpose and satisfaction in doing something for the greater good beyond our traditional MOWW outreach programs. In some cases, chapters have generated funds through community events and donations that help to enhance MOWW outreach program capabilities. The common theme is community involvement showcasing the MOWW name and logo, and fosters possibilities for recruiting and involving Companions in service.

Please share what you've done within your community with others through local publications and media whenever possible. It's great publicity, and we all benefit from knowing about the great things we Companions do!

Importantly, we should always keep in mind that everything we do and say must be done in the spirit of Companionship. It is that spirit that served as the impetus for the Order's founding over 96 years ago. That's a long history of Companionship and...we're all in it together!

*Ruth L. Hamilton*

RUTH L. HAMILTON, LTC, USA (Ret)  
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## CONTENTS

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4

### FEATURES

4 Scarsdale Jack & The Flying Tigers

8 Pershing Rifles In Harm's Way

14 MOWW Honors LANL Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan

16 Bravo Zulu: Enhancing ROTC Outreach

17 Apache Trail Massing of Colors

20 SPH to Police Commissioner

### DEPARTMENTS

2 CINC's Perspective: Community & Companionship

18 Hann-Buswell Chapter Endowment Grants

19 Constitution & Bylaws: Proposing Amendments

21 Chief's Notes: Sharing Our Good Works

22 Surgeon's Tent: Mosquitos and Things

23 Chaplain's Pulpit: Taking a Heavenly Perspective

24 Chapters in Action  
LTG Middleton (056), LA  
Puerto Rico (121)  
West Valley (131), AZ  
Sun City Center (226), FL  
MG Meade (026), MD  
Region I (CT, ME MA, NH,RI, VT)  
Santa Cruz Valley (193), AZ  
Cape Cod (005), MA

28 VA: Have You Heard?

29 Companion Roll Call

31 MOWW Polo Shirt Order Form

32 MOWW Merchandise



8



14

### ON THE COVER

Curtis P40-E Warhawk

Source <http://www.texasflyinglegends.org/texas-warhawk-p-40e>





# Scarsdale Jack & The Flying Tigers

CPT ROBERT W. HASBROUCK, JR., USA (FMR)  
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LT John Van Kuren Newkirk, USN, known as “Scarsdale Jack,” was a military hero of World War II who gave his life in the defense of freedom from aggression. Not only was his an inspiring personal story, but the remarkable organization in which he served—Maj Gen Claire Chennault’s American Volunteer Group (AVG), the “Flying Tigers”—was equally remarkable...and life-altering.



LT John Van Kuren Newkirk, USN, known as “Scarsdale Jack,” was a military hero of World War II who gave his life in the defense of freedom from aggression. Not only was his an inspiring personal story, but the remarkable organization in which he served—Maj Gen Claire Chennault’s American Volunteer Group (AVG), the “Flying Tigers”—was equally remarkable...and life-altering.

Jack grew up in Scarsdale, NY, became an Eagle Scout and Scout Leader, and graduated from Scarsdale High in 1932. He studied aeronautical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, graduated in 1938, and became a Navy fighter pilot. He was stationed in the Pacific aboard the aircraft carrier Yorktown, operating out of Pearl Harbor. By early 1941, the Japanese were invading China, threatening Southeast Asia, and becoming increasingly belligerent toward the USA and western European countries, which were trying to restrict their expansionist plans. Jack predicted American military involvement against Japan and told his sister that he wanted to get early combat experience to be of greater value as a leader and fighter when his country went to war. Thus, in the spring of 1941 he signed on with the American Volunteer Group (AVG), which was being formed to help save China from the Japanese invaders.

The AVG was a critical project for retired Army Air Force Captain Claire Chennault, who went to China in 1937 to help Chinese leader Chiang Kai-shek organize his air force against the Japanese. In 1940, Chiang sent Chennault back to the United States

to obtain American planes and pilots to oppose the Japanese bombing of Chinese cities and supply lines. Despite the objections of top US military leaders (who opposed the diversion of resources from the fragile US military strength at that time), he obtained President Roosevelt’s approval for the project. Next, he arranged with manufacturer Curtiss-Wright to purchase 100 obsolescent P-40B fighter planes, and recruited 100 US Armed Forces pilots and 200 ground crew. It was designated a civilian enterprise because the United States was not yet at war with Japan. The volunteers, young men motivated by the prospect of an exciting adventure in a righteous cause, had to resign from the military and sign one-year contracts with the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company. They were to manufacture, repair and operate aircraft for the Chinese government, and were designated the American Volunteer Group. Claire Chennault’s official position was adviser to the Central Bank of China. His passport listed his occupation as “farmer.”

The first contingent of AVG personnel (including Jack Newkirk) sailed for Asia in July 1941. A week before leaving, Jack married his sweetheart, Jane Dunham. Sadly, their blissful honeymoon would prove to be

**Top:  
Distinguished  
Flying Cross  
and (right) the  
insignia for the  
Flying Tigers.**

Source: wikipedia

**Above: LT John  
Van Kuren  
Newkirk, USN.**

Source: From the  
author’s collection



their only married life together. The group landed at Rangoon, Burma (now known as Myanmar), and set up shop at a British Royal Air Force (RAF) base to assemble and test the arriving airplanes.

The AVG was organized into three squadrons, and Jack was appointed leader of the 2nd Squadron.

He quickly proved his leadership capabilities under trying circumstances as he organized and trained his men, and maintained a high level of morale in spite of living in makeshift barracks in the jungle during the rainy season. Their primitive planes had no gun sights, radios, bomb racks or auxiliary fuel tank attachments. These items had to be improvised and installed.

Then-Colonel Chennault trained the pilots in aerial combat tactics based on his years of experience fighting against Japanese planes in China. Their job was to protect the famous Burma Road from Japanese air assault—from Rangoon across the Burmese mountains into China. This was the region's sole, remaining open supply route. The 1st and 2nd Squadrons moved to airfields at the Chinese end of the road. The 3rd Squadron remained in place to join with the RAF in protecting the port of Rangoon. The pilots started with orientation flights and familiarized themselves thoroughly with the territory they were covering. Their obsolete P-40B aircraft wore Chinese insignia, and the pilots wore "Blood Chits," i.e., information panels in Chinese on the backs of their flight jackets informing anyone they encountered they were fighting for China and should be protected.

The AVG went into action against the Japanese for the first time on 20 December 1941. After that, they were almost continuously engaged as the Japanese pressed their invasion with overwhelming force via air and ground assault. The AVG pilots quickly showed the aerial combat skills that created their lasting legend. In their first 11 days of action, they shot down 75 planes while losing only six aircraft and two pilots. Chennault's experience proved tactical instruction was invaluable. In joint AVG/RAF actions in Burma, the RAF's "kill ratio" was about 1:1, whereas the AVG's was 15:1, even



though the British flew Spitfires, which were much superior to the AVG's P-40B aircraft. The big difference was the tactics. The RAF used tactics learned from fighting the German Luftwaffe, which operated much differently from the Japanese. Chennault taught the AVG pilots how to counter the Japanese aerial tactics.

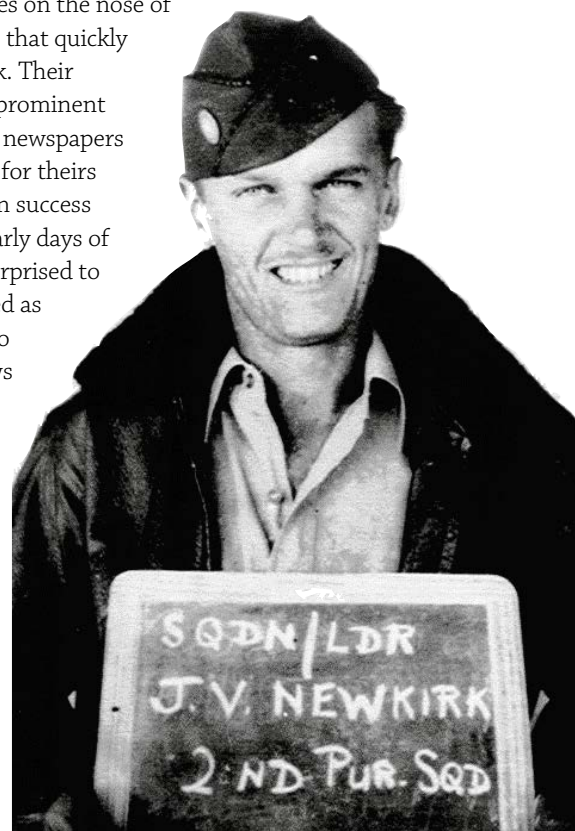
To give their planes a more fearsome appearance, the AVG personnel copied a feature they ran across in magazine photos of German Messerschmitt ME-210s in Europe and British P-40s in Africa. They painted a shark's mouth and eyes on the nose of their P-40s—a design that quickly became their hallmark. Their exploits soon earned prominent coverage in American newspapers and radio broadcasts, for theirs was the only American success story in those dark, early days of the war. They were surprised to find themselves lauded as "The Flying Tigers." To this day, no one knows for sure how this term originated. Perhaps it was a misinterpretation of the shark's head design painted on the planes. In any event, the name stuck, and a legend was born.

