



The Military Order of the World Wars

The Association of All Military Officers
Chapter 131, West Valley, Arizona
P. O. Box 7938, Surprise, AZ 85374
WEB SITE-www.mowwestvalleyaz.org



Bulletin No. 5

February 2023



Commander's Message

John Hannan
Commander

Companions,
Our monthly meeting at Chef Peter's Bistro was very well attended and through the efforts of our recruitment team, headed by G.O. Jensen, two new members from The Festival Veterans Club (FVC) attended. We extend a very warm welcome to Mike Messenger and spouse and Dr. Jack Harrington.

At the staff meeting, as well as the breakfast meeting, we covered several updates. Fred Garnett reported that the AZYLC conference is now back on track after a long pandemic pause. The conference date is set for July 10, 2023 and will last 3 1/2 days. Congratulations Fred, as it took an incredible effort to reinvigorate this important program. Please don't forget to make a contribution to this effort and get the state tax write-off thereby redirecting your state taxes to this vital program.

Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for February 11, 2023 at 0930 at **Chef Peter's Bistro**, 17300 N. Village Parkway, Surprise Arizona, 85374.

Furthermore, Fred and Ann Garnett have been grading essays for this chapter's new patriotic essay program. They use a very disciplined grading system that has produced a winner from Deer Valley High School.

Speaking of the MOC celebration, it's difficult to top prior MOC events, but we are planning another outstanding ceremony that is designed to honor veterans but more importantly those that sacrificed everything for this country and the Freedoms it stands for.

Our MOC speaker will be Lt Col Scott Nelson (Ret). He served 39 continuous years with the USAF, most of those years as an instructor and staff member of the USAF Academy. I've had the privilege of knowing Scott for years. He is one of those "never miss" people. I'm sure the cadets at the MOC will be interested.

We were fortunate to have Commissioner Robert Saunders of The Salvation Army (TSA) as a speaker at the January breakfast meeting. He has served this organization in over eight countries. Robert mentioned that he is Australian by birth but American by choice. His topic was the building of Surprises' first community center. This much needed building project will be multigenerational with the youth of this community being the primary focus. This \$5 million project will be primarily supported by donations. I'm proud to say I'm a member of this organizations local volunteer

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How the Green Berets got their name



board. Their motto is accurate, "We do the most good". Nice to pair this organizational and community needs up with an organization that has a motto of, "It's nobler to serve than to be served". Please consider donating to this effort.

Our next breakfast meeting is at Chef Peter's Bistro on February 11th. Our attendance has increased as Chef Peter has a wonderful staff and menu. The speaker for the next meeting will be Chris Tovar of the Surprise Police Department. It's always great to catch up on the most current challenges and happenings in Surprise. It is also good to mingle with Veterans.

I'll see you there

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hannan
Commander MOWW West Valley 131

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

SARS-COV-2 Omicron (B.1.1.529)

On November 26, 2022, the World Health Organization recognized the most recent heavily mutated strain of the SARS-COV-2 Omicron Strain (B.I.1529) from South Africa. This sub-variant has reached the United States causing 40-percent of confirmed cases in the Northeast and is now reaching the Midwest.

Laboratory studies have shown this virus is capable of evading antibodies formed from vaccinations and previous Covid infections. This means someone could get sick or infected and reinfected again if exposed to this strain of the virus. It appears that this variant has an additional mutation that helps it bind more tightly to the angiotensin converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) cell wall, than previous variants. ACE2 is found in the walls of body cells, especially of the heart and lungs.

Because of the newness of this variant, the knowledge is limited. It appears that the

symptoms remain similar to the omicron classes of the variant which causes symptoms of the upper respiratory track. These symptoms are runny nose, sore throat, nasal congestion, cough, hoarseness, fatigue, headaches, and muscle aches.

SAR-COV-2 remains a disease that is especially worrisome for those who are over 65 years of age, the immune suppressed, and those with chronic illness. This valiant has spread quickly.

CDC, NIH, News agencies like Fox, NBC

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 14 Jan 2023

General Fund	\$15,024.56
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$15,074.56

Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,192.93
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Endowment Fund	\$14,330.52
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GRAND TOTAL	\$34,598.01
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Chapter Dues Are Due

Thank you to those who have already paid. Please make checks payable to "**MOWW Chapter 131**" and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382.

