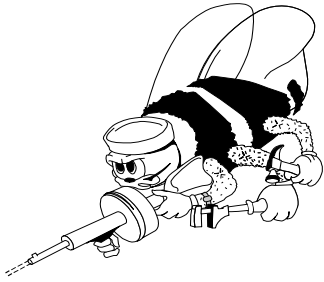


# MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 13, Issue 1 - Online Only

Web site: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

February 10, 2020



# SEABEES

*A Newsletter for Former US Naval*

***Mobile Construction Battalion 2 Personnel***

and host to CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1, CBMU 101, CBMU 553 and CBMU 577

## OK.... Another Issue of Veteran's Info

**Darla Budworth**  
**10/17/2019**

Dave let me know that Darla passed away after a short illness but a long battle with breathing problems. Our prayers are with Dave and his family. She was a big help with many reunions.

### SCAM ALERT

- source VA

Veterans are being targeted in a new widespread scam that uses sophisticated technology. This technology generates VA operating signatures that give the impression via caller ID that VA is calling the Veteran. Most Veterans will see the following on their caller ID, "Department of Veterans Affairs, 1-800-827-1000." The scammers claim to be VA personnel and use a script to mimic similar processes that would be used when speaking with the VA. The scammers are then requesting the Veteran verify personal information. Do not provide or verify personal information over the phone. You may find more informa-

See *Scam Alert* (Continued on page 2)

# The Commander and Staff

Our leadership consists of:

## Commander Pete Elliott

### Staff:

Paul D'Angelo

Vic Jaccino

Don McLain

Rich Nelson, Vice Commander

Malcolm Pearson

Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus

Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas./Publisher

See our web page:

<http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

(Continued from page 1) *Scam Alert*

tion on this at the following link:

<https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>

Please be mindful and alert your Veteran friends of this information.

Cubi Point galley sign: Food consumed for the month of January 1955. You might be able to enlarge on your computer.

| CUBI POINT<br>ENLISTED MEN'S GALLEY<br>30 <sup>th</sup> NCR<br>M.G.B. 2, 3, 5, 9 |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|
| - Food consumed during the month of JAN. 55 <sup>th</sup>                        |          |           |
| 6378   |          |           |
| Meals Served Per Day   |          |           |
| ITEM   | PER DAY  | PER MONTH |
| Bread  | 761 lbs  | 23594 lbs |
| Meat   | 1742 lbs | 54004 lbs |
| Vegetables   | 2989 lbs | 92691 lbs |
| Fruit  | 898 lbs  | 27853 lbs |
| Beverages  | 111 lbs  | 3440 lbs  |
| Milk   | 256 gal  | 7938 gal  |
| Butter   | 140 lbs  | 4315 lbs  |
| Eggs   | 201 doz  | 627 doz   |

# SEABEES

November - January  
Dates to Remember

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Feb. 1, 1944  | Seabees land with Fourth Marine Division on Kwajalein.  |
| Feb. 19, 1945 | Seabees land with 5th Marine Division, Iwo Jima.  |
| Feb. 1, 1944  | Seabees land with Fourth Marine Division on Kwajalein.  |
| Feb. 13, 1945 | Fleet Admiral E.J. King authorized retention of the Seabees as a permanent part of the postwar Navy.  |
| Feb. 19, 1945 | Seabees land with 4th and 5th Marine Division, Iwo Jima.  |
| Feb. 21, 1966 | CNO directs reactivation of CBC Gulfport, MS.   |
| Feb. 28, 1957 | Fleet Admiral Nimitz wrote to Admiral Moreell on the Seabees' 15th anniversary, commending them for their role in helping to defeat the Japanese in WWII. |
| Mar. 1, 1942  | RADM Moreell requested the Navy construction units be authorized to use a distinctive designation and insignia. The Seabee insignia was authorized.       |
| Mar. 2, 1867  | Civil Engineer Corps established.   |
| Mar. 5        | Seabee Birthday!  |
| Mar. 19, 1942 | Secretary of the Navy authorizes CEC to assume full command of Seabee Units.  |
| Mar. 22, 1945 | Seabees ferry Patton's 3rd Army across the Rhine during WWII.   |
| Apr. 12, 1845 | President Roosevelt dies.   |
| May 8, 1945   | VE Day. Germany surrenders. End of WWII in Europe.  |
| June 1, 1950  | MCB 2 Commissioned.   |
| June 6, 1944  | D-Day. Invasion of Normandy.  |
| June 25, 1950 | Korean War begins.  |
| June 29, 1952 | MCB 2 arrives Cubi Point, P.I. for the first time.  |