Jack Newkirk proved himself a fearless combat

**Top left: Claire Chennault**

**Top Right: Pilot wearing "Blood Chits," on his jacket**

**Below: LT Newkirk, 2nd Squadron Leader**







Squadron Leader John V. Newkirk, 28, of Scarsdale, N. Y., went to N. Y. Cathedral Choir School, was Eagle Scout, Time Inc. office boy, graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic. He trained as Navy flier at Pensacola, Fla., married a Lansing, Mich. girl.

leader, participating in every mission his squadron flew, and earning the respect of his men. The press called him “Scarsdale Jack,” but his self-chosen nickname was “Danger.” On 30 December, his 2nd Squadron, “The Panda Bears,” replaced the 3rd Squadron in the defense of Rangoon. In early January 1942, the Panda Bears took the offensive in strafing raids on enemy airfields in nearby Thailand. Jack led the first raid, and his squadron continued these raids through the rest of the month, despite Japanese retaliatory efforts with superior strength. On one

such raid, the Americans destroyed about 60 planes on the ground, their biggest victory of the war. The British awarded Jack Newkirk the Distinguished Service Order; he was the first American to receive this high honor in World War II. With typical modesty, he attributed the honor to his unit and radioed home, “Squadron decorated.”

Although the Flying Tigers continued to punish the enemy, it was to no avail. With their superior numbers, both ground and air, the Japanese captured Rangoon at the end of February, and the Tigers were forced to redeploy to airfields in northern Burma. However, they had cost the enemy dearly and had earned themselves a far-ranging reputation. In their 2½ month defense of

Rangoon with a force that varied from 5-20 serviceable planes, they had faced over a thousand enemy planes in the air and inflicted 217 definite kills and 43 probables, while losing only 16 planes (some on the ground) and 6 pilots.

In March, the Tigers and their RAF partners continued to oppose the steady Japanese advance northward through Burma. By this point, the AVG/RAF group had about 30 serviceable fighters left to face a Japanese force of 400-500 planes. On 19 March, two Tiger P-40s raided an airbase deep in Thailand and destroyed 19 planes on the ground. Determined to end this harassment, the Japanese struck back on the 21st with a damaging 266-plane raid on the Tigers’ main remaining airfield in Burma. On 24 March, the Tigers counterattacked with planes flying from a base in China. The famous ace, “Pappy” Boyington, led 6 planes from the 3rd Squadron against the Japanese airbase at Chiangmai, Thailand (now a major tourist resort). They caught 40 planes on the ground preparing for another raid on the Tigers’ Burma base, and destroyed them all.

In a separate action, Jack Newkirk led a flight of four Panda Bears in strafing a column of trucks and armored cars along a nearby highway. During a strafing run, antiaircraft fire hit his aircraft, causing it to explode in a ball of flame and crash in the jungle. Jack did not survive. His brief but brilliant military career ended at age 28. Official records credit him with 10 ½ definite air-to-air “kills,” although some reports at the time gave higher numbers. He left an indication of his character in

**Caption from LIFE magazine: For the album five more Flying Tigers pose in jeep car on the flying field. Front seat, from left: Newkirk, Geselbracht, Howard; in back: Bartling and Layher. Newkirk, the man making a face, has shot down 25 Japs so far, had seven or eight when the picture was taken at the end of January. Newkirk and Howard are squadron leaders. Other three are late arrivals. Photograph by George Rodger**



a letter to his wife:

There are certain things in every man's life that he cannot bear to leave undone if he is manly. Murder and bullying of peaceful, innocent peasants is one of those things I cannot stand for. Until I have done all in my power to relieve the situation, I cannot leave it for the other fellow. Besides, this task is ours only, for we are the only ones who are qualified to do it, and we need every ounce of manpower, every financial and material support and every mental uplift, or the whole thing will be impossible.

The Chiangmai raid slowed the Japanese offensive, and gave the British and Chinese more time for a successful evacuation of troops and equipment northward into China. However, the enemy offensive was ultimately unstoppable and by the end of April, they completed their Burmese occupation.

The end was approaching for the Flying Tigers. The men's one-year contract was expiring, and they were weary and strained after five months of intensive combat. Their Burma Road mission had ended, and with America now in the war and marshaling its formidable strength, more help for China from the United States was on the way. In the meanwhile, the Tigers continued to aid the war effort in interior China, providing close air support for Chinese troops, defending cities against air raids and, in their final days, escorting recently arrived American bombers on missions in Japanese-occupied areas.

The AVG disbanded on 4 July 1942. The surviving planes were absorbed into the new China Air Task Force, which in 1943, was expanded into the American Fourteenth Air Force, commanded by now-Major General Claire Chennault. The men scattered to resume their interrupted lives. Not surprisingly given their spirit of patriotic dedication and the war in progress, many of them continued serving their country—some in military service and others in the defense industry. A few even elected to return to China with the Fourteenth Air Force.

The Flying Tigers had compiled an amazing record. In seven months, they had destroyed about 300 enemy planes with another 153 "probables." They lost only 12 planes and 10 pilots killed in air combat, although the Japanese destroyed 61 planes on the ground. With courage and daring, and against overwhelming odds, the AVG and their RAF allies kept the Burma

Road, China's vital supply lifeline, open for two and a half critical months. After the string of setbacks in the early days of the Pacific war, their successes provided a much-needed boost for Chinese and American morale.

Many honored Jack as a war hero in a number of ways after his death, but there was a surprising development more recently. In 1993, two American military buffs and a Thai Air Force officer searched the jungle area where he crashed. They found a piece of metal from his aircraft and his original makeshift grave in a rice field, along with a memorial, which had crumbled. Aware of his exploits, in 1999 the Royal Thai Air Force erected a stone monument, topped by a bust of him, in a Chiangmai cemetery.

There is a final, satisfying chapter to add in the story of Jack Newkirk. After the war, Jack's remains were recovered and reburied in India. When his family received this news in 1947, they arranged to have his remains returned to the United States. In 1949, they were reinterred by his half-sister, Janet, in a Newkirk family plot at St. James the Less Church in Scarsdale, NY. In summary, the legend of Scarsdale Jack lives on, both among his family and friends at home, and in the faraway place where he "gave his tomorrows for our todays." ★



CPT Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr. (USMA, 1955), served with the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment on the East German border, and with a Nike missile battery in the Cincinnati Air Defense, before resigning for a career in finance with Chase Manhattan and later as a consultant for UBS Asset Management. He is the President, Hasbrouck Family Association, which led him to the story of Jack Newkirk, a Hasbrouck descendant.





# Pershing Rifles in Harm's Way

BG RAYMOND E. BELL, JR., PHD, USA (RET)

BG BULTMAN CHAPTER (122), VA

The Pershing Rifles were initially founded as a drill unit at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln by 2LT John J. Pershing. Ultimately, they were named in honor G/A Pershing. In 1894, 2LT Pershing was a Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. In 1895, the team was a competitor in the US Army's Silver Cup Drill Competition, where it won second place behind a United States Military Academy team.

The Pershing Rifles is a military fraternal organization for college-level students. It is the oldest continuously

operating US college organization dedicated to military drill. Today, there are sixty Pershing Rifles, company-sized organizations active in colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Fordham's Company D-8 is one of the country's most active units and the activities of members of the organization bear witness to that mantra. This article is about Fordham University's Pershing Rifles Company (8th Regiment, Company D), and introduces MOWW Companions to several of the organization's military alumni who have gone in harm's way in the last twenty-five years.



www.  
pershingriflessociety.  
org/wp-content/  
uploads/2015/08/93





## Parachutist to Political Science Specialist

LTC Jean-Marc Pierre, a former Pershing Rifleman ("PR") is a 1992 graduate of Fordham College where he majored in political science and philosophy, and participated in the Fordham University ROTC Program as a PR. His military journey began even before he received his commission as in 1990 he attended and graduated from the Army's Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA, then the exclusive "home of infantry," and its airborne and ranger departments.

