



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

October 2022



Commander's Message

John Hannan
Commander

Companions, Covid is abating and MOWW chapter 131 is still at its post. Fifty years of spreading patriotism and passing along our bedrock values. The values we grew up with, the values we served with, the values we are passing forward. These values are quite different than what's currently being promoted by many to our youth. We're in a fight. Our chapter mission requires us to continue promoting patriotic values, just as we have for fifty years.

I plan to have a great time in my role this year. Fortunately, I was handed over a great staff who are dedicated to our chapter and its members. Also, we have several past commanders to draw from. They are all very willing to help.

We have four goals this year. First, attract new members. Second, increase the participation of

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New rollout for the Army's \$22 billion 'mixed reality' combat goggles



Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for October 8, 2022 at 1100 at Chef Peter's Bistro.

current members in either attendance and/or committee participation. Third, initiate an awareness campaign so our chapter is better known in our community. Last, producing an excellent and successful essay contest for JROTC cadets. We have invested a lot in terms of manpower and future dollars.

We know how to manage a top notch MOC and have the leadership and expertise to once again produce an outstanding patriotic event. One that will give you patriotic goosebumps.

Our ASLYC program was on Covid recess for a very long time. Here again, this chapter has the resources, expertise and drive to make this leadership program even more outstanding.

Everything falls into place if we have strong meeting attendance.

We are meeting at Chef Peter's Bistro this coming year. Great food and you can order off their menu. Plus, it's conveniently located off Bell Road. The address is: 17300 N. Village Parkway, Surprise Arizona, 85374. It's across the street from In & Out Burger. It's gated so just tell the guard you're going to Chef Peter's Bistro.

We have a line-up of very good speakers for the monthly meetings and for the MOC.

We want our meetings to be something to look forward to and enjoy the companionship with other veterans.

I was reminded of two things as Buz Isban, Ken Coffman, and G.O. Jensen passed the gavel to me. First delegate, don't try to do everything yourself. This should be an enjoyable activity. Second "many hands make the workload light" so delegate. In that vein, we will institute more committees to balance out our efforts. We'll need more companions volunteering for committee assignments. I'm sure some may feel fully occupied already. We promise not to overload you. This will promote more inclusion, balance of human capital (your volunteer time), improve communications, and eliminate some responsibility overlap. Many hands...

Let's not overlook the efforts of so many of our volunteers. Mel Howry, our adjutant, has spent much of his time recording the minutes of our staff meetings and communicating to HQ. Buz Isban, G.O. Jensen, Jerry Wojtas, and Ken Coffman just seem to be everywhere. Carlton Bjerkaas spends a lot of time producing our bulletin, a vital communication need. We don't need a super human effort, just pitching in from time to time is extremely helpful. Fred and Ann Garnett have gone over and above. Their drive and enthusiasm are contagious.

Buz Isban and I attended the Jacksonville MOWW annual convention. I heard a lot of positive things and some challenges that other chapters are having. The meeting was very professional and full of useful information. Great southern hospitality. The HQ staff presented great updates on branding and advertising efforts. They are targeting a young group with tag lines like: "Patriots of tomorrow need patriots of today and my patriotism is more than words". An outside firm was hired to advise us in an awareness and recruitment effort. Their presentation was strong and the focus on both awareness of MOWW and recruitment was received most favorably. The slid show of past famous members can be made available to our chapter and would be great to have at the MOC.

I was reminded that I think local but the HQ thinks national. MOWW is cautious and deliberate. Our chapter is small and a lot more spontaneous. This is just the way it is and similar to most other large organizations. What seems obvious to me locally may take on a very different meaning and timing effort to national HQ. There was no vote for a subject we have so close to our hearts; increasing the

range of membership. However, we will have more opportunities and will keep hammering away.

I attended the meeting on national and local security and felt our chapter could benefit from a strong effort with first responders and other law & order agencies. I temper that with the knowledge that we have a full slate of activities and events so adding one more endeavor may not be currently possible. We really need to get the essay contest on a winning level before we spread our human resources. This could be a future effort along with expanding our connection to the Scouts of America.

I learned a lot at the convention but will confess that at times that information felt like it was being feed to me through a water hose. I'm slowly becoming more familiar with procedures etc...