## Congress approves LEGION Act

-source legion.org

The LEGION Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act - fills in the gaps of war eras and redefines The American Legion's membership eligibility dates, beginning with the bombing of Pearl Harbor and continuing until it is determined the United States is no longer in a state of war. The legislation opens the door for hundreds of thousands of veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

"Today's passage of the LEGION Act is a victory for veterans who until now have not had their service to our nation fully recognized," American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad said.

"These veterans and their family members can now enjoy all the benefits of their service which they so richly deserve."

The gaps in the war era were largely during the Cold War, a time when threats to U.S. national security was real, especially to the men and women serving in uniform. Overall, estimates show that about 1,600 U.S. service members were killed or wounded in hostile operations during periods that were not previously recognized as times of war by the federal government.

Reistad credited members of Congress and American Legion Family members with the successful legislation. Their efforts fulfill Resolution No. 1, passed unanimously by the Legion's National Executive Committee October 1918 in Indianapolis. On Feb. 14, 1919 Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced the LEGION Act, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va., introduced a similar measure in the House.

"The American Legion appreciates the support our representatives have shown the veterans who were previously caught in the gaps," Reistad said. "This also underscores the passion American Legion Family members have for our nation's veterans. Their grass-roots advocacy for this bill has been inspiring."

Reistad evoked the memories of The American Legion's founders who launched the organization 100 years ago this past year. "As we celebrate our centennial anniversary, we hold to the same truths that our founders appropriately crafted a century ago," Reistad said. "Among those: a veteran is a veteran. It does not matter whether a veteran fought enemies on foreign soil, protected our interests in an ocean far away or secured our national defense here at home. Their service is what matters most. Now, thanks to this legislation, all veterans will be properly remembered for their service."

## Ban on sale of tobacco products to persons under 21 is now law

- source various

Sales of tobacco products to anyone under 21 has now been banned under a year-end congressional spending bill signed into law by the President. The tobacco-buying age in the U.S. is now increased from 18 to 21. The measure, which includes cigarettes and e-cigarettes, had bipartisan support. Public health advocates praised the move, saying it would help reduce kids' access to vaping products.

But officials stressed much more action is needed to reverse the youth vaping surge. Several expressed concern that the White House may use the "Tobacco 21" measure, as it is called, to avoid imposing the ban on flavored e-cigarettes that the president backed away from.

Medical experts note that while tobacco use has decreased in the U.S., 1 in 7 adults still smoke. More

than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. There are 480,000 smoking and tobacco related deaths in the U.S. each year, 1/3 caused by lung cancer, 1/3 by emphysema, and 1/3 directly related to other tobacco usage.

Nicotine, the prime culprit in tobacco products, has been known to be addictive since the 1960s. Most vaping products are loaded with nicotine and other dangerous chemicals. Nearly 40% of high school students and 18% of middle school students report use of vaping products with the flavored versions being the biggest sellers. At least 1/3 of high school students admit they have vaped marijuana. Latest studies, published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, indicate vaping increases the risk of lung disease by a third compared with those who never smoked or vaped. And the risk was even higher among adults who used both e-cigarettes and smoked tobacco.

**There is no exception in the new law for members of the military.**

# Buyer beware!

## These are the tricks online stores use to get you buying more stuff

- source cnn.com

There's a reason you fall into the rabbit hole of online shopping. A new study breaks down a few wily ways digital retailers sucker shoppers into spending more and committing to hidden costs. Websites, it turns out, employ a series of "dark patterns" meant to mislead or coerce online shoppers into making a decision that isn't always in their benefit, it says. You may not know that term, but you've certainly encountered them online -- surprise fees at checkout, false scarcity, clicking away that pop-up by admitting no, you don't want a great deal. These patterns can cause headaches in users' inboxes and dents in their wallets. But in their more harmful iterations, these misleading tactics could cause users to hand over personal data under the guise of something benign.