In 1992, Jean-Marc found himself in a branch of the Army where jumping out of aircraft and mucking through swamps or tramping up and down mountains were not relevant activities. Instead, on being commissioned, he joined the Armor Branch. Nevertheless, he took the opportunity to add the Air Assault qualification badge to his resume while attending Armor Basic for newly commissioned tank and armored cavalry officers.

His first unit assignment took him to Fort Hood, the massive Army base in Texas where large formations of tank and armored cavalry units practice their armor-protected firepower and mobile trade. There he served as platoon leader and executive officer of a tank company from 1993 to 1996. It was a good assignment that prepared him for his first exposure to going in harm's way. The Gulf War was over, but duty on the front line of Korea's Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) held the promise of incipient action, and had the potential for erupting into full-scale war at the whim of North Korea's dictator.

Duty for armor officers in South Korea is a prime opportunity to train in the face of a possible aggressor. It entails bringing mobile firepower to bear on a hostile force primed for immediate combat. Serving on the DMZ requires iron nerves, and capacity for quick and decisive action should it be called. Jean-Marc, now commanding a forward deployed tank company, had to be prepared to go into action on what amounted to in a split second if the occasion should arise. For him, the two years in Korea with the Army's 2nd Infantry Division was a good introduction for what he was to experience later in his Army career.

After attending various military educational institutions and serving as trainer, staff officer, and advisor in different organizations, Jean-Marc went in harm's way in 2002 in Afghanistan as a coalition liaison officer.

This duty placed him in the field at a time when the Americans were just opening an embassy in Kabul, and contact with allies Great Britain and Australia was being established.

It was then that he recognized the value of the small American flag worn on his right shoulder when he visited Afghan villages while traveling through the countryside. The local people were drawn to US Army personnel as they recognized that the Americans and allies were there to banish the Taliban. In spite of the potential for attack and ambush by the foe, because of his positive contact with the indigenous population, his efforts to be effective in making the people safe from Taliban hostility kept him out of harm's way.

Jean-Marc's study of political science and philosophy at Fordham was now coming into play and working to his and the country's advantage. His stint in Afghanistan was a major departure from being an executive officer in a tank battalion in Germany or a cavalry troop trainer in South Carolina. In 2006, he saw his first duty tour in Iraq, this time as a political-military strategic planner with the multi-national corps headquarters. However, as in Afghanistan, Jean-Marc did not tarry long in an air-conditioned office. He was frequently in the street, in addition to planning security measures for high profile individuals and events.

In 2006, he saw what he liked in Baghdad and surrounding areas. As he put it, "Food was available. The downtown markets of Baghdad and Basra thrived like the spice markets I had once visited in Egypt." In the



**LTC Jean-Marc Pierre, USA (right), and COL Mark Riccio, USA (left), also a Fordham PR, in Baghdad.**



same memoir he wrote, "The world outside of the Iraqi capital city was very good." This comment, albeit taken out of context, characterized his hopefulness that his work with the new Iraqi government would produce a viable country.

During the course of one of his "being on the street" sorties in Baghdad, he hitched a ride with fellow Pershing Rifleman, Colonel Mark Riccio, a 1982 graduate of Fordham. Although they had not known each other previously, the PR connection became quickly known and resulted in a photo taken under the infamous Crossed Swords in the city.

Sadly, when he returned to Iraq in 2010 he found that the optimism he experienced in 2006 had faded. It distressed him to learn that many Iraqis were preparing to leave the country once the American forces departed. He found that many officials at the Iraqi Ministry of Defense had villas outside Iraq and were going to leave as the situation deteriorated. Jean-Marc found many reasons for this deterioration, not the least of which he attributed to rampant Iranian intervention in Iraqi affairs.

Now in 2010, he was working in the political-military field at a high governmental level, which gave him a perspective far different from the one when he was commissioned almost twenty years before. However, his participation in Fordham's Pershing Rifles as a firm professional military base combined with his degree in political science and philosophy has positioned him well in being able to make valuable contributions in the upper reaches of national defense planning and operations. He later found himself in Washington DC, exercising his talents on the Joint Staff and, in 2015, on

a mission to Jerusalem. As of writing this article, he is assigned as the senior international relations officer for the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

### **Providing Comfort**

John A. Bivona, currently a colonel in the US Army Reserve and serving in Washington, D.C. at the National Defense University, graduated from Fordham in 1989 with a BA. He was in ROTC at Fordham and in the elite Pershing Rifles at a time in which the Soviet Union was being dismantled, and when American soldiers were not going in harm's way. That did not last long. In the spring of 1991, after Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces were thrown out of Kuwait, he was, in a rather strange manner, on his way to provide comfort, not war.

Bivona was to participate in Operation Provide Comfort in the Kurdish environs of northern Iraq. He would operate out of Turkey on reconnaissance missions and secure aircraft that had made emergency landings. The overall operation, however, entailed giving thousands of Kurdish refugees who were desperately fleeing the tyranny of Saddam Hussein needed "comfort" as expressed in terms of food, water and tents. This humanitarian assistance was being provided by a multitude of nations, a principal one being the United States, but including other Western countries. For example, the British Royal Navy medical personnel served alongside US Navy Reserve doctors in an environmental and preventive medicine unit in northern Iraq.

When US Army 2LT John Bivona was newly commissioned, he got a vigorous start to his military career. Although a member of the Infantry Branch, he was on his way in 1991 to joining a multinational battalion consisting of Soldiers from six different nations, which required little use for pistols, rifles, and machine guns within the overriding context of international troops enforcing the Iraqi no-fly and no-troop zone. His unit's specific task was to oversee and execute the requirements for providing succor. It proved to be no easy mission to accomplish.

Along the border of Northern Iraq and Turkey proved, and still does today, to be a very difficult one in which to operate. As one military participant in Operation Provide Comfort recorded, "The roads going up the mountains were very narrow, with no guard rails, and one wrong turn could send you tumbling down the mountain. It was hairy, to say the least." As the

**COL John Bivona,  
USA**





humanitarian operation continued into the summer, the heat with the accompanying and suffocating dust hampered but did not slow the provision of needed help. For Bivona, he hardly felt it was comfort as we know it that he was providing under the circumstances. It was not the kind of war he had studied as a Pershing Rifleman in Fordham's ROTC battalion.

### **Into Harm's Way**

After serving in Kurdish territory in northern Iraq in 1991, it was not until 2003 that Bivona stepped foot in that part of the world again. However, this time he served as a UN peacekeeper in Macedonia for 90 days in 1993. In 2004, Bivona was back again and this time it was definitely not comfort, but war—and a particularly vicious one at that. In addition, this time he took care to wear body armor and carry a weapon while constantly on his guard. He was going in harm's way in, among other places, the treacherous and dangerous Iraqi city of Fallujah while also operating in the towns of Kirkush and Asulamanlyai. He was also now a major in the US Army Reserve and performing as what he was initially trained to be, i.e., an infantry officer while functioning as a troop advisor.

His role was the executive officer, or second in command, of a training team, better known as a Military Transition Team. During in 2004 and 2005, the team, consisting of forty-four personnel from the US Army, Navy and Marine Corps, deployed to Fallujah. The town turned out to be a particularly hot spot for combat operations, and the task of advising and mentoring a 2,700 man Iraqi infantry brigade proved to be a daunting one.

The Iraqi Army of Saddam Hussein consisted of hardy men, but it was unevenly led. The relationship between the individual soldier and officer was unlike that between that of an American Soldier and officer. While the American officer is focused on accomplishing the mission, taking care of the individual is of great importance. This was not the case in Hussein's Iraqi Army. This made it difficult for the Americans to teach, or even influence, the Iraqis to be able to conduct independent combat operations. For Bivona, now an experienced army officer, his position demanded that he use everything he had learned all the way from ROTC at Fordham through the US Army education and training system. For him and the members of the transition team, the task proved to be formidable. Today he cannot help but wonder how effective his advising and

mentoring was.

