

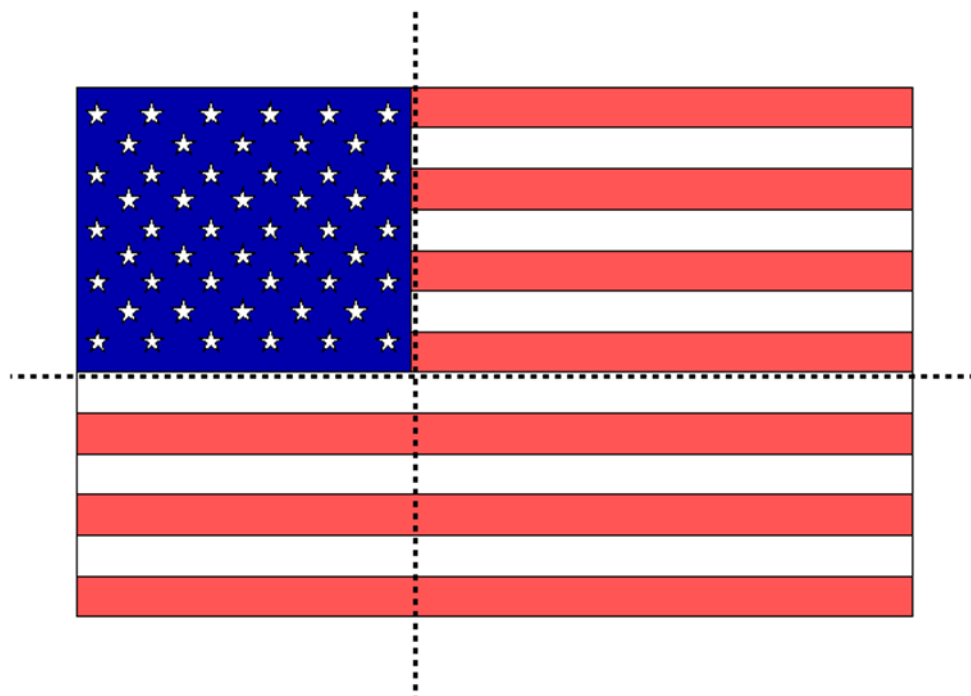
## 2d Vice President Report July 6, 2023

Participated in Flag Day June 14, 2023 at the NM Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater and the honoring of the American Flag. As part of the event ceremony, all audience members were led through and participated hands on in the flag-burning retirement of a worn out and damaged flags that were deposited at the NM Veterans Memorial Park for disposal. Disposal by burning is the dignified manner for retiring a heavily worn or tattered American flag according to the U.S. Flag Code. The procedure for disposal by burning was produced by the American Legion and approved at their 19<sup>th</sup> National Convention in September 1937.

### **Flag Etiquette:**

people are increasingly looking to methods other than ceremonial burning to respectfully dispose of an American flag. Cutting your flag into pieces is one approved option for disposal. This is acceptable because once it is cut into pieces, it is no longer considered a flag. The [U.S. Scouts Procedure](#) for Cutting and Retiring a Flag dictates you must:

- Stretch the flag out by its four corners.
- Cut the flag in half widthwise, being careful not to cut in any part of the blue area. This blue star field symbolizes the union of all 50 states and therefore should not be cut or otherwise split apart in any way.
- Put the two halves together and cut in half lengthwise.
- This will leave you with four sections of flag. Three will be red and white stripes, and one will be the blue star field.
- Dispose of these pieces of the flag properly.
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- Ensuring that the flag is properly folded before burning
- Only burning the flag in a large bonfire
- Ensuring all parts of the flag fully burn down to ashes
- When the United States flag (Old Glory) becomes worn, torn, faded or badly soiled, it is time to replace it with a new flag, and the old flag should be "retired" with all the dignity and respect befitting our nation's flag. The traditional method of retirement is to incinerate the flag, but this does not mean that one should simply drop the entire flag (intact) into a fire.



Flag burning is deemed a more honorable option than throwing away an American flag<sup>3</sup>.

## NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

MARCH 29, 2023, I attended the U.S. Marine Corps League, Department of New Mexico, and Marine Corps League "Jerry Murphy" Detachment 381 at their dedication and unveiling of the Combined Action Program Memorial Monument at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park. The monument is dedicated to all CAP Members and FMP Corpsmen attached to CAP units during the Vietnam War.

The Corps' area of responsibility was the I Corps Tactical Zone (ICTZ), one of four military zones in South Vietnam. It comprised the five northernmost provinces of the country. At the northern end of I Corps was the demilitarized zone (at the 17<sup>th</sup> parallel) that separated the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), the north, from the Republic of Vietnam (RVN), the south.

The **Phu Bai** enclave was established on 14 April 1965 when Colonel Edwin B. Wheeler, the commander of Regimental Landing Team 3, sent units of his 2d Battalion, 3d Marines, to secure the airfield and the Army Security Agency's 8th Radio Research Unit (RRU) facility, until the 3d

Battalion, 4th Marines, could land and take over the Phu Bai defense. The mission was to defend the Phu Bai airfield and the **8th RRU**. This unit was an important key to locating enemy units through radio intercept techniques, and General William C. Westmoreland wanted a force to protect it.