In an analysis of 53,000 product pages on 11,000 online stores, researchers from Princeton University and the University of Chicago found at least one instance on 11% of the most popular websites. Most of them were deceptive, covert or hid information. Researchers broke down dark patterns into seven categories. They're familiar to anybody who's shopped online.

**Sneaking** - These are the messages that hide information that, if you'd known about up front, you probably wouldn't agree to. For example, that extra \$15 that suddenly landed in your shopping bag? That's the sneaking method of hidden costs. Many online retailers delay the flurry of additional charges, like taxes and shipping/handling costs, until the very last step of the check-out process so they land like an unwelcome surprise. At that step in the process, most users have already committed to purchasing the item. The hidden costs, for some, are not a deal breaker, but an extra fee they've resigned themselves to pay.

**Urgency** - Ever stumble onto a website for a casual scan only to be met by an ominous countdown clock, ticking off the seconds left of a seemingly once-in-a-lifetime sale? Those are sometimes fake, the researchers said. A false sense of urgency is a deceptive way to push shoppers into buying something so they won't miss "limited-time" lower prices. But, as the researchers point out, these countdowns often reset when users refresh the page. Even after a few days or weeks, those same sales are still available.

**Misdirection** - These methods steer users toward or

away a certain choice with coded language or obstructive visuals. Take the dreaded subscription pop-up offer: If the "Yes, I would LOVE to subscribe" option is contrasted with a smaller-text, "No thanks, I don't like gourmet cooking tips straight to my inbox" or "I don't enjoy great deals on luxury fashion," you've encountered what the researchers call confirm shaming. If you get the same pop-up offer and can't even find the exit button because it's so small and virtually invisible, you've been bamboozled by visual interference.

**Social Proof** - Some websites share a steady stream of customers' recent purchases while users scan the site, in a bid to convince the current shopper to join their peers and buy. The details in these notifications are fairly vague -- "Ashley from Tampa, Florida, just bought size small distressed boyfriend jeans" -- and flash constantly to make it seem as though the purchases are occurring incessantly while you, the shopper, are merely browsing. Websites manipulate reviews to the same effect: Researchers found the same positive testimony for a product on two different sites, though the name of the reviewer had changed.

**Scarcity** - Another deceptive tool to steer shoppers into buying their product, websites may show that items have limited availability or are in high-demand - "250 other users are looking at this product!" or "Added to 500 people's carts" - so users think if they don't buy a product now, it could go out of stock soon. The accuracy of these low-stock counters is questionable, but they can trigger an impulsebuy response in shoppers, the study said.

**Obstruction** - Ever sign up for a recurring subscription (or get tricked into it) that seemed impossible to cancel? That's on purpose, too. Obstruction methods make it harder to cancel those choices that seemed so easy to make. Websites often don't disclose that canceling a subscription or membership isn't simple, even if they're marketed as able to cancel anytime.

**Forced action** - Some websites lock users out unless they agree to terms and conditions or sign up for access. This is what the team calls "forced action," when shoppers can't complete a task without handing over some personal information. Websites learn more about shoppers this way than they would have consented to otherwise.

**What's to be done?** - Marshini Chetty, the paper's coauthor and assistant professor of computer science at the University of Chicago, said the team discussed their findings with the Federal Trade Commission and sponsors of the Deceptive Experiences to Online Users Reduction (DETOUR) Act, a bipartisan bill

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

proposed to ban to online dark patterns. "Often, it's trying to get the user to make a decision that they may not have made if they were otherwise fully informed. On the internet, they could be affecting thousands or millions of people, and we don't really fully understand what their impact is on decision-making," Chetty said. As for shoppers, knowledge is power. And if you see a countdown clock or extra fees in your shopping cart, you might think twice before you buy.