Regardless his efforts, John Bivona had military opportunities, which were unique in the time he served his country. Looking back to his time at Fordham and his participation in the ROTC program, he could hardly have expected to participate in situations and operations going from those involving providing comfort to one where he was in harm's way.

### **Find, Fix, Finish, Exploit, and Repeat**

Finally, if you were to ask MAJ Marc Castellucci, a 2000 graduate of Fordham University and a member of its Pershing Rifles, what he initially did in Iraq and Afghanistan, his short answer might be "Find, Fix, Finish, Assess, Exploit and Repeat." In six combat deployments, three in Iraq and three in Afghanistan, Marc started out accomplishing the aforementioned tasks and ended up, as he put it, connecting "...the [Afghan] people to the government for the purpose of facilitating the proliferation of a strong government in Afghanistan that mirrored the US, and mirrored democracy with its own special Afghan flavor."

Marc's six different deployments bring the question to mind, what is the connection between what Marc did in Afghanistan, then in Iraq, and finally again in Afghanistan? To find, fix, finish, exploit, assess, and repeat is to execute the cycle in warfare, which has as its goal to accomplish such a mission, as Marc described above. In his military career, he has been a participant throughout the entire combat process at one time or other.

Still, what does Marc mean by "find, fix, finish, exploit, assess, and repeat?" For the initiated, the words are "military speak" used by those in the intelligence community for different targeting actions related to military operations. "To find" means to gather information, which leads to developing intelligence. "To fix" is to turn the information into specific credible intelligence, which helps to inform a mission. "To finish" means to execute that mission using the intelligence developed from the gathered information. "To exploit" means to use the results of the mission, hopefully successfully executed, to further enhance the positive outcomes of the mission. "To assess" means to review the tactics, techniques and procedures utilized, and determine their suitability futuristically. "To repeat" means to use again techniques successfully employed in a particular task to accomplish future, additional related missions.



### Initial Experiences in Afghanistan

Marc, today a Major in the Connecticut Army National Guard, had what can only be described as a unique experience in the combat zones in Asia. Not even two years after being commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army's Intelligence Branch, he found himself deployed to multiple remote provinces in eastern Afghanistan in the summer and early autumn of 2002. The then-unsuccessful hunt for Osama bin Laden was on and the Taliban were on the run. He was in "the find" phase. Although it did not lead to the whereabouts of bin Laden, it did provide information to be developed into intelligence, which helped rout the Taliban.

"The fix" phase in Afghanistan was successfully accomplished, at least temporarily, when the Taliban movement was practically dismantled. Consequently, in late autumn into winter of 2003, Marc and his comrades saw the mission accomplished and he got breathing space—a promotion to first lieutenant. He then returned to Afghanistan to "finish" what seemed to be the demise of the Taliban and make another effort to find bin Laden.

Marc's participation in his second deployment to combat actions in Afghanistan did not last long. His experience was needed elsewhere and shortly after the New Year, he found himself in Central Asia. It was the year 2003 and the planning of the invasion of Iraq was reaching a crescendo. Was Marc going to get a chance to "exploit" what he undertook in Afghanistan? Apparently, he was not. Iraq represented a whole new challenge.

### Interlude in Iraq

Marc now made his third combat deployment. As a member of a special operations unit, he joined an element that had parachuted into western Iraq at the beginning of the invasion. His tasks were essentially the same as those he had undertaken in Afghanistan, but unlike the case of the Taliban, he was to encounter a mixed reception in dealing with the Iraqis.

The United States high command, having dissolved the Iraq armed forces, found an unexpected adversary. Instead of exploiting the capabilities of Saddam Hussein's military organizations by "turning" them into cooperative entities, the American "interim authority" had made thousands of men unemployed and once again potential enemies as resistance fighters.

In June 2003, Marc returned to the United States for a two week break. It looked like Iraq was free of Saddam Hussein and his cohorts. But other forces were at work. When he returned at the end of June, he was deployed to several desperate cities, which had been continually contested for years since that time. He was now the commander of an experimental special operations team. He described his responsibility as a junior captain as doing "...the entire spectrum of the targeting cycle, all under one roof, where the task to find, fix, finish, exploit, and repeat..." was very significant since it is "...the backbone of the entire process that feeds into actual orders generation into targeting." He was to find in 2010 that the experience in Iraq informed the one he

A unit from the National Society of Pershing Rifles pose with trophies.





was to have in Afghanistan, where he was deployed there for the last time from 2010 to 2011.

## Out From Underneath the One Roof

After a five year hiatus in the United States with the Connecticut Army National and now a senior captain, Marc got the opportunity to put to work the targeting he been involved with in previous deployments. It was an opportunity, which placed him in harm's way from January to December 2010 as a rifle company commander in a notoriously kinetic province in eastern Afghanistan.

He took command of the most remote and isolated combat outpost operated in Operation Enduring Freedom, which was conducted in his part of Afghanistan that featured extremely mountainous terrain. His Spartan mountain side command post overlooked multiple valleys rife with insurgents as well as non-combatants. His company's area of operations consisted of over a hundred square kilometers of "battle space."

Marc's combat experience was significantly different from that of the previous eight years, and the mission of this deployment was an entirely new one. Part of what his task, however, was that of his first deployments to Afghanistan—one of promoting strong national government. However, now he was engaged in dealing directly with the enemy. Known as "direct action," his company conducted a multitude of air assault missions as the infantry brigade's lead element, as well as hundreds of local patrols.

The unit's basic mission was to clear key villages of insurgent occupation and activity. This involved taking the intelligence similar to that he had developed in previous deployments and entering a potentially hostile area, usually by means of helicopter, either fighting the entrenched enemy or establishing a stabilizing presence in a village.

Marc described his activity as emanating from one austere combat outpost to battle by air assault into another remote austere location, and then returning to the original base for preparation for the next



### PR DRILL MEET & CONVENTION

The National Society of Pershing Rifles will hold their annual National Convention and John J. Pershing Memorial Drill Meet from 10-12 March 2016 in Chantilly, VA. It features social events, business and legislative sessions, local tours, and drill team rehearsals. The Pershing Memorial Drill Meet will occur on 12 Mar 16 at the NOVA Field House (14810 Murdock Street; Chantilly, VA). The formal banquet will occur on at the Marriott Washington Dulles Hotel, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly, VA.

For further information, contact the Pershing Rifles at <http://www.pershingriflessociety.org/contact-us/>.

mission—and hopefully, for some rest. A mission fighting the Taliban might last for from five to ten days before a satisfactory result had been obtained, or the task might call for redeployment to the base outpost. He characterized the action as pretty much "non-stop."

It has been more than five years since Marc made his six deployments to the battle zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. As a former member of the Pershing Rifles at Fordham University, today he looks back on his battle experiences as character defining. To be sure, the outcomes of his combat efforts have had some serious implications with regards

to the overall conduct of operations, both military and civilian in the two countries.

## Diverse Contributions

Fordham University Pershing Rifle graduates' diverse contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan demonstrated a dedicated effort by ROTC-commissioned officers to be effective members of the United States Army in combat environments encompassing a wide range of parameters. None of the above three officers would say their experiences led to ultimate victory as Americans would have it. However, each served in causes, which tested their character and competence. In all cases, having been a Pershing Rifleman while at Fordham clearly enhanced their effectiveness when the time came to serve in harm's way. ★



BG Raymond E. Bell, Jr., AUS (Ret), commanded the 220th Military Police Brigade before retiring in 1989. A Vietnam veteran, he is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, and attended both the Army and National War Colleges.



# MOWW Honors LANL Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan

CAROL A. CLARK

REPRINTED COURTESY OF THE LOS ALAMOS DAILY POST  
DECEMBER 10, 2015

On behalf of the Military Order of World Wars, chapter commander LTC Gregg Giesler presented the prestigious Silver Patrick Henry Medallion to Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan. The Silver Patrick Henry Medallion is the highest honor given by the MOWW.

"We presented the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion to Dr. McMillan for his many years of dedicated service to national security," said Giesler of the MG Miles Chapter.

MOWW is a patriotic Veterans Service Organization (VSO) centered on its motto, "It is nobler to serve than to be served." Established in 1919, the organization

promotes the welfare of this nation and provides an opportunity for officers of all uniformed services to unite in a strong program to promote national security, patriotism, good citizenship and service to country.