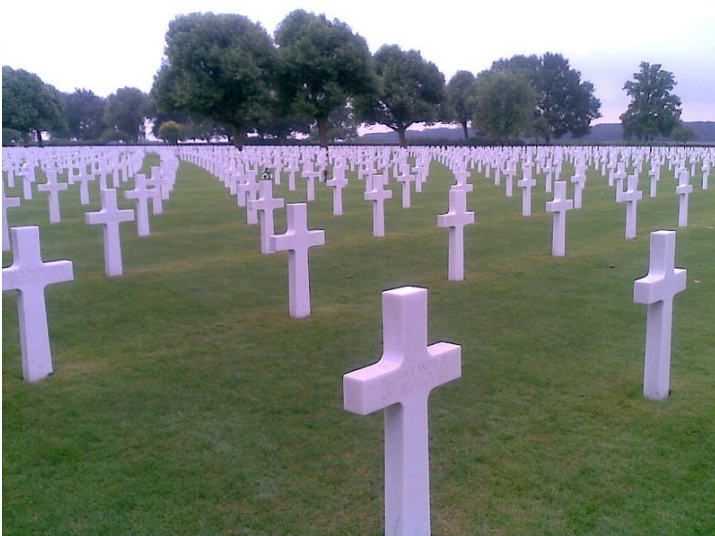
AZ Tax Credit to Support AZYLC Delegates. As a reminder, the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference (AZYLC) will take place in July 2023. Please consider making a donation to support our sponsored delegates this summer. The tax credit is limited to \$400 filing jointly or \$200 filing separately. As you make your tax credit donation, please let Companion Buz Isban know ahead of time, so that he can track the use of

funds in 2023. His contact information is buzisban@cox.net or phone 623- 512-.0765. You have until April 15, 2023 to take advantage of the tax credit for calendar year 2022.

In Memoriam



In Margraten Netherlands there is a 65 acre cemetery with 8,301 graves of American soldiers who died liberating Netherlands from the Germans. The land was gifted to the US after the war. Each of the American graves is adopted by a local family in the Netherlands as their own, and there is a queue to adopt a grave if a vacancy arrives. There is a 300 person waiting list to adopt one...



At Margraten, the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial is situated. Established in 1960, the 65 acre cemetery is Europe's third largest war cemetery for unidentified soldiers who died in World War II. 8,301 soldiers are buried there under long rows of white crosses and stars of David. The land was gifted to the US after the war. All graves are adopted by locals, who attend the graves and lay flowers, and there is a queue to adopt a grave if a vacancy arrives. There is a 300 person waiting list to adopt one ...

This Day in History in Viet Nam

February 6, 1962 - MACV, the U.S. Military Assistance Command for Vietnam, is formed. It replaces MAAG-Vietnam, the Military Assistance Advisory Group which had been established in 1950.

February 27, 1962 - The presidential palace in Saigon is bombed by two renegade South Vietnamese pilots flying American-made World War II era fighter planes. President Diem and his brother Nhu escape unharmed. Diem attributes his survival to "divine protection."

February 4, 1965 - National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy visits South Vietnam for the first time. In North Vietnam, Soviet Prime Minister Aleksei Kosygin coincidentally arrives in Hanoi.

February 6, 1965 - Viet Cong guerrillas attack the U.S. military compound at Pleiku in the Central Highlands, killing eight Americans, wounding 126 and destroying ten aircraft.

February 7-8, 1965 - "I've had enough of this," President Johnson tells his National Security advisors. He then approves Operation Flaming Dart, the bombing of a North Vietnamese army camp near Dong Hoi by U.S. Navy jets from the carrier Ranger. Johnson makes no speeches or public statements concerning his decision. Opinion polls taken in the U.S. shortly after the bombing indicate a 70 percent approval rating for the President and an 80 percent approval of

U.S. military involvement in Vietnam. Johnson now agrees to a long-standing recommendation from his advisors for a sustained bombing campaign against North Vietnam.

In Hanoi, Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin is pressured by the North Vietnamese to provide unlimited military aid to counter the American "aggression." Kosygin gives in to their demands. As a result, sophisticated Soviet surface-to-air missiles (SAMs) begin arriving in Hanoi within weeks.