I often go back to a singular thought, is the local mission of MOWW worth the use of my most important resource; my time? Do the youth of our nation deserve this valuable investment? They certainly do. We are in a zero-sum situation, win or lose, when it comes to Patriotism? I feel we are in a very big fight with those that do not share our patriotic values, the values we grew up with, the values we served with; the values that have made this country great.

I hope you're looking forward to this coming year. We have several very good speakers lined up for our monthly meetings, plus the MOC. I would encourage you all to bring one or more guests to this program, which is the best remembrance and patriotic event on this planet. Also, invite someone to our monthly meetings. This chapter is small but very good at what we do. We are blessed with a strong chapter staff and companions willing to pitch in. Plus, we have the knowledge and expertise to continue accomplishing our mission while exceeding expectations.

Hopefully, you'll recognize my enthusiasm. I'm hoping it's contagious and that there are no vaccines for it.

See you in October.

John Hannan

Commander MOWW West Valley 131

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

Update on Covid-19 Variants

Omicron variant is composed of several different lineages and currently these are Omicron BA-2, BA-4, and BA-5. These have spread rapidly across the United States since Thanksgiving 2021. BA-5 appeared the US in late August and is currently the most contagious making up 88% of reported cases.

Now the question is whether these variants are going to cause severe disease and death. Of course, this will depend on the individuals' state of health, immune response to past infections of Covid, age, and vaccination history. Symptoms are most like to occur two to three days after exposure, up to 14 days after exposure. The early symptoms are headache, fatigue, fever, and sore throat and possibly loss of taste and smell. Other symptoms can be cough, runny nose, and muscle pain. Unlike other variants of Covid, symptoms may include nausea, and vomiting which occur first, followed by diarrhea. Always seek immediate medical emergency attention if these symptoms occur: shortness of breath or trouble breathing, new confusion or inability to wake or stay awake, persistent chest pain, color change in the skin, lips, or nailbeds from pink to gray or blue.

As these variants spread more information will become available. Unfortunately, both BA-4 and BA-5 are not going to be the last of the Covid-19 variants.

September 2022, CDC, John Hopkins, Yale

Legislative Affairs

By Phil Hanson

As reported in the last report S.C.R. 1011 has been approved and will go to voters as a proposition at the general election in November, one of about ten. As a reminder. It was made up with three House and Senate bills



which dealt with property tax exemptions which apply to veteran's widows, persons with a disability and veterans with a service or non-service connected disability reflected by the present day of \$4,117. If this sounds confusing then, it still is.

Legislature will be back in session in early January and unless a special session is called before then there further Legislative affairs reports

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Audit. Thanks to Ken Coffman and Jerry Wojtas, in August our annual audit was satisfactorily completed. We remain financially sound.

Financial Report

As of 29 Sep 2022

General Fund	\$14,836.93
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$14,886.93
Patriotic Savings Account	\$5,964.40
Endowment Fund	\$14,234.85
GRAND TOTAL	\$35,086.18

Chapter Dues are Due

Chapter dues is only one source of revenue. The other two sources are from the 50/50 raffle and MOWW National Headquarters' annual dividend for our perpetual members. We need every bit to fulfill our Chapter's financial obligations.

Our dues remain the same as last year; \$15 for a member and spouse and \$10 for a member without a spouse. We hope all of you will see your way clear to help our Chapter remain financially sound. Make checks payable to "**MOWW Chapter 131**". You can mail your payment to

our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Chapter Growth Plan

- We are a relatively new committee under the guidance of Linda Howry. Our members include Fred and Ann Garnett, Ken Blanchard, Randy Meyer (the Viper), and committee chairman, Jerry Jenson. We met in late March and will meet again in early November.
- We determined / established the premise that **are all Chapter 131 members expected to pursue new membership** from their neighbors, friends, acquaintances, et. al. *Given our ages, new membership is necessary to keep energy and fresh ideas within our chapter.*
- We established a goal of recruiting 8 – 10 new members this 2022-23 year. Our intentions are to pursue new membership via:
 - Other Veteran Organizations with the Valley (i.e., MOAA, NWA, Festival Vets Club, et.al.)
 - Author and publish articles of our activities (i.e., MOC, summer AZYLC, Essays, et.al., for west valley newspapers and other retirement communities.
 - Use radio announcements to explain and advertise our activities (i.e., MOC date, speaker, locations and time). Once we have a comfortable working relationship with radio, introduce new chapter subjects, i.e., end of year awards, AZYLC, and Essay contests. Fred and Ann Garnett have the lead in this area.
 - Publish other articles in magazines published in Sun City, Sun City West, Sun City Grand and Sun City Festival.
 - “Manning” a recruitment table at the Feb 2023 MOC.