McMillan was the featured speaker Sunday at the Los Alamos Research Park for the local group's annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration, which included members from Santa Fe. He explained that it was the fourth time this year he has presented the talk titled, "Adapting to Geopolitical Uncertainty Through Technological Understanding".

"You're going to get the most refined version of this talk, which I've given to all three service academies this





year,” McMillan said.

During his talk, McMillan discussed ramifications of the increasing pace of technological change during the current period of geopolitical uncertainty. Beginning with a discussion of the development of nuclear weapons during the race for victory in World War II, McMillan illustrated how groundbreaking scientific ideas by Albert Einstein in the early 20th century helped usher in the “Golden Age of Physics.”

He explained that these ideas not only led to victory against Japan in WWII, but also to other—sometimes surprising—technological discoveries that have shaped the modern geopolitical landscape.

“Only by cultivating a working and practical knowledge of scientific and technical concepts, will tomorrow’s leaders be ready and able to meet the challenges of a complex world driven by a rapidly changing technical environment,” McMillan said. ★

**Page opposite, far left (L-R): LANL Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan with MG Miles’ Chapter Commander LTC Gregg Giesler after being presented with MOWW’s SPH.**

**Page opposite, inside left: LANL Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan uses a special prop during his talk.**



**This page, top: LANL Director Dr. Charles F. McMillan answers questions about his presentation.**



**(L-R): MG Franklin Miles, and LTC Norman G. Wilson.**





# Enhancing ROTC Outreach

MAJ EARL JOHNSON, USAF (RET)

COMMANDER | HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER (026), VA

The Hampton Roads Chapter hosted its first annual JROTC High School Drill Competition on 24 October 2015, in cooperation with the Northampton Community Center in Hampton, VA. The event was borne out of the process of reaching our goal—nominating our small chapter for a GA Pershing (Activity) and JROTC Awards.

The idea to host a drill competition came from a discussion of how to select a deserving JROTC instructor who was also interested in joining our chapter. Those discussions lead to the questions “Why don’t schools have drill competitions locally, and what would it take for the chapter to host one?” We visited with the Bethel High School instructors to ask the pertinent question. The instructor, SFG Ricky Coston, stated, his “... school and others would love to participate in a local drill

competition. It would save them travel time, money, and still meet their academic requirement.”

The basic requirements to serve as judges would be: 1) a facility with a gym, 2) reasonable date and, 3) active duty personnel familiar with standard operating procedures for the program.

The drill required and included persons with knowledge of open ranks inspections, color guard procedures and an ability to evaluate competitive drill. An attempt was made to obtain the Bethel High School gym, but that was turned down, and it would not have been cost-effective, i.e., we had to pay for janitorial service and a security person. Finally, 4) we needed to purchase appropriate trophies.

Over twenty enlisted volunteers from E-5 to E-9 from Langley-Eustis Joint Base and eight Senior ROTC cadets from Hampton University served as judges, scorekeepers and trophy distributors.

Then I asked the manager of the Northampton Community Center, and she was excited that I had asked. NCC provided their venue at no charge, and that included the use of their kitchen to serve lunch to the cadets and staff. All they asked was that we state in our advertisement flyer that the drill was in cooperation with the Northampton Community Center.

Ten local schools were invited, but only seven were able to participate on short notice. The Langley Air Force Base Honor Guard, in conjunction with the Color Guards of the participating schools, made for a prestigious opening ceremony. In the audience were parents, veterans and some community leaders.

There was no money made on this adventure; that wasn’t the point. Instead, it was primarily designed to give to the community while simultaneously introducing MOWW to our local community. Hopefully, as we continue to heighten our chapter profile, we can increase our membership. That’s our objective; that’s what we’ll achieve. ★



*Editor’s Note: “Bravo Zulu” is a naval signal, conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio, meaning “well done”; it has also passed into the spoken and written vocabulary.*





# Apache Trail Massing of Colors

LTC PATRICK C. STOLZE, USA (RET)

APACHE TRAIL CHAPTER (207), AZ

The Apache Trail Chapter conducted its annual Massing of Colors ceremony in partnership with the Marcos de Niza High School Army JROTC Program at its high school gymnasium on 4 December 2015 in Tempe, AZ. All attending were moved by the proceedings.

MAJ Robert Fore, USA (Ret), Senior Army Instructor, was the Master of Ceremonies. The ceremony featured the 220 cadets of the Marcos de Niza High School Army JROTC Program who served guides, ushers, and a Colonial Color Guard. They also carried the Colors for patriotic organizations participating from throughout Arizona.

Chaplain Deacon Joseph Spadafino shared inspirational messages during the Invocation, Blessing of the Colors, and the Benediction. Under the direction of Mr. Scott Glasser, the Marcos de Niza High School Orchestra played martial music leading up the ceremony, followed by the National Anthem, and the various Armed Forces' songs. Under the guidance of Mr. Darin Shryock, the Marcos de Niza Acapella Choir sang the National Anthem.

Chapter Commander, LTC Edward McDowell, USA (Ret), read the Preamble. Next, the Adjutant of the Colors, SFC Larnel Norman, USA (Ret), played a very stirring historical documentary honoring those fallen American service men and women who gave their lives for our freedom in all conflicts since 1775 to the present. An anonymous Companion sponsored a breakfast following the ceremony at Mark's Café, concluding an extremely successful outreach event connecting MOWW and the community. ★

**Top: Deacon Joseph Spadafino delivered the Blessing of the Colors.**

**Middle: Mr. Scott Glasser conducted the orchestra as they played martial music leading up to the ceremony.**

**Bottom: JROTC Cadets, Colonial Color Guard, and the American Legion's Gilbert Post #39 of presented the Colors.**



# Endowment Grants

PCINC LTC ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB, USA (RET)

CHAIR, GRANTS COMMITTEE | HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER (AT LARGE)

## PURPOSE OF THE HANN-BUSWELL MEMORIAL CHAPTER ENDOWMENT GRANTS

- The Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter has established an endowment fund to promote the tenets of the Preamble of the Constitution of the Military Order of the World Wars, and to support the Strategic Goals of the Military Order.
- The Chapter's endowment fund earns interest from which grants may be made while keeping the principal untouched. Endowment (grant) requests will prompt funders to ask hard questions about the financial outlook of the applicant(s), and the intended use of the grant money requested
- *The Hann-Buswell Chapter's Grants Committee is seeking grant requests from MOWW chapters and national committee chairs, including ad hoc committees. Grant request procedures are listed below.*



## HANN-BUSWELL ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUEST PROCEDURES

- *The grant requests must be in MS Word.doc format, and received by the Chair, Grants Committee, NLT 60 days prior to the Hann-Buswell Memorial Chapter meeting at the 2016 Convention, i.e., by 10 June 2016. Grant requests must be sent to [hotspur38@verizon.net](mailto:hotspur38@verizon.net).*
- *The Grant request(s) must include a breakdown of the grant request, to include the grant money requested, the specific application of the grant money, and the justification for the request. The grant request must also cite the money raised by the requestor(s). In addition, it must directly support the Preamble to the Constitution of the Military or MOWW's Strategic Goals.*
- *The grant request(s) must also cite any previous year's grant, i.e., the amount requested, the amount received, and the specific use of the prior year's grant money.*

## HANN-BUSWELL ENDOWMENT GRANT REQUEST REVIEW PROCESS

- The Grants Committee will review grants received as outlined above, and will make a recommended disposition to the chapter's membership, e.g., approve in full, approve in part, defer, or deny.
- The grant requests and the Committee recommendation(s) are presented to the Chapter during its annual meeting at the MOWW Convention. Chapter members present will vote on each grant request, and the Chapter notifies the submitter of the disposition of grant request(s).
- A majority vote of the Chapter members present who are voting during the chapter meeting at the MOWW Convention are required to approve/deny/defer the grant request—in whole or in part.



# Proposing Amendments

PCINC CAPT RUSSELL C. VOWINKEL, USN (RET)  
CHAIR, CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS COMMITTEE

**The Military Order's Constitution and Bylaws are the supreme guidance of the Order. They are on the Military Order's website.**

## HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

- Per the MOWW Constitution and Bylaws, Companion proposals to amend either of these documents must make such proposals to the Chair, Constitution & Bylaws Committee, at the address in the MOWW National Directory by 15 February, annually.
- Proposals may submitted after that date but before March 15, annually, may be considered if a majority of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee finds that the subject of the proposal is an emergency matter.
- Proposed amendments received after 15 March will not considered for the MOWW Convention held that year. The process to submit proposed amendments to the MOWW Constitution and the MOWW Bylaws is identical.
- The full Committee will evaluate proposed amendments meeting the submission timing above and the submitter requirements below.