February 18, 1965 - Another military coup in Saigon results in General Khanh finally ousted from power and a new military/civilian government installed, led by Dr. Phan Huy Quat.

February 22, 1965 - General Westmoreland requests two battalions of U.S. Marines to protect the American air base at Da Nang from 6000 Viet Cong massed in the vicinity. The President approves his request, despite the "grave reservations" of Ambassador Taylor in Vietnam who warns that America may be about to repeat the same mistakes made by the French in sending ever-increasing numbers of soldiers into the Asian forests and jungles of a "hostile foreign country" where friend and foe are indistinguishable.

February 1966 - The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. J. William Fulbright, holds televised hearings examining America's policy in Vietnam. Appearing before the committee, Defense Secretary McNamara states that U.S. objectives in Vietnam are "not to destroy or overthrow the Communist government of North Vietnam. They are limited to the destruction of the insurrection and aggression directed by North Vietnamese against the political institutions of South Vietnam."

February 3, 1966 - Influential newspaper columnist Walter Lippmann lambastes President Johnson's strategy in Vietnam, stating, "Gestures, propaganda, public relations and bombing and more bombing will not work." Lippmann predicts Vietnam will divide America as combat casualties mount.

February 6-9, 1966 - President Johnson and South Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky meet in Honolulu.

February 2, 1967 - President Johnson states there are no "serious indications that the other side is ready to stop the war."

February 8-10, 1967 - American religious groups stage a nationwide "Fast for Peace."

February 8-12, 1967 - A truce occurs during Tet, the lunar New Year, a traditional Vietnamese holiday.

February 13, 1967 - Following the failure of diplomatic peace efforts, President Johnson announces the U.S. will resume full-scale bombing of North Vietnam.

February 22-May 14, 1967 - The largest U.S. military offensive of the war occurs. Operation Junction City involves 22 U.S. and four South Vietnamese battalions attempting to destroy the NVA's Central Office headquarters in South Vietnam. The offensive includes the only parachute assault by U.S. troops during the entire war. During the fighting at Ap Gu, U.S. 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry is commanded by Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Haig who will later become an influential White House aide. Junction City ends with 2728 Viet Cong killed and 34 captured. American losses are 282 killed and 1576 wounded. NVA relocate their Central Office headquarters inside Cambodia, thus avoiding capture.

February 1, 1968 - In Saigon during Tet, a suspected Viet Cong guerrilla is shot in the head by South Vietnam's police chief Gen. Nguyen Ngoc Loan, in full view of an NBC news cameraman and an Associated Press still photographer. The haunting AP photo taken by Eddie Adams appears on the front page of most American newspapers the next morning. Americans also observe the filmed execution on NBC TV.

Another controversy during Tet, and one of the most controversial statements of the entire war, is made by an American officer who states, 'We had to destroy it, in order to save it,' referring to

a small city near Saigon leveled by American bombs. His statement is later used by many as a metaphor for the American experience in Vietnam.

February 2, 1968 - President Johnson labels the Tet Offensive "a complete failure." For the North Vietnamese, the Tet Offensive is both a military and political failure in Vietnam. The "general uprising" they had hoped to ignite among South Vietnamese peasants against the Saigon government never materialized. Viet Cong had also come out of hiding to do most of the actual fighting, suffered devastating losses, and never regained their former strength. As a result, most of the fighting will be taken over by North Vietnamese regulars fighting a conventional war. Tet's only success, and an unexpected one, was in eroding grassroots support among Americans and in Congress for continuing the war indefinitely.

February 8, 1968 - 21 U.S. Marines are killed by NVA at Khe Sanh.

February 27, 1968 - Influential CBS TV news anchorman Walter Cronkite, who just returned from Saigon, tells Americans during his CBS Evening News broadcast that he is certain "the bloody experience of Vietnam is to end in a stalemate."

February 28, 1968 - Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Wheeler, at the behest of Gen. Westmoreland, asks President Johnson for an additional 206,000 soldiers and mobilization of reserve units in the U.S.

February 23, 1969 - Viet Cong attack 110 targets throughout South Vietnam including Saigon.

February 25, 1969 - 36 U.S. Marines are killed by NVA who raid their base camp near the Demilitarized Zone.