---

## **VA kept thousands of veterans' appeals in boxes, file cabinets instead of processing them, report shows**

- source radio.com

When a veteran receives care at a non-VA hospital, the veteran or their healthcare provider can file a claim with VA to be reimbursed for the cost of that care. But if claims processors in the VHA Office of Community Care (CCO) inappropriately deny, or fail to process those claims or subsequent appeals, veterans can be left with financial burdens, including debt. An audit of the CCO showed that some of its facilities lacked any staff to process appeals and rather than sending them to another office that could, staff let them sit in boxes, file cabinets, cubicles and mailrooms unanswered - some more than five years old. And leaders said they didn't know. Not only did the CCO fail to decide appeals, with most of those it reported being "unprocessed" for nearly two years, it "did not know the extent of unprocessed appeals that were unaccounted for and stored in file cabinets, boxes and bins" at its own offices, according to a recent report from the VA IG.

Leaders lacked oversight of the appeals process and had not clearly defined roles and responsibilities of those tasked with managing those appeals claims, saying they didn't know the mailed appeals were stored in boxes, cabinets and mailrooms in various offices. The audit took place ahead of the Appeals Modernization, which took effect in February. The audit showed VHA was not fully prepared for that modernization, including developing and

implementing all the required procedures for the required new appeals process and did not have the staff to process the appeals. It was not until months later, in April, that the audit team revealed even more issues - appeals were mailed to offices that did not have staff assigned to process them, and staff had not added them to the system. The staff did not even use a standard system to record, track and monitor appeals until July 2018. It had no way of tracking its own workload, the report said. "This meant that (the payment and operations management staff) could not reliably determine how many claim decisions veterans and providers appealed or how many appeals its staff completed," the report said.

In site visits to offices where the appeals were sent and should have been processed, the audit team counted appeals and conducted 70 staff and leadership interviews. In FY 2018, auditors found that the offices processed about 8 million non-VA emergency care claims and denied more than 900,000 of them or about 11%. As of February, the offices said they had 13,935 appeals, and the audit team found more than 12,000 of those were pending an average of nearly two years. Those claims ranged from \$10 to more than \$100,000, the report said. But when the audit team visited 10 of the 80 total offices, they found more than 8,800 other appeal documents that "staff had not accounted for" and "indicated that these were potential unprocessed appeals" that had not been recorded in the system, the report said.

At least two of those 10 offices did not have a single employee working on appeals. Instead of transferring the appeals to another office with enough staff to process them, the offices stored the appeals in boxes and did nothing with them, the report said. The appeals manager "said he was not aware that some facilities received appeals and stored them in boxes and file cabinets rather than processing them," according to the report.

Auditors concluded that the offices "had not completely or accurately identified pending appeals, which left veterans at risk of becoming financially liable for any wrongfully denied non-VA care claims," the report said. The IG made eight recommendations to improve the appeals management process, including finding and processing existing appeals, ensuring incoming appeals go to facilities staffed to handle them, provide staff clear direction and ensure staff have access to and use the appeals system. The report noted that the VA Office of the Under Secretary for Health "concurred" with most of IG's recommendations.

## Eating In The Fifties

- Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.
- Curry was a surname.
- All chips were plain.
- Oil was for lubricating; fat was for cooking.
- Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.
- Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.
- Chickens didn't have fingers.
- None of us had ever heard of yogurt.
- Healthy food consisted of anything edible!
- Cooking outside was called camping.
- Seaweed was not a recognized food.
- Prunes were medicinal and stewed.
- Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.
- Surprisingly Muesli was available It was called cattle feed.
- Pineapples came in a can in chunks or round with a hole in the middle.
- Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.
- There were three things that we never ever had on/ at our table in the fifties: elbows, hats and cell phones!
- There were two choices "Take it" or Leave it."

---

## A Few Things You Should Do To Save Money

- source read.your-pennysaver.com

Today it's more important than ever to prepare for your financial future, and one of the easiest ways is to cut expenses and save more of your hard-earned money. Here's a quick list of things you can do to save on bills.