## SUBMITTER REQUIREMENTS

- *In proposing amendments to the MOWW Constitution and/or MOWW Bylaws, the submitter must:*
  1. *Cite the Article, Section, Paragraph, etc., proposed for amendment, and quote the current text applicable to that citation in full.*
  2. *Cite the Article, Section, Paragraph, etc., applicable to the text proposed, and provide the new (proposed) text in full.*
  3. *Provide the rationale for the proposed changes, i.e., specify the benefits resulting from adopting the proposed amendment.*
- *The three items above must be ready for publishing in a single MS Word document.*

## NOTIFICATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT CONVENTION

- Chapters and members of the General Staff will be informed of proposed amendments to be presented at the annual MOWW Convention at least sixty (60) days' notice prior to the annual MOWW Convention at which they will be presented for adoption.
- A three-fourths favorable vote of the delegates voting at the MOWW Convention is required to amend the MOWW Constitution.
- A two-thirds favorable vote of the delegates voting at the MOWW Convention is required to amend the MOWW Bylaws.







# SPH to Police Commissioner

2LT JASON A. SOKOLOV, USA (FMR)  
GREATER BOSTON CHAPTER (004), MA



On 1 September 2015, MOWW's Greater Boston Chapter had the privilege of welcoming as its speaker, former Boston Police Commissioner, Edward F. Davis. Mr. Davis was a key law enforcement figure in the dealing with the consequences of the notorious Marathon Bombing of 2013, an event that stunned the nation and struck a blow at one of the area's most treasured events and holidays, the Boston Marathon, which is held annually on "Patriots Day."

This holiday commemorates the Battles of Lexington and Concord on 19 April 1775, one of the first battles of the Revolutionary War. The entire region looked to Mr. Davis to apprehend the bombers and to ensure the security necessary for the resumption of normal life in Boston and the nearby communities was present.

The Greater Boston Chapter was privileged to confer the Silver Patrick Henry Award (SPH) for Patriotism upon Commissioner Davis for his superb work during and after that emergency, and also to recognize his extraordinary record of achievement during his 35 years law enforcement career.

In his years as the Police Commissioner of Boston, violent crime declined by thirty percent, while in his prior role as police superintendent of the nearby City of Lowell, violent crime declined by fifty percent. Such unusual reductions in the levels of violent crime are very seldom, if ever, seen in major American cities.

Commissioner Davis is now a fellow at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is also an internationally-recognized consultant on law enforcement techniques both in this country and abroad. Mr. Davis' speech to the Greater Boston Chapter was one of a series of recent speeches focusing on the general topic of Homeland Security, in which the Chapter has hosted speakers from first responders .North, the Massachusetts National Guard, the US Coast Guard and the Boston Police. ★





# Sharing Our Good Works

BRIG GEN ARTHUR B. MORRILL III, USAF (RET)  
CHIEF OF STAFF, MOWW

We want you to tell us about the good things your chapter is doing. Your submissions to me at [chiefstaff@moww.org](mailto:chiefstaff@moww.org) will be part of a recurring "Bravo Zulu" column. See page 16 of this issue for an example.

*Your submissions can be any length; photographs are strongly encouraged. They could be about an ROTC recognition program, how your chapter supports Eagle Scout projects, how you work with veterans, start a one-day YLC, or host a MOC. It's all good.*

You may think, "What we do isn't special." Believe me, whether your chapter has 10 or 350 members, what you do IS special. Whether your chapter is small or large, or your program is new or well-established, your good works deserve praise.

Please tell us about your good works so we can celebrate what you do and share your good ideas with each other—so we all benefit.

Here are just some examples of good works to be shared:

- ROTC/JROTC, e.g., recognition programs, marksmanship competitions, establishing and speaking at detachments.
- BSA/GS-USA, e.g., recognition programs, sponsoring Eagle Scout projects or working with GS-USA Councils.
- Monuments & Memorials, e.g., sponsoring memorials, cleaning and restoring monuments, wreath-laying, WWI commemorations.
- Veteran Support, e.g., honors and recognition, visitation, supporting Retiree Days, correction of records, helping veterans get medical treatment, reducing homelessness, finding housing, job application counseling, deployment homecomings.
- Patriotic Education, e.g., hosting YLCs (any length), sponsoring "YLC students, organizing or supporting Massings of Colors, supporting civic events and commemorations.
- Law & Order, e.g., recognizing L&O top performers, recognizing police academy graduates, participating in citizen ride programs.
- Homeland Security, e.g., civil defense or Red Cross training, guest speakers at chapter meetings, authoring articles.
- National Security, e.g., operating speakers' bureaus, servicing as guest speakers at chapter meetings, authoring articles.

Let's hear from you!

MOWW does great things, and your good works deserve praise! ★

## BRAVO ZULU



*Bravo Zulu, also referred to as "BZ," is a naval signal, typically conveyed by flaghoist or voice radio, meaning "Well done." In addition to US naval forces, NATO and other Allied naval forces use this term as part of their vernacular slang.*

*According to the "Navy Data" reference website operated by the US Navy, the term originates from the Allied Tactical Publication 1 (ATP 1), an Allied military maritime tactical signals publication which in the aggregate is For Official Use Only. Signals are sent as letters and/or numbers, which have meanings by themselves sometimes or in certain combinations. A single table in ATP 1 is called 'Governing Groups,' that is, the entire signal that follows the governing group is to be performed according to the 'Governor.' The letter 'B' indicates this table, and the second letter (A through Z) gives more information. "BZ" happens to be the last item of the governing groups table, and it means, "Well done."*

*In addition to flaghoists and voice radio use of the term, Bravo Zulu includes written correspondence and message traffic from senior US Navy, US Marine Corps and US Coast Guard officers in command or senior supervisory positions to congratulate or otherwise compliment contemporaries or juniors, to include their subordinate crews or commands, for outstanding performance.*

Source: Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bravo\\_Zulu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bravo_Zulu)



# Mosquitos and Things

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

No doubt, you are aware that there are things affecting the outcomes of events that never are recognized. The lowly mosquito is one of these. It is, no doubt, one of the most influential organisms in history.

We remember Yellow Fever and the Panama Canal. The rather simple plan—on paper—was to connect the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans by “simply” connecting the two with a grand ditch. The benefits would be infinite to commerce and warfare.

However, Panama (a country later created by Teddy Roosevelt to facilitate the US plan) is low, wet, and hot. Even tiny collections of water, such as on a leaf, are perfect places to nurture the yellow fever mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*), that can spread dengue fever, chikungunya, zika fever, yellow fever viruses, and other diseases. Interestingly, its lifecycle must include a blood meal. This blood comes from an infected or soon to be infected animal—especially human—which spreads the fever’s virus. Even today, this virus is fatal 50% of the time.

The infections and deaths of tens of thousands of people, and the resulting financial drain on assets, caused the French to abandon the canal project in 1904. It was not until the Americans and Dr. William Gorges controlled the mosquito population by draining swamps, used mosquito netting and spread oil on water collections, could the project completed. At the same time Yellow Fever was raging.

*Plasmodium*, commonly known as the malaria parasite, is a large genus of parasitic protozoa. Infection with *plasmodia* is known as malaria, a deadly disease widespread in the tropics. The parasite always has two hosts in its life cycle: a *Dipteran* insect host (mosquito) and a vertebrate host.

In large measure, the American Civil War occurred in the south. Malaria was always rampant and a part of life. From late spring until fall was the “sickly season.” Those who could, fled north or to high ground.



It was then thought that Africans were supposed to be immune to Yellow Fever and Malaria. Indeed, an African with ½ the sickle cell disease genes often were immune. His red cells could not support the mosquito’s life cycle. However, this was by no means a common condition.

Similarly, black and white troopers were able to get by in the south if they were “acclimated,” i.e., if they had and survived malaria or yellow fever and lived in the South. Northerners were generally not acclimated, and so they fell in disturbing numbers. Many units reported well over 200% of cases over time.

The South counted on disease in the summer to slow down Union progress and it often did. The Federals occupied New Orleans long after Confederates abandoned it due to a raging yellow fever epidemic.