Respectfully Submitted,
G.O. Jenson

In Memoriam

VERNON MCGEE

April 01, 1933 - September 05, 2022



Vernon McGee 89 of Rapid City passed away Monday, September 5, 2022.

Visitation will be 5:00-7:00pm Thursday, September 8 at Osheim & Schmidt Funeral. A funeral service will be held 10:00 am on Friday September 9 at the funeral home, with burial following at Black Hills National Cemetery with full military honors.

Vernon was born to Malcom Daniel and Eula (nee Westerfield) McGee on April 1, 1933, in Jackson, MS.

Vernon married Dr. Nancy Fay Phipps on November 6, 1998, in Rapid City, SD.

Vernon is survived by his wife Nancy Fay Phipps, daughter; Cynthia (Lance) Weaver, grandchildren; Michael, Lucinda, Benjamin Weaver, Anne Sewell, as well as 2 brothers, 2 sisters, many friends and extended family.

Vernon was preceded in death by 5 brothers, sister, granddaughter, parents, son, and daughter.

This Day in History in Viet Nam

October 19, 1965 - North Vietnamese Army troops attack the U.S. Special Forces camp at Plei Me in a prelude to the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in South Vietnam's Central Highlands.

October 30, 1965 - 25,000 march in Washington in support of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The marchers are led by five Medal of Honor recipients.

October 2-24, 1966 - The U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division conducts Operation Irving to clear NVA from mountainous areas near Qui Nhon.

October 25, 1966 - President Johnson conducts a conference in Manila with America's Vietnam Allies; Australia, Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, South Korea and South Vietnam. The Allies pledge to withdraw from Vietnam within six months if North Vietnam will withdraw completely from the South.

October 26, 1966 - President Johnson visits U.S. troops at Cam Ranh Bay. This is the first of two visits to Vietnam made during his presidency.

October 1967 - A public opinion poll indicates 46 percent of Americans now believe U.S. military involvement in Vietnam to be a "mistake." However, most Americans also believe that the U.S. should "win or get out" of Vietnam. Also in October, Life magazine renounces its earlier support of President Johnson's war policies.

October 5, 1967 - Hanoi accuses the U.S. of hitting a school in North Vietnam with anti-personnel bombs.

October 21-23 - 'March on the Pentagon' draws 55,000 protesters. In London, protesters try to storm the U.S. embassy.

October 1968 - Operation Sealord begins the largest combined naval operation of the entire war as over 1200 U.S. Navy and South Vietnamese Navy gunboats and warships target NVA supply lines extending from Cambodia into the Mekong Delta. NVA supply camps in the Delta

and along other waterways are also successfully disrupted during the two-year operation.

October 21, 1968 - The U.S. releases 14 North Vietnamese POWs.

October 31, 1968 - Operation Rolling Thunder ends as President Johnson announces a complete halt of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam in the hope of restarting the peace talks.

Throughout the three and a half year bombing campaign, the U.S. dropped a million tons of bombs on North Vietnam, the equivalent of 800 tons per day, with little actual success in halting the flow of soldiers and supplies into the South or in damaging North Vietnamese morale. In fact, the opposite has occurred as the North Vietnamese have patriotically rallied around their Communist leaders as a result of the onslaught. By now, many towns south of Hanoi have been leveled with a U.S. estimate of 52,000 civilian deaths.

During Rolling Thunder, North Vietnam's sophisticated, Soviet-supplied air defense system managed to shoot down 922 U.S. aircraft during 2380 sorties flown by B-52 bombers and over 300,000 sorties by U.S. Navy and Air Force fighter-bombers.

October 1969 - An opinion poll indicates 71 percent of Americans approve of President Nixon's Vietnam policy.

October 7, 1970 - During a TV speech, President Nixon proposes a "standstill" cease-fire in which all troops would stop shooting and remain in place pending a formal peace agreement. Hanoi does not respond.

