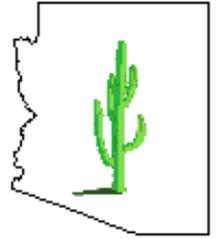




The Military Order of the World Wars

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. 4

January 2022



Commander's Message

Buz Isban
Commander

With 2021 behind us and almost two years of dealing with a pandemic, 2022 brings with it optimism, new opportunities and a sense that things can and will get better. With an "attitude of gratitude" and an effort to make things better for ourselves and others, we will make for a better year this year. I wish all of you a healthy and prosperous New Year 2022.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022

December Breakfast Meeting. I would like to publicly thank Past Commander Ken Coffman and his wife Laurel for hosting the December meeting at their home. The portable heaters were enough to knock of the chill of that cold clear morning. Ken was presented a Silver Patrick Henry Medallion for an unrepresented three years of leadership during a very tumultuous time as a result of a world-wide pandemic. Our

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Air Force Wants to Move Fast on Boat Plane for Special Operators



Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for January 8, 2022 at 0930 at location TBD.

SAVE THE DATE

Massing of the Colors 15 February 2022 at Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West. Put it on your calendar!

guest speaker was World War II Army paratrooper SGT George Cross USA (Fmr) who gave a fascinating account of his experiences as a member of the 82nd Airborne during his service in France in the 1940s. This 90 something year old soldier was quite entertaining! Thank you, Ken Coffman and Ken Blanchard, for inviting George.

It's Our Anniversary

50 years

Happy Anniversary West Valley Chapter 131

The Sun Cities Chapter of the MOWW was approved in 1971. Our first full chapter meeting was in October 1971. So, let's celebrate.

A dinner party will be held on January 16th 2022 at Portofino West Ristorante Italiano, 12851 West Bell Road Suite 15 (near Bell and R H Johnson). Social Hour 2:30 P.M. -- Dinner 3 P.M.

All chapter members and their spouses are invited.

January Breakfast Meeting. Since we are continuing to have difficulty finding a suitable commercial location for the January 8th meeting as of this writing, I will email all as soon as one is found. Even in the Valley of the Sun it is too cold to have an outdoor meeting in January for desert rats like me. I anticipate that when an indoor location is found that the door will be open at 9:30 a.m. and we will start the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Stay tuned for further information.

West Valley Chapter 131 50th Anniversary Celebration. Sunday, January 16th at Portofino West Ristorante Italiano, 12851 West Bell Road, Surprise in the Crossroads Towne Center at R.H Johnson Blvd. It starts at 2:30 p.m. with dinner starting at 3:00p.m. Get you reservation into Ken Coffman or Buz Isban. Etched wine glasses are on order. The price is \$35.00 per person. Make checks payable to "MOWW Chapter 131" and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382. You may pay at the door. Our Chapter Historian, Ken Coffman, will have memorabilia available for viewing.

Massing of the Colors. Tuesday, February 15th at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center, 13800 West Deer Valley Drive, Sun City West. The program starts at 11:15 a.m. with the prelude by the ever-favored Desert Brass Band. Col Bill Fedor, USAF (Ret) will honor us again this year with a very memorable Echo Taps. After a six-year hiatus, Col Thomas Kirk, USAF (Ret) returns as our guest speaker. I quote Past Commander COL Jerry Jenson, USMC (Ret), "He (Col Kirk) served in Korea and Vietnam. In October 1967, while leading an "ALPHA STRIKE" of F-105's just west of Hanoi, he was shot down, captured and incarcerated as a POW for 5½ years in the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". He endured suffering that most of us cannot begin to imagine. He is an American hero and eminently qualified to speak to patriotism and remembrance." And finally, thank you COL Jerry Wojtas, USA (Ret) for the organization and administration of this annual event. Currently we have 19 units signed up to attend. We anticipate several more by mid-month. The units represented are Junior ROTC, MOWW Chapters, Northwest Valley Veterans Association mem-

bers, and other patriotic and service organizations.

Arizona Youth Leadership Conference (AZYLC) Update: The conference will be Tuesday through Saturday morning July 5-9, 2022 at Arizona State University West. Details will be worked out later this month.