General Butler got this under control by meticulous cleaning and the elimination of standing water. “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead” made Admiral Farragut famous. However, few know the port of Mobile Alabama was so over run by disease that the rebels could not put up an effective fight.

The law of unintended consequences took hold when Malaria was essentially eliminated-world wide- by DDT. Later, DDT was banned, and malaria is again a leading killer worldwide.

Be well. ★



CPT (Dr.) Robert E. Mallin, USA (Fmr), is a graduate of Adelphi University and New York Medical College. He is certified with the American Board of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In private practice from 1975-94, he was the Alaskan State Physician of the Year. While in the US Army (1966-1968) he earned a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Air Medal, and a Combat Medical Badge.



# Taking a Heavenly Perspective

CH (COL) WILLIAM K. BROCK, AUS (RET)  
CHAPLAIN GENERAL, MOWW



Let me share a story about a pioneer missionary couple in Vietnam, Reverend Gordon H. and Mrs. Laura Smith. I met Reverend Smith at a chaplains conference in Vietnam in 1972. Among many other projects and activities, he and his wife Laura started the first leprosarium in that part of the world.

He told me that it was in 1945 when eighteen Vietnamese came to the mission compound in Banmethuot, Plieku Province. They stated that they were kicked out of their village and had no place to go. When asked, "Why," they said, "We have leprosy." The Vietnamese are very afraid of leprosy.

After this experience, Reverend Smith said he went to see the French doctor and asked if there were any other lepers. The French doctor responded, "The woods are full of them."

Reverend Smith asked, "What happens to them?"

"After they get so bad they shoot fiery darts at them," the doctor replied.

"Doesn't that hurt," Smith asked the French doctor?

"Well, they cry out a little," said the doctor. Gordon Smith was to discover that this was the most leprosy-infested area in the world.

This missionary couple then felt compelled to do something for the lepers. Reverend Smith stated that he wrote to his home church headquarters (the Christian Missionary Alliance Church), asking if he could work with

lepers. The response came back to the effect, "Go ahead if you want to, but don't ask for any money."

This leads to the point of this article. Reverend Smith's response was this, "You know if you look up at the Swiss Alps they look gigantic, almost insurmountable. However, if you fly over them in an airplane they don't look nearly so big. From a heavenly viewpoint, things look a lot different." Yes, from a heavenly viewpoint, things look a lot different. The mountains are not nearly as big.

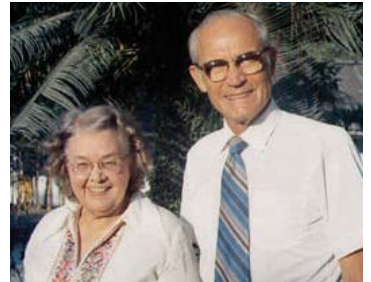
Eventually, Reverend Smith made a 16mm film to be shown in churches back in the United States indicating that for one hundred dollars, a house for one leprosy family could be built. This represented the beginning of leprosariums and medical treatment for lepers in that part of the world.

In our own lives, the mountains we face in life are not nearly so insurmountable when viewed from a heavenly viewpoint. As we are reminded, "All things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23

Our faith gives us the confidence to confront the mountains we face in life. Because of that, we can travel with the assurance that there is one who walks with us in all circumstances. ★



*CG (COL) Brock retired from the Veterans Administration in 1997 after 20 years of service, and earlier retired from the US Army after 33 Active Duty and Reserve years as a Military Chaplain. He is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis and the United Theological Seminary. His military education includes the Chaplain's Basic and Advanced Courses, US Army Command & General Staff College, and the National Security Management Course. He is a past Commander of the Ft. Hood Chapter and is active in the First United Methodist Church in Waco (TX). He and his wife, Evelyn, have two daughters and six grandchildren.*



**Left: Happy Haven orphanage and leper colony near Da Nang**

**Above: Reverend Gordon and Mrs. Laura Smith**

**Below: Gordon built and had the first travel trailer in Vietnam.**

Source: <https://photos.travelblog.org>





LTG MIDDLETON (056), LOUISIANA

## Massing of the Colors—Ablaze with Old Glory

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

Parkview Baptist School gym was ablaze with Old Glory on 10 November as the LTG Troy H. Middleton Chapter hosted its annual Massing of Colors ceremony for the student body and public. Before an audience of 650 attendees, 20 Color Guard units paraded in and lined the gym with the US Flag and their unit colors to an inspiring march played by the Parkview HS Band. Cadet Commander of Troops, Cadet LTC Alisha Parker of Tara High School, issued the vocal commands that moved the mass of flag-carrying corps through the ceremony.

Color Guards representing US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (Baton Rouge), LSU Pershing Rifles Company D-17, Civil Air Patrol Ascension Composite Squadron, Knights of Columbus Bishop Ott Assembly, Parkview Eagle Scouts, Parkview Boy Scouts, Parkview Girl Scouts, and ROTC units from Tara HS, Central HS, St. Amant HS, Zachary HS, Belaire HS, Broadmoor HS, Glen Oaks HS, Lee HS, Northeast HS, McKinley HS, Scotlandville HS and Woodlawn HS.

Ms. Donna Britt, WAFB 9 News Anchor, delivered a focused and rousing challenge to the youth: to lead the charge to honor those who have served and those who continue to serve the nation, while learning the founding ideals that make our nation exceptional. *[Editor's Note: This speaks to MOWW's YLC Curriculum.]*

Parkview's choir performed the military service songs as veterans from the services stood in turn to the applause from the audience. The Baton Rouge Pipes and Drums played their traditional bagpipe favorites, along with a medley of patriotic songs.

Before the end of the program the winners of the annual Color Guard Competition were announced by LTG Middleton Chapter Commander, LTC Patrick L. Widner, USA (Ret). LTC Widner presented the award to St. Amant High School with its near perfect synchronization as champion. First runner-up was Broadmoor High School with its specialized marching footwork.

**Top left:** Ms Donna Britt, WAFB 9 News Anchor, the MOC keynote speaker, is greeted prior to the program by LTG Middleton Chapter Vice Commander, LTC Reginald Brown, USA (Ret); **Bottom left:** US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge Color Guard of MMST2 James Nichols, MST3 Michael Thacker, ME3 Joseph Maldonado, BM3 Jarret Guerra was the lead Color Guard for the MOC ceremony.

**Right L-R:** LSU Pershing Rifles, Company D-17, Color Guard of Elijah Jones, Todd Dixon, Chris Scheuermann, and Ethan Nicosia. The unit is performing for the first time in its new LSU historical cadet uniforms. Chris Scheuermann is currently serving as the National Executive Director of The Pershing Rifles Group.





PUERTO RICO (121)

## SPH to Former PR Senator

### Lucy Arce Ferrer

BY LTC JORGE MAS, USA (RET)

The Chapter made a special trip to the city of Aguadilla. Our guest speaker for this occasion was Mrs. Lucy Arce Ferrer, a native of Aguadilla, and former Puerto Rico Senator who briefed us on the proceedings of the Senate. We also had the opportunity to recognize the distinguished former Senator Arce with the Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for patriotic achievement, citing her support for the military and veteran community during her tenure in office. Among her most significant accomplishments were the improvements to the State Veterans Home and the construction of the Atlantic City Veterans Cemetery in Aguadilla.

(L-R): COL Juan Figueroa-Laugier, USA (Ret); Mrs. Lucy Arce Ferrer, and LTC Jorge Mas, USA (Ret).



WEST VALLEY (131), ARIZONA

## Membership Kit Supports Strategic Goal 1 (SG 1)

BY LT COL TOD EIKENBERY, USMC (RET)

In November 2015 Chapter Companions developed a membership kit to help recruit new members.

Each Companion received two kits toward their effort to be an active participant in the recruitment drive in support of the Order's Strategic Goal 1: increasing annual membership by five percent. The kit includes a MOWW information paper, an application form, the Chapter's tri-fold information handout and the Chapter business card.

