



Volume 20 Issue 8	Monthly Newsletter		August 2020
<p>ELECTED OFFICER Commander Larry Brewer Sr. Vice Commander Tim Valentine 1st Vice Cmdr Russ Jordan 2nd Vice Cmdr Cheryl Huggins Adjutant Ana Alicea-Diaz Treasurer James Hughes Chaplain Ted Imbasciani Judge Advocate Bill Townsley</p>	<p>COMMANDER'S CORNER DAV Mission Statement: "We are dedicated to a single purpose: empowering veterans to lead high-quality lives with respect and dignity. We accomplish that by ensuring that veterans and their families can access the full range of benefits available to them; fighting for the interests of America's injured heroes on Capital Hill; and educating the public about the great sacrifices and needs of veterans transitioning back to civilian life."</p> <p>Francis Mitchell is Department's 2nd Junior Vice Commander, he is our go to guy when we have any questions for the DAV Department.</p> <p>A meeting is being hosted by our 2nd Jr. Vice [department] on August 22, 2020 from 1400-1630 at Chapter 6 [Hampton]. The meeting is to be attended by all Chapter Commanders, Adjutants, Treasurers and Thrift Store Rep.</p>		
<p>APPOINTED OFFICER Certified Service Officers Greg Baskin, Bob Michaels, Terry Bohlinger, Carl Garrett, Jim Hughes, Cheryl Huggins, Tim Valentine, James Moore, Laura Skeith, Dave Austin</p> <p>Officer of the Day (vacant)</p> <p>Sergeant at Arms Chuck Silvers</p> <p>Benefits Protection Officer Bill Townsley</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer James Moore</p>	<p>Chapter #13 New Business Hours. MONDAYS: 9am to 2pm WEDNESDAY: 9am to 2pm</p> <p>Due to COVID-19 we will not have a Monthly Chapter membership meetings until further notice. We hope that in the future when restrictions are lifted, life will return to normal.</p> <p>After items have been dropped off for the Thrift Store outside please do not take any of those items, if you do, that is considered stealing.</p> <p>We are still looking for a volunteer to train as treasurer to help Jim Hughes out. So, if interested, please see the Treasurer or Commander.</p> <p>COMMANDER LARRY BREWER CHAPTER #13</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p> WWW.DAV13VA.COM dav@dav13va.com (757) 596-0062 1700E Geo Wash Mem Hwy, Yorktown, VA 23693 </p> </div>		

- The National Academy of Medicine's 2014 update, "Veterans and Agent Orange," published in 2016, concluded that there was compelling evidence for adding bladder cancer and hypothyroid conditions as presumptive diseases. Further, the study clarified that Vietnam veterans with "Parkinson-like symptoms," but without a formal diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, should be considered under the presumption that Parkinson's disease is service connected.
- The report noted that although the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has not found hypertension to be presumptively related to service in Vietnam, the committee reaffirmed the conclusions of previous studies that hypertension should be placed in the category of limited or suggestive evidence of association.
- On November 1, 2017, the VA issued a press release noting they were exploring these new presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposure.
- The December 2018 National Academy of Medicine report notes there is sufficient evidence of a relationship between hypertension and Agent Orange and recommended it to be added to the presumptive list.
- In a March 2019 congressional hearing, the VA indicated that a decision on these presumptives could be released within 90 days. Subsequently, in a 2019 Senate hearing in September, it was noted that VA leadership, in accord with Policy 0215, had been considering the addition of these diseases since early summer 2019.
- VA's manual acknowledges the following veterans may have been exposed to herbicides:
 - U.S. Air Force veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
 - U.S. Army veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
 - U.S. Army veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned an MP military occupational specialty whose duty placed him/her at or near the base perimeter.
- Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not provide presumption of service connection for diseases related to burn pit exposure, but continuing research may soon establish such links. Furthermore, existing statutes do not concede exposure to toxins from burn pits for those serving in areas known to have active burn pits.

Long-Term Health Effects of Anti-Malarial Medications

- In 2013, the FDA published a safety alert on mefloquine and added a black box warning (its strongest warning) to the drug label and pointed out that neurologic side effects can include dizziness, loss of balance (vestibular problems), tinnitus and psychiatric side effects, which can include anxiety, paranoia, depression, or hallucinations. Furthermore, it was noted that the neurologic or psychiatric side effects may occur at any time during drug use, and may last for months to years after the drug is stopped.
- In the 2015 clinicians book, "*Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Related Diseases in Combat Veterans*," mefloquine intoxication is noted to be a potentially life-threatening condition marked by changes in affect, behavior, cognition, and thought that may be associated with a risk of central nervous system (CNS) neuronal injury as well as chronic neurological and psychiatric sequelae. The acute symptoms of mefloquine intoxication may mimic and be mistaken for a number of acute psychiatric disorders including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).