Arizona Tax Credit. As a reminder, our goal is to sponsor at least 20 students to the 2022 AZYLC. At a cost of approximately \$400 per delegate, our Arizona Tax Credit contributions are already under way. Information on how to support this goal is on our website (mowwwestvalleyaz.org). As you make your tax credit donation, please let me know so I can track the use of the funds in 2022. My contact information is buzisban@cox.net or cell phone number 623-512-0765.

CHAPTER DUES ARE DUE. Again, as a reminder, our dues remain the same as last year; \$15 for a member and spouse and \$10 for a member without a spouse. Make checks payable to "MOWW Chapter 131" and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382. You can also pay at the breakfast meeting instead. And finally, thank you to those who have already paid.

As a final note, please stay safe and have a Happy, Healthy and Blessed New Year.

"Gear, flaps and hook down, ready to land."

Buz

Surgeon's Note

By Linda Howry RN MS

Omicron Variant of Covid-19

The Omicron variant was first discovered in Botswana, Africa on November 11th, 2021, and 3 days later it was found in South Africa, November 26th of this year. Omicron was classified as a variant of SARS-Covid-2. The first case in the US was in early December. As of December 7th, 19 US states have reported cases of the Omicron variant.

Most of the current data about this variant is coming from Africa. As more information is known about the Omicron variant, the knowledge of the disease will increase. This newest variant of Covid-19 may be twice as contagious as the Delta variant. The severity of the disease is in question, but according to the data from South Africa it appears to be less severe.

The symptoms with the Omicron Variant appear different than those of Covid-19 and the other variants of the disease. According to Dr. Angelique Coetzee of South Africa, the symptoms reported by patients are more like that of the flu or a cold. They have body aches, night sweats, headaches, fatigue and a slight sore throat without the severe cough or runny noses. The patients do not have elevated pulse rates, do not need supplemental oxygen, or lose their sense of taste or smell.

Since this variant is so new, current Covid-19 treatment may not be effective against Omicron. Some may work and others may not. The current thought from the CDC is that vaccines should protect vaccinated individuals from severe illness, hospitalizations and death due to the Omicron variant. This new variant is an unfolding disease process.

Center for Disease and Global News and US News

Because of the outbreak of the Omicron variant I chose to write about this rather than the Immune System Part 2

Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban
Treasurer



Financial Report

As of 28 December 2021

General Fund	\$13, 357.50
Petty Cash	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$13,407.50
Patriotic Savings Account	\$7,158.54
Endowment Fund	\$15,929.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$36,495.04

Legislative News

By Phil Hanson



Latest State Legislature News

No breaking news.

This Day in History

January 1, 1776 - During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 3, 1777 - During the American Revolution, General George Washington defeated the British at Princeton and drove them back toward New Brunswick. Washington then established winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey. During the long harsh winter, Washington's army shrank to about a thousand men as enlistments expired and deserters fled.

January 6, 1941 - President Franklin Roosevelt delivered his State of the Union address to Congress asking for support for the lend-lease program aiding Allies fighting the Axis powers. Roosevelt also defined four essential freedoms worth defending; freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

January 8, 1918 - Amid the ongoing World War in Europe, President Woodrow Wilson proposed his Fourteen Points, calling for a reduction of arms, self-determination for governments, and the creation of a League of Nations, all intended to serve as a basis for resolving the conflict and establishing a lasting peace in Europe.

January 8, 1959 - Charles de Gaulle took office as the first president of France's Fifth Republic. De Gaulle had led the Free French government in exile during Nazi occupation. Following the war, he advocated a strong presidency to balance the powerful National Assembly. He was chosen to head the new government following years of political instability in which no French government was able to stay in power for more than a few months. On this day in 1966, he took office for a second term.

January 10, 1912 - The flying boat airplane, invented by Glenn Curtiss, made its first flight at Hammondsport, New York.

January 10, 1920 - The League of Nations officially came into existence with the goal of resolving international disputes, reducing armaments, and preventing future wars. The first Assembly gathered in Geneva ten months later with 41 nations represented. More than 20 nations later joined; however, the U.S. did not join due to a lack of support for the League in Congress.