Chapter Commander Col Gerald Jenson, USMC (Ret), endorsed the kit as a valuable tool to help accomplish SG-1

**Best Practice**



SUN CITY CENTER (226), FLORIDA

## Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) Recognition Luncheon

LT COL JAMES R. WARCHOL, USAF (RET)

On 15 October 2015, the Chapter welcomed over 80 people to the annual YLC Recognition Luncheon. The luncheon recognized the achievements of the students who attended the Tallahassee Conference in May. In attendance were Companions, conference sponsors, students, parents, high school counselors and JROTC Senior Military Instructors. One student from each of the eight schools shared what the YLC experience meant to them. At the conclusion of the program, Bronze Patrick Henry Medallions were presented to Hannah Hines (Durant HS), Taylor Berlin (Lennard HS), Clayton Radford and Katelyn Wojtuk (Newsome HS) for their excellent efforts at the conference. Miss Wojtuk was also awarded \$250 as the Outstanding Student of this year's YLC.

**Best Practice**







MG MEADE (026), MARYLAND

### Silver Patrick Henry Award Presentation to CWO Earl Wade, USA (Ret).

BY CINC LTC RUTH L. HAMILTON, USA (RET)

In a special award ceremony, the Chapter presented a SPH (Silver Patrick Henry) Medallion to CWO Earl Wade, USA (Ret), a Companion of the MG Meade Chapter. CWO Wade was presented the plaque by MOWW CINC LTC Ruth L. Hamilton, USA (Ret). Chapter Commander CDR Robert Hartman III, USN (Ret), read the citation and PCINC LTC Alfred H. M. Shehab, USA (Ret), pinned the medal on his uniform.



REGION I (CT, ME MA, NH,RI, VT)

### LTC Dennis Christo, USA (Ret), Awarded SPH

BY LT JASON A. SOKOLOV, USA (FMR)

A Silver Patrick Henry Award was conferred by CDR Bob Gillen, USN (Ret), Commander of the Department of Massachusetts, on LTC Dennis Christo, USA (Ret). LTC Christo was formerly the Commander and inspirational leader of the Worcester Chapter, and currently the Region I Commander. He has been a leader and instructor in Youth Leadership Conferences conducted throughout Region I (co-sponsored by Norwich University). LTC Christo is a prominent participant in numerous veteran, patriotic, civic and religious activities in the Worcester and Boston areas.

**Top, L-R: CDR Bob Gillen, USN (Ret.) confers a Silver Patrick Henry Award to LTC Dennis Christo, USA (Ret). Below, L-R: VCINC LTC John Hollywood, USA (Ret), congratulates LTC Christo.**



SANTA CRUZ VALLEY (193), ARIZONA

## Chapter Honors One of Its Own

BY LT COL MARLON RUIZ, USAF (RET)

In May, the Chapter honored Companion CPT Benjamin Coppock, USA (Fmr), who was presented the Silver Patrick Henry Award and MOWW Membership Medal. The Medal was pinned with the silver star device, for his 25 years of faithful and loyal service to the Order. He has been a local Chapter member since 1990. Both Ben and his lovely wife Gloria were nominated as the Chapter's 2015 National Citation Award nominees and recognized at the MOWW National Convention in Tampa, FL, in August.



CAPE COD (005), MASSACHUSETTS

## Massachusetts Maritime Academy Graduation

BY CPT ROBERT P. DAVID, USA (FMR)

CPT Robert P. David, USA (Fmr), presented Cape Cod Chapter's annual awards to the top two naval science cadets on 20 June 2015. The awards were engraved pewter steins. The recipients were Ensign Andrew S. Morgan, of Jupiter, FL, and Ensign Jonathan Whitehouse, of East Wareham, MA, shown here with CPT David. They were commissioned in the Naval Reserve at the USS Constitution Museum, Charlestown, MA, on 18 Jun 2015.

(L-R): Ensign Andrew S. Morgan, CPT Robert P. David, USA (Fmr), and Ensign Jonathan Whitehouse.



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## Congressional Accountability Report 2015

The VA's Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs released three Fact Sheets to inform Congress on areas of interest within the Department of Veterans Affairs.



Following are excerpts from the fact sheets giving a glimpse into VA's plans and "strategic goals."

VA will continue to focus on the key drivers of staffing, space, productivity, and VA Community Care, with particular emphasis on improving the Choice Program and increasing Choice utilization.

While the number of veterans using VA for care has grown about 2% per year in the past, the pace in many locations where space, staffing, productivity, and community care enhancements have been emphasized, and is growing at multiples of that rate. For example, from 2012 to 2014, Las Vegas, NV, has seen the number of patients they are caring for grow 18%; Hampton, VA 16%; Portland, OR, and Fayetteville, NC 13% and Denver, CO, 10%.

Other highlights from the reports include:

- The Office of Special Counsel, the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Medical Inspector, and the newly established Office of Accountability Review provide strong oversight independent of field organizations within VA.
- The Office of the Medical Inspector, under new leadership, has completed a substantial overhaul of standards and processes to create a strong independent oversight of medical care delivered in VHA.
- VA has established the Office of Accountability Review (OAR) to ensure leadership accountability for improprieties related to patient scheduling and access to care, whistleblower retaliation, and related matters that impact public trust in VA.

VA began publicly posting patient access data online in June 2014. VA provides this access-to-care information to veterans and the public knowing that transparency and accountability would help improve care for veterans over time.

- On his first visit to the Phoenix VA last August, Secretary McDonald announced that every VA medical center would undergo an independent review of scheduling and access practices by the Joint

Commission, the nation's oldest and largest standards setting and accrediting body in health care.

- Medical center directors are required to ensure that all VA staff with scheduling privileges complete mandatory scheduler training and that scheduling operations are reviewed regularly.

- All VA facilities will hold town hall meetings quarterly to engage veterans, and improve the delivery of benefits and services.

- VA has initiated establishment of a department-wide program office to implement our Anti-Harassment Policy. This new program will ensure that allegations of harassment are promptly investigated and that VA management is alerted to conduct that is not consistent with our ICARE Values.

- All VA supervisors are required to take annual "Whistleblower Rights and Protection & Prohibited Personnel Practices" training.

Finally, the 113 medical facilities identified in the 2014 field audit, where questions were raised about appropriate scheduling practices, were all referred to the OIG (Office of the Inspector General).

The OIG accepted 99 of those referrals for formal investigation. After the OIG completes their review, as it has done in approximately 50 facilities, a follow-on field inspection may be necessary to collect all of the necessary evidence related to individual employee culpability.

Where both the IG and any follow-on inspection confirm no wrongdoing, those results are announced to inform veterans and the public. This has either been completed or public notifications are in process for 28 medical facilities at which no wrongdoing was found. Where wrongdoing is confirmed, disciplinary actions are pursued. These are in process for 2 locations and completed in 4 other locations. In 16 locations, follow-on field inspections are in process to determine whether, and what, accountability actions may be warranted. OIG findings are still pending at 49 locations.

While access has improved, veterans, by their own response to these improvements, are telling VA they want and expect more.

For the complete reports go to [http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USVAOCLA/2015/07/29/file\\_attachments/411810/VA%2BAccountability%2BFact%2BSheet.pdf](http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/USVAOCLA/2015/07/29/file_attachments/411810/VA%2BAccountability%2BFact%2BSheet.pdf) ★







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# Taps

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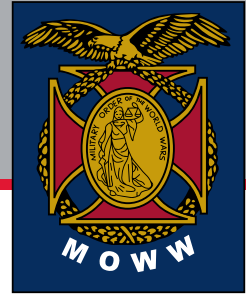
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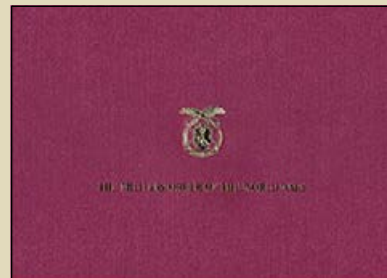
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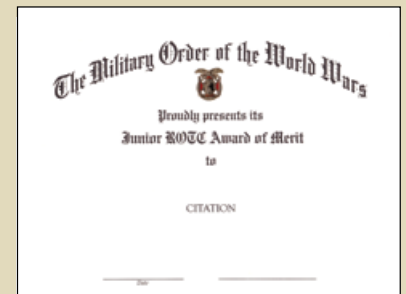
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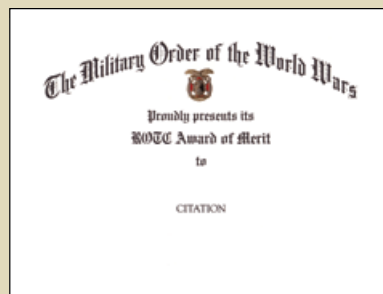
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