The Marines originally were allowed an official TAOR (tactical area of responsibility) of only two square miles. This was similar to Da Nang, where the Marines were originally confined within the airfield perimeter and a certain limited area to the west of the airfield. The Phu Bai military facilities, the airfield, and the 8th RRU straddled Vietnam's Highway 1, which ran through the Phu Bai base area. Its defense of the Phu Bai perimeter and the 8th RRU, began an aggressive campaign of patrolling and ambushing within its enlarged TAOR. The full defense of the Phu Bai military installations from the surrounding areas, however, posed a problem. To the north and east was a semicircle of three villages bounded by the Dai Giang River. From the perimeter of the air base, it was difficult to see up to and into these villages. The apron between the airfield and the villages was at least a kilometer wide and more in some places. The hamlets themselves were densely vegetated; so even at close range, it would be impossible to see any distance into them. The villages provided enough cover that an enemy mortar team or ground assault unit could get close enough to cause substantial damage. This area was known as Zone A.

The Marine Corps response was the Combined Action Platoon that transformed into the Combined Action Program. The CAP Program was comprised of platoons each combining a fourteen-man marine rifle squad, a navy corpsman, and a platoon of South Vietnamese militia. These CAP units were unique to the war. Their function was to capture and hold rather than to search and destroy.

## **Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico**

June 11, 2023, I attended the training and orientation for guardians accompanying the 25 selected New Mexico veterans traveling with the Honor Flight of Northern New Mexico on June 20-22, 2023 to Washington, D.C.

## **Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club**

Participated in Juneteenth Day, June 13, 2023, at the NM Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater that was hosted by the Albuquerque Association of Buffalo Soldiers and Troopers Motorcycle Club and honoring the post-Civil War (1866 to 1900) assignment of the 9th Cavalry and 38th and 125th Infantry, United States Colored Troops, a regiment of black soldiers stationed at Fort Craig, NM. Buffalo Soldiers served at 11 of New Mexico's 16 frontier forts. Three of these former Army posts are currently preserved and interpreted by New Mexico Historic Sites: Fort Stanton, Fort Sumner and Fort Selden. The final Buffalo Soldiers to serve in the Land of Enchantment were members of the 25th Infantry Regiment and ninth Cavalry Regiment who were stationed at Forts Bayard and Wingate between 1898 and 1899.

July 28, 2009 The VA Reburied "Buffalo Soldiers" in Santa Fe National Cemetery— A ceremony memorializing 64 soldiers and their family members who protected southwestern New Mexico from Apache attacks in the mid-1800s was held by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Interior. The remains of the Fort Craig residents originally buried at the fort's cemetery and disinterred by the Interior Department in 2007 were reburied with full military honors at VA's Santa Fe National Cemetery.

"This ceremony marks a fitting final resting place for these courageous people," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. "After more than 100 years, they are finally recognized with the honors earned for their honorable service to their country."

The ceremony included a color guard, playing of Taps and a 21-gun salute by the New Mexico National Guard. Fort Craig, built in 1854, played a major role in the Civil War and Indian Wars. Located on the west side of the Rio Grande River, approximately 40 miles south of Socorro, N.M., it was permanently abandoned in 1885.

After an investigation by Interior's Bureau of Reclamation revealed looting of the unmarked graves at Fort Craig's cemetery, the Bureau worked with VA's National Cemetery Administration to move them to Santa Fe National Cemetery. Through analysis and military records, archaeologists identified three of the soldiers as Private David Ford, Private Levi Morris, and Private Thomas Smith. These men were "Buffalo Soldiers," members of units established by Congress as the first peacetime

all-black regiments in the regular U.S. Army. They were buried in separate graves marked with individual headstones.

Sent emails to our known ninety year-old members (veterans, associates, and spouses) to ascertain if there is/are members who will celebrate a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday this year (2023). Birthday planning ceased with the passing of COL Fae Adams who would have been 105 in June 2023. Based on the response, there is still time to have an event in September prior to our Annual Members meeting or before Thanksgiving after the Annual Members meeting. In conjunction with these meeting/celebration opportunities, I will schedule the presentation to the **Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal** to Al Baye. I have received the medal and commendation certificate back from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

### **Albuquerque Mayor's Veterans and Military Affairs Council**

Discussion and focus on veteran PTSD and Suicide for projects that the City of Albuquerque and State of New Mexico can undertake to assist identifying and assisting a veteran, spouse, or family member in need of assistance.

Mayor and Governor's Challenge: Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families (SMVF).

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). SAMHSA has partnered with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to bring the *Governor's and Mayor's Challenges to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families* (SMVF) to states, territories, and communities across the Nation.

Governor's Challenge working to develop and implement state-wide suicide prevention best practices for SMVF, using a public health approach.

## Challenge Objectives

- Convene a state/territory (Governor's Challenge) or city/community (Mayor's Challenge) interagency military and civilian team of leaders to develop an implementation plan to prevent suicide among SMVF that will advance the VA's [National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide \(PDF | 2.9 MB\)](#) and incorporate evidence-based strategies from the CDC's [Suicide Prevention Resource for Action \(PDF | 25.4 MB\)](#).
- Engage with city, county, territory and state stakeholders to enhance and align local and state-wide suicide prevention efforts.
- Understand the issues surrounding suicide prevention for SMVF.
- Increase knowledge about the challenges and lessons learned in implementing best policies and practices by using state/territory-to-state/territory and community-to-community sharing.
- Implement promising, best, and evidence-based practices to prevent and reduce suicide at the local level.
- Define and measure success, including defining assignments, deadlines, and measurable outcomes to be reported.
- Some Mayor's Challenge teams are city-based, some are county-based, and some are based in a local geographic region that crosses county lines.