October 24, 1970 - South Vietnamese troops begin a new offensive into Cambodia.

October 3, 1971 - Running un-opposed, President Thieu of South Vietnam is re-elected.

October 9, 1971 - Members of the U.S. 1st Air Cavalry Division refuse an assignment to go out on patrol by expressing "a desire not to go." This

is one in a series of American ground troops engaging in "combat refusal."

October 31, 1971 - The first Viet Cong POWs are released by Saigon. There are nearly 3000 Viet Cong prisoners.

October 8, 1972 - The long-standing diplomatic stalemate between Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho finally ends as both sides agree to major concessions. The U.S. will allow North Vietnamese troops already in South Vietnam to remain there, while North Vietnam drops its demand for the removal of South Vietnam's President Thieu and the dissolution of his government.

Although Kissinger's staff members privately express concerns over allowing NVA troops to remain in the South, Kissinger rebuffs them, saying, "I want to end this war before the election."

October 22, 1972 - In Saigon, Kissinger visits President Thieu to discuss the peace proposal. Meetings between Kissinger and Thieu go badly as an emotional Thieu adamantly opposes allowing North Vietnamese troops to remain indefinitely in South Vietnam. An angry Kissinger reports Thieu's reaction to President Nixon, who then threatens Thieu with a total cut-off of all American aid. But Thieu does not back down. Kissinger then returns to Washington.

October 22, 1972 - Operation Linebacker I ends. U.S. warplanes flew 40,000 sorties and dropped over 125,000 tons of bombs during the bombing campaign which effectively disrupted North Vietnam's Eastertide Offensive. During the failed offensive, the North suffered an estimated 100,000 military casualties and lost half its tanks and artillery. Leader of the offensive, legendary General Vo Nguyen Giap, the victor at Dien Bien Phu, was then quietly ousted in favor of his deputy Gen. Van Tien Dung. 40,000 South Vietnamese soldiers died stopping the offensive, in the heaviest fighting of the entire war.

October 24, 1972 - President Thieu publicly denounces Kissinger's peace proposal.

October 26, 1972 - Radio Hanoi reveals terms

of the peace proposal and accuses the U.S. of attempting to sabotage the settlement. At the White House, now a week before the presidential election, Henry Kissinger holds a press briefing and declares "We believe that peace is at hand. We believe that an agreement is in sight."

October 1974 - The Politburo in North Vietnam decides to launch an invasion of South Vietnam in 1975.

Future Events

8 October – Chapter Meeting
21 February 2023 – Massing of the Colors

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the November 2022 Bulletin is the 22th of October. 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

SPECIAL FEATURE

New rollout for the Army's \$22 billion 'mixed reality' combat goggles

By [Todd South](#)



Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division used the latest prototype of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System (IVAS) during a training exercise in October 2020 at Fort Pickett, Va. (Bridgett Siter/Army)

FORT BELVOIR, Va. — The Army's mixed reality goggle is headed to soldiers in a three-step process in which developers expect two early versions released next year will help with redesigns for a third version to roll out across the Army.

The Integrated Visual Augmentation System, or IVAS, is a nearly \$22 billion program that the Army is developing to bring night vision, thermal vision, tactical edge computing and the situational awareness of a fighter pilot down to the lowest-level infantry soldier. The device will likely be the most advanced single technology ever fielded exclusively to the close-combat, squad-level soldier in military history.

The Army will deliver 5,000 IVAS 1.0 versions and another 5,000 IVAS 1.1 versions this coming year, said Brig. Gen. Christopher Schneider, the Program Executive Office-Soldier commanding general. Previous budget reports indicate the Army will purchase 40,000 devices or more.

The combined 1.0 and 1.1 fielding is a delay from the previous first unit equipped planned date of September 2022, which was delayed from another previous initial fielding planned for late 2021. But the short-term holdup is critical to ensure soldier acceptance of the device, according to Army officials.

Schneider spoke with Army Times about the IVAS program recently, noting the new rollout plan will field the two existing versions and begin developing the IVAS 1.2 version in parallel with those first fieldings. IVAS 1.2, which will have a new low-light sensor and hardware redesign, is scheduled to field in the fiscal year 2025.

“We don’t want to rush IVAS to the field until it’s ready,” Schneider said.



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