- **For Pete's Sake, Quit Smoking** - This might make some people upset but it's time to quit. Not only is it hazardous to your health, it's costing you and your family a fortune. Smoking one pack per day costs over \$2,000 per year.
- **Install CFLs or LED Lights Where You Can** - They cost more than incandescent bulbs, but CFL and LED bulbs can last for years. Swapping just your four or five most-used light bulbs can save \$45 or more a year. CFLs use a quarter of the energy of incandescent bulbs and last for years, are the next cheapest option after traditional bulbs. LEDs are more expensive, how-

ever, they're getting cheaper and are easily the best lighting option available:

- **Cancel Unused Subscriptions** - It's easy to rack up monthly subscription bills since many products and services nowadays offer monthly plans. The problem is you sign up and forget, or you get "cancel remorse" and keep subscriptions you really don't use.
- **Make A Grocery List** - Don't go to the grocery store hungry, it's dangerous to your wallet. Make a list of what you need and stick to it.
- **Buy in Bulk** - One of the easiest things you can do to start saving is to buy in bulk. Retailers often give a much better deal on products such as paper towels, toilet paper, detergent, and so forth if you buy in bulk.
- **Eat at Restaurants that Offer Deals** - Eating out often can be expensive. But going out can be done on the cheap if you choose your restaurants that offer specials, such as two for one dinners, or discounts on certain nights.
- **Take Advantage Of Tax Deductions** - If you don't have a mortgage greater than \$750,000, you can deduct the interest on the loan. You can also deduct property taxes up to \$10,000, and there are tax incentives for energy-efficient upgrades. Most deductions have gone away, there are still a couple worth noting. You can claim deductions on solar energy—both for electric and water heating equipment, through 2021. The longer you wait, though, the less money you'll get back.
- **Use Government Rebates To Get Solar Panels and Slash Energy Bills** - There is a new 2019 policy that qualifies homeowners who live in specific zip codes to be eligible for \$1,000's in Government funding to install solar panels. Subsidies and rebates can cover a lot of the costs of installation and greatly reduces the amount you'll have to pay. Do the research and potentially save thousands a year.
- **Grill** - Grill in the summer. Your stove or oven creates a lot of heat. In the summer it can make air conditioners work extra hard. If you're not much of a griller, consider cooking meals in a crockpot.
- **Give Your Air Conditioner Some Space** - Your AC needs space to get air easily. Many units are surrounded by shrubs that restrict the airflow needed to run efficiently. Trim bushes that touch the unit to provide at least 1 foot of clearance, and clean up the ground of loose debris or leaves.
- **Quit Buying Expensive Coffee** - Do the math... \$5 per latte 5 days a week is \$25 a week. That's \$100 per month just for coffee. If you brew your own coffee the cost is around 30 cents a cup.
- **Buy at Stores that Give Veterans a Discount** - Lowe's and Home Depot, for example, give veterans and their spouses a 10% discount on all in-store purchases. Don't be afraid to ask for discounts.

## Next subs will be named to honor battleships sunk at Pearl Harbor

- source Navy Times

The Navy's two next Virginia-class fast-attack will be named in honor of the crews of two battleships sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor nearly eight decades ago. Acting SECNAV Thomas B. announced the decision to name the boats after the battleships Arizona and Oklahoma. This is the first time since the Dec. 7, 1941 raid that the Navy will put boats with those names into active service, though there is currently a Los Angeles-class attack submarine bearing the name Oklahoma City. "Truly, there is no greater honor I can think of for the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the nation than to build and commission into active service two state-of-the-art American warships carrying the spirit of those heroes of the Greatest Generation, as well as that of their families and the Grand Canyon and Sooner states as they sail through a new American maritime century," Modly said in a statement.

More than 1,100 crew on the Arizona died during the Pearl Harbor attack and many remain entombed in the battleship's submerged wreckage. Another 477 crew members from the Oklahoma were lost. More than 2,400 Americans - including Marines, soldiers and civilians - died in the assault, which plunged the United States into War World II. The majority of the Pearl Harbor dead - 2,008 - were sailors. Several hundred others were wounded. The new submarine Oklahoma, SSN-802, is already under construction at General Dynamics Boat, which was awarded the Navy's largest ever ship-building contract in December.

## A new decade with its own set of challenges and scams

- source cnn.com