January 10, 1946 - The first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly took place in London with delegates from 51 countries. The U.N. superseded its predecessor, the League of Nations.

January 12, 1991 - Congress authorized President George Bush to use military force against Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

January 12, 1996 - The first joint American-Russian military operation since World War II occurred as Russian troops arrived to aid in peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia.

January 14-23, 1943 - President Franklin Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met at Casablanca in Morocco to work on strategy during World War II. At the conclusion of the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill held a joint news conference at which Roosevelt surprisingly announced that peace would come "by the total elimination of German and Japanese war power. That means the unconditional surrender of Germany, Italy and Japan."

January 15, 1870 - The first use of a donkey to symbolize the Democratic Party in America appeared in a cartoon in Harper's Weekly, criticizing former secretary of war Edwin Stanton with the caption, "A Live Jackass Kicking a Dead Lion."

January 16, 1991 - The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN cor-

respondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

January 17, 1966 - A Hydrogen bomb accident occurred over Palomares, Spain, as an American B-52 jet collided with its refueling plane. Eight crewmen were killed and the bomber then released its H-bomb into the Atlantic.

January 19, 1807 - Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) military leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of a Revolutionary War hero, a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years preceding the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was offered command of the Union Army, but declined and instead accepted command of the military and naval forces of Virginia.

January 21, 1954 - The USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, was launched at Groton, Connecticut.

January 21, 1976 - The Concorde supersonic jet began passenger service with flights from London to Bahrain and Paris to Rio de Janeiro, cruising at twice the speed of sound (Mach 2) at an altitude up to 60,000 feet.

January 22, 1943 - During World War II in the Pacific, Japanese resistance ended in New Guinea, resulting in the first land victory of the war for Allied forces.

January 23, 1968 - The American ship USS Pueblo was seized by North Koreans in the Sea of Japan amid claims the Navy ship was spying. The ship was confiscated and its crew held in captivity until December, with one fatality.

January 24, 1972 - Japanese soldier Shoichi Yokoi was discovered on Guam after he had spent 28 years hiding out in the jungle not knowing World War II had long since ended.

January 26, 1880 - Douglas MacArthur (1880-1964) was born on a military base in Little Rock, Arkansas. He commanded Allied forces during World War II in the Pacific. In 1942, he uttered one of the most famous phrases of the war, "I shall return," when forced to leave the Philip-

piners due to the unchecked Japanese advance. In 1950, after war broke out in Korea, he became commander of the United Nations forces. However, disagreements with President Harry Truman over war policy resulted in his dismissal by Truman in April 1951. MacArthur then appeared before Congress and announced his retirement, declaring, "Old soldiers never die - they just fade away."

January 27, 1943 - The U.S. 8th Air Force conducted the first all-American bombing raid on Germany as 55 bombers targeted Wilhelmshaven, losing three planes while claiming to have shot down 22 German fighters. The success of this first mission encouraged U.S. military planners to begin regular daylight bombing raids, which eventually resulted in high casualty rates for the American crewmen involved.

January 27, 1973 - U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S. agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

January 28, 1915 - The U.S. Coast Guard was created by an Act of Congress, combining the Life Saving Service and the Revenue Cutter Service.

January 29, 1916 - During World War I, the first aerial bombings of Paris by German zeppelins took place.

January 30, 1835 - President Andrew Jackson survived the first assassination attempt on a U.S. President. While leaving the House of Representatives Chamber, an insane would-be assassin fired two pistol shots at him, however

both pistols misfired and the president was unharmed.

January 30, 1968 - Beginning of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam as North Vietnamese troops attacked 36 provincial capitals and 5 major cities in South Vietnam, including an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Saigon and the presidential palace. Although U.S. forces eventually fended off the massive surprise attack and achieved a military victory, Tet became a propaganda victory for the Vietnamese due in part to graphic news reports on television which helped turn U.S. public opinion against continuation of the war.