February 2, 1970 - B-52 bombers strike the Ho Chi Minh trail in retaliation for the increasing number of Viet Cong raids throughout the South.

February 21, 1970 - Although the official peace talks remain deadlocked in Paris, behind the scenes, Henry Kissinger begins a series of secret talks with North Vietnam's Le Duc Tho, which will go on for two years.

February 21-28, 1972 - President Nixon visits China and meets with Mao Zedong and Prime Minister Zhou Enlai to forge new diplomatic relations with the Communist nation. Nixon's visit causes great concern in Hanoi that their wartime ally China might be inclined to agree to an unfavorable settlement of the war to improve Chinese relations with the U.S.

February 12, 1973 - Operation Homecoming begins the release of 591 American POWs from Hanoi.

February 5, 1975 - NVA military leader General Van Tien Dung secretly crosses into South Vietnam to take command of the final offensive.

Future Events

11 February 2023 – Chapter Meeting

21 February 2023 – *Massing of the Colors*

11 March 2023 – Chapter Meeting

8 April 2023 – Chapter Meeting

13 May 2023 – Chapter Meeting

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the March 2023 Bulletin is the 22th of February. If it is possible to get articles earlier, it would be very much appreciated. With all that is going on we will be flexible.

Email articles to cbjerkaas@cox.net

Thank you.

Carlton Bjerkaas, Editor

How the Green Berets got their name

By Harm Venhuizen



Soldiers from the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, don their green berets during a Regimental First Formation at the Crown Arena in Fayetteville, North Carolina September 26, 2019. The ceremony marked the completion of four phases of the Special Forces Qualification Course where Soldiers earned the honor of wearing the green beret, the official headgear of Special Forces. (U.S. Army photo illustration by K. Kassens)

“Quiet Professionals.” “Snake Eaters.” “Soldier-Diplomats.”

U.S. Army Special Forces are known by a variety of nicknames, but their exclusive right to wear the Green Beret was not recognized until nearly a decade after their formation.

Founded in 1952 as part of the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Division, the 10th Special Forces Group was the first of its kind, according to Army archives.

It was named the tenth group to make the Soviets think there were at least nine others just like it, Anne Jacobsen wrote in her book “Surprise, Kill, Vanish.” The Army’s mission was to create and maintain a force to conduct unconventional warfare. The skills required to do so, however, she notes,

were not. To work by, with and through guerrilla fighters to accomplish the wide range of missions Special Forces are tasked to carry out, these elite soldiers had to become jacks-of-all-trades.

Special Forces' founder, Col. Aaron Bank, was selected as the man for the job. Bank had been the leader of an Office of Strategic Services Jedburgh Team, a small, highly-trained team designed to gather intelligence and conduct raids and resupply missions with local guerrilla forces during World War II.

Much of the idea for what Bank later called "the unit with the greatest combat potential in the Armed Forces" in the 10th Special Forces yearbook came from this time in the OSS. His Jedburgh Team trained in parachuting, foreign languages, hand-to-hand combat, radio operations, and a host of other specialized skills, and as a result, his new Special Forces team would too.



Special Forces candidates assigned to the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School patrol through a wooded area during the final phase of field training known as Robin Sage in central North Carolina, July 9, 2019. Robin Sage is the culmination exercise and has been the litmus test for Soldiers striving to earn the Green Beret for more than 40 years. (U.S. Army photo by K. Kassens)

Wanting to distinguish themselves from conventional Army forces, Special Forces soldiers selected the wear of the beret because of OSS influence, since a number of its teams adopted headgear worn

by soldiers in France. And the color green came from the influence of British Commandos during World War II.

However, because green berets were not officially authorized by the U.S. Army, they were only worn in the field and not in garrison.

The berets continued to be Special Forces' unofficial headgear until then-President John F. Kennedy made it official, stating in a 1962 official memo that the cap had become a "symbol of excellence, a badge of courage, a mark of distinction in the fight for freedom."

And that's just what they are today. Perhaps most popularly known now as Green Berets, Army Special Forces soldiers are still regularly deployed around the world for combat and training missions.

Currently, the Army has seven special forces groups in total: five are active duty, and two are in the National Guard.

Since Kennedy's death in 1963, Green Berets lay a wreath on his grave annually to recognize the role he played in making the nation's unconventional warriors what they have become.



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TO: