



POW/MIA Report:

AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR: There are still **1,740** US personnel listed by the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO) as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. The number of US personnel accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975 is now **843**. 90% of the 1,740 still missing were lost in Vietnam or areas of Laos and Cambodia under Vietnam’s wartime control.

USNS HEEZEN COMPLETES WORK OFF VIETNAM’S COAST: At long last, and thankfully, Vietnam’s leaders implemented their government’s prior agreement for the United States Navy Ship (USNS) Bruce C. Heezen, an oceanographic survey ship, to participate in humanitarian POW/MIA accounting efforts. **An objective sought by the League since 1994**, this bilateral effort should be able to expedite locating aircraft incident sites along Vietnam’s coast that could help account for US personnel believed lost over water during the war. The League appreciates the work of officials in both governments who helped bring about this significant step forward and looks forward to receiving a report on this historic mission during our 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting.

V.A. News:

From: Mohave Valley Daily News 6/22/09.

Veterans clinic build to take at least 11 months

Official cites ‘lack of available commercial space’ in Laughlin

By **JIM MANIACI**
News West

LAUGHLIN — The Secretary of the U.S. Veterans Administration says its will take a minimum of 11 months to build and staff a part-time outreach clinic in Laughlin once the contract for the building is awarded.

In a June 16 letter to 3rd District Congresswoman Dina Titus, D-Nev., relayed to the Laughlin Economic Development Corporation two days later, Eric K. Shinseki wrote that the VA’s Southern Nevada health care system “plans to contract for staffing and space to operate this new clinic. They are currently work-

ing on a solicitation, which will be released soon. The contracting process will take at least 44 weeks before the clinic is staffed and activated. The lack of available commercial space in the Laughlin area for leasing and the possible need for new construction our build-out of space will affect the activation schedule.”

He added that he directed the VA-SNHCS manager to keep Titus informed. Her district includes Laughlin.

The community qualified for the branch center when it reached 1,300

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VETS:

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enrolled military veterans seeking service in the North Las Vegas-based system, whose nearest branch is in Henderson where Laughlin vets currently have to go.

The clinic also is expected to draw heavy use from military veterans in northwestern Arizona who currently have to travel to Prescott in the mountains of Yavapai County or to Phoenix.

According to the economic development group, “Facility options have been identified and will be submitted to the VA-SNHCS for review and consideration.”

One local developer estimated about 3,000 square feet would be needed.

In May, the freshman congresswoman announced \$1.1 million had been allocated from \$274 million appropriated for 74 VA rural outreach centers. She said Laughlin would be a part-time clinic for primary care, mental health and ancillary health care services.

The clinic is part of the VA Southern Nevada effort to take the strain off the main hospital near Nellis Air Force Base.

VVA National News:

The Time Is Right For A New GI Bill

BY JOHN MITERKO, CHAIR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, WITH GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS STAFF

When Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) took office in January 2007, one of the first items on the freshman senator's agenda was to introduce S. 22, the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act. Today, 16 months and three iterations later, this legislation, a true GI Bill for the 21st century, boasts strong bipartisan support with 57 co-sponsors in the Senate, including 11 Republicans. Its companion bill in the House, H.R. 5740, has 234 co-sponsors. The bills have the endorsements of the nation's leading veterans' and military service organizations, with VVA one of the first to board the bandwagon.

What would this legislation accomplish if enacted into law? Under the current veterans education benefit, the Montgomery GI Bill, active-duty service members are eligible for up to \$9,600 in annual education benefits over four years. The flat payment remains the same regardless of the cost of the school, and troops have to pay into the system to reap the benefits.

S. 22 would provide Iraq and Afghanistan War veterans—indeed, any veteran who has served after Sept. 11, 2001—with up to four academic years of full, state college benefits covering room, board, and other expenses. If veterans go to private colleges or universities, they would be covered up to what the cost would be at a state-supported school.

“I see the educational benefits in this bill,” Webb said in a statement, “as crucial to a service member's readjustment to civilian life and as a cost of war that should receive the same priority that funding the war has received the last five years.”

Opponents of this bill claim it will cost too much. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the tab would be \$2.5 billion a year. That is the equivalent of one week's worth of fighting in Iraq.

Some in the Pentagon worry that enactment of S.22 will hurt retention. That is just plain wrong. Is it better for a troop to re-up and get sent back to the meat-grinder of war than to be afforded a chance at an education and a better life?

It is our hope that by the time you read this, the Senate and the House will have passed this historic legislation, and that the President, who always speaks so highly of the troops, signs it into law. [[Read complete article](#)]

There are many brochures available on the VVA Web site. Concerning Minority affairs, PTSD, Suicide, Women Veterans. Just to name a few. Check out this link. <http://www.vva.org/brochures.html>

Chapter News:

Next Meetings:

Kingman July Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting will be at 6:00 PM, General Meeting will be at 7:00 PM. on the 23rd of July 2009 at the Kingman VFW Post 10386, 3036 John L. Ave.

Lake Havasu August Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting will be at 6:00 PM, General Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on the 27th of August at the Lake Havasu Knights of Columbus Hall, 186 London Bridge Rd.

Bullhead City September Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting will be at 6:00 PM. General Meeting will be at 7:00 PM on the 24th of September June at the Sunridge Village Retirement Complex. 839 Landon Drive.

Presidents Report:

Everyone

I talked to Jim Carroll last night 7/9/2009, and he and Diane are doing well after their motorcycle accident and I told them that prayers are with them while they are healing. He had a broken collarbone and she has several broken ribs. Their daughter is there at the house helping them out.

Hope to see everyone at the Dedication and Open House, BBQ on July 18, 2009. See the website for information. We will dedicate our Office at 11:00 a.m. in memory of Joe Bibich. Our name for the Office will be “The Joe Bibich Veterans Service Office”.

Presentation of plaques will be presented to invited guests with BBQ to follow. Hamburgers, hotdogs, paper products and dessert will be provided. Members please bring a side dish and RSVP me at 928-753-4009 and tell me how many in your party. The dunk tank was used over the 4th of July holiday by Lake Havasu City and AVVA member Judy Lacey. She told me that the 4th festivities in Havasu went very well and she was told by those in charge to donate all the funds that were raised by the dunk tank to our Chapter the total came to \$204.00. We would like to thank Judy and Lake Havasu for their support of Veterans.

Summer is here so drink the proper liquids and take special precautions while out in the heat.

Check our website often as we have parades and events coming up. We are in of need membership participation in these events.

Ralph D. McKie
President

Secretaries Report:

On June 26th, Secretary Rich Poliska had a reunion with his fellow Air Force Air Traffic Controller. They were stationed at Vandenberg AFB together for training and both received orders for DaNang. Rich was assigned to Control Tower duty and his friend Ken Edling of Ventura Ca. was assigned Radar duty on Monkey Mountain. After spending 3 months together at DaNang, Rich was transferred to Hon Tre Island (off the coast of NhaTrang) for Radar duty. They lost contact when the transfer took place. Thirty nine years later, Rich Googled Ken and found his address. They talked by phone and e-mail and set up the long overdue face to face in Barstow, Ca. When they hooked up at noon, they did not stop talking for 14 hours (Gene Crego couldn't have said more). Both had at least two marriages, two daughters, both had served 8 yrs, both had the same rank, the similarities were frightening. Even their two vehicles were the same color. They posed for a picture that was a reenactment of their last meeting at the barracks in DaNang.

Rich



Chaplains Corner:

July 4, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Independence Day 2009! Another issue of the Chapter 975 Newsletter is here and I am pleased to report that God is on the throne and still in charge! When things got “unusual” a lady at our old church used to tell the pastor; God’s in charge, He’s still on the throne, everything is going to be OK! The bible says that “in this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer for I have overcome the world”. (John 16 v 33 NKJV) It also says Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6 v 17 NKJV)

I visited our new Veterans’ Service Office in Golden Valley yesterday and this is one of God’s blessings to us for our use in assisting our brothers and sisters in arms and their families. Thanks to Noel and Dave and all who have worked to make this a reality. “Never Again Will One Generation Of Veterans Abandon Another!”

Lord willing, I hope to see you at the picnic later this month and please take time to thank God for His grace and mercy and to pray for each other, our families, our government and our courageous young service men and women who are standing in harm’s way each day to protect our way of life and to ensure our freedoms.

Well, let’s all look forward to what Our Lord has in store for us as we continue to serve each other and our brothers and sisters in arms and our community.