January 31, 1990 - Panama Campaign Ended

January 31, 1943 - German troops surrendered at Stalingrad, marking the first big defeat of Hitler's armies in World War II. During the Battle of Stalingrad, 160,000 Germans were killed and 90,000 taken prisoner, including the commander, Friedrich von Paulus, the first German field marshal ever to surrender. The captured Germans were forced to march to Siberia, with few ever returning to Germany.

January 31, 1945 - Eddie Slovik, a 24-year-old U.S. Army private, was executed by a firing squad after being sentenced to death for desertion, the first such occurrence in the U.S. Army since the Civil War.

Bulletin Deadline

The deadline for submission of articles for the Jan Bulletin is Dec 16th. 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

Air Force Wants to Move Fast on Boat Plane for Special Operators



A rendering of a twin float amphibious modification to an MC-130J Commando II is shown here. (Courtesy photo)

The [Air Force](#) is moving forward with an amphibious, pontoon-equipped version of the [MC-130J Commando II](#) used by its special operators -- and hopes to be able to fly a prototype of the aircraft in less than a year and a half.

A U.S. Special Operations Command official said at a conference in May that the military was considering developing an amphibious MC-130, but that concerns about feasibility meant that the Air Force would take a hard look at the idea before proceeding.

But in a Tuesday press release, Air Force Special Operations Command outlined plans to go ahead with the MC-130J Commando II Amphibious Capability, or MAC, program.

AFSOC said that adding removable pontoons to the Commando will be important as the military's focus shifts to areas near seashores or lakes -- and free its aircraft from having to land on physical runways.

The military in recent years has, for example, become concerned about China's increasing activity in the South China Sea, and its creation of man-made islands there on which it has built military installations.

But a Commando that could land on water would be able to do a lot more to infiltrate troops, get them out, and recover trapped or wounded personnel, Lt. Col. Josh Trantham, AFSOC's deputy division chief for science, systems, technology and innovation, said in the release.

That will be even more important in a future war, which might result in situations where land forces, bases or equipment are endangered by the enemy, AFSOC said.

"Seaborne operations offer nearly unlimited water landing zones, providing significant flexibility for the joint force," Trantham said.

The MC-130J is used to fly secret missions, often at night and at low altitudes, to insert [special operations](#) forces into sensitive or hostile areas, get them out, or resupply them. It also can conduct aerial refueling operations.

MC-130s are outfitted with extensive electronic warfare capabilities that allow the crews to detect and avoid radar and infrared-guided threats. They have advanced computers and navigation equipment, as well as radars that are specially designed to help the aircraft fly exceptionally low and in harsh weather conditions. And their tails are stronger than the typical C-130 tail to make it easier to conduct high-speed airdrops.

AFSOC has been working with the Air Force Research Laboratory's Strategic Development Planning and Experimentation directorate, as well as defense contractors, on the amphibious modifications.

The prototypes for the modified plane are being tested virtually on the Digital Proving Ground, using digital design, virtual reality modeling and computer-aided designs, AFSOC said. The hope is this will allow the project to use digital simulation, testing and advanced manufacturing to quickly create and test physical prototypes.

"Being able to experiment with existing technology to evaluate design tradeoffs and test a new system before ever bending metal is a game-changer," said Maj. Kristen Cepak, AFSOC's technology transition branch chief, in the press release.

The Air Force's still-in-development T-7A Red Hawk trainer aircraft also heavily used digital tools in its design and engineering process, which the service said allowed it to catch problems earlier than the typical process would permit.

AFSOC hopes it can develop prototypes quickly and possibly fly an experimental version in 17 months.

And if it works, the Air Force hopes to outfit other versions of the C-130 -- including Hercules aircraft flown by other services -- with similar amphibious capabilities, with just a few tweaks.

It wouldn't be the first time a C-130 variant was modified to allow it to land in unusual environments. The New York Air [National Guard](#)'s LC-130 "Skibird" aircraft, for example, is outfitted with skis and rockets to help it land on and take off from icy Antarctic surfaces on missions to resupply scientific stations there.

-- *Stephen Losey can be reached at stephen.losey@military.com. Follow him on Twitter [@StephenLosey](#).*

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