Be careful out there!

If you would like to visit with a chaplain give me a call and call or email your praise reports and prayer requests. May Our Lord richly bless you!

Chap Tom

928 758 3942

chaplain@vva975.org



Communications Officer Report:

Lots of appreciation, both coming, and going this month.

I Received this Email from Sisto Sandoval

It is from Linda west.

Hi Marc,

I read the press release by the National Convention. Thank you again for inviting me. What a special honor! I am very grateful and touched by your thoughtfulness.

The VVA brothers in Arizona also are so incredible! I received a card last week from Larry Mitchell, Chapter 432, Phoenix, with a check from the state chapter to help with the trip's expenses. There also was a check from the Mohave chapter. I couldn't control myself, I became all teary-eyed. I am trying to raise money for the organization, and here the organization is helping me with the trip! It's unbelievable, I am lost for words. So, please don't worry about the projector. We can pay for it now.

Thank you so much.

God is good.

:) L

Ralph & Dave received this Letter from Walter & Barbara Werth.

Date: July 10th, 2009

From: Walter & Barbara Werth
Kingman Az. 86409

To: Vietnam Veterans of America
Mohave County Chapter 975
President, (Ralph D. McKie)
1st Vice President (Dave Stafford)

Dear Ralph and Dave;

I contacted you in May 2009 to seek help from your organization during a very difficult time for my wife and I. We have been struggling with the V.A. to obtain my benefits on several claims which are still in process. I was surprised how quickly Ralph responded to my call for help and am deeply grateful for all the help we received from all my fellow veterans there at chapter 975. In particular, we appreciate the help and kindness of Dave Stafford who went the extra mile to personally visit our home on several occasions to check on our needs and status with the V.A. More than that, he has given items to us from him and his wife which have allowed us to continue working on stabilizing our home and living conditions.

We want to thank you for all the food, money and gift cards which we desperately needed to survive in a time of hardship while we were waiting for the V.A. to start sending my benefits. We look forward to seeing all of you at the next meeting here in Kingman, to thank you all personally and get to know the members of Vietnam Veterans of America, much better.

Sincerely,

Walter & Barbara Werth

We have been giving out thank you Plaque's all month and there will be more to come.

On Friday July 3rd Gene Crego, Dave Stafford and Myself had the honor of presenting Tony Orlando a thank you plaque for the benefit concert he did for us and Bullhead City March 28th of this year. Picture on page 7

We now have a redesigned Chapter Logo voted on at the April Kingman Meeting, and a Chapter Patch design voted on at the June Bullhead meeting.

Our Chapter Shirts remain the same: a Light Blue Pocket Polo with the Chapter Logo embroidered above the Pocket. Name is optional on the right side.

These Shirts are available at the Silly Cactus in Bullhead City. If you need a Graphics file to submit to an Embroidery shop in your area let me know. Patches are not available yet as we are checking on the prices of different sizes.



Chapter Logo



Chapter Patch

VVA Chapter 975
Communications Officer
Jim Crumly

Editors Notes:

Chapter Newsletters are via Email only. Newsletters will also be available at the meetings and in the “Comm’s Quarters” on the website.

Please note that Dave has set up all the Chapter Officers with an “official” Email Address. The new Email addresses are in the Contacts List.

Our Policy; concerning Email address are:

Email addresses will only be given to officers of the chapter and others with need to know, to be used for chapter business only, and kept confidential.

All Emails will be sent “Bcc”. This keeps your address from being seen by others on the list.

If you request the Email address of a member, YOUR Email address will be provided to that person and they will contact you if they choose to communicate with you via Email.

Any and all submissions are greatly appreciated and will be used as space permits. **Deadline for the next Newsletter will be September 4th 2009.**

My Email address is comofficer@vva975.org , and my Snail Mail Address is Jim Crumly, P.O. Box 62, Bullhead City, AZ 86430-0062.

Website:

www.vva975.org

Please check out our website for upcoming events, and the current Newsletter

Contacts:

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Webmaster	Dave Stafford	webmaster@vva975.org	Cell (928) 716 6626
VSO Office	Wed – Sat 10am-12pm and 1pm -3pm		(928) 377-1101

Gene, Dave and Jim presenting a thank you plaque to Tony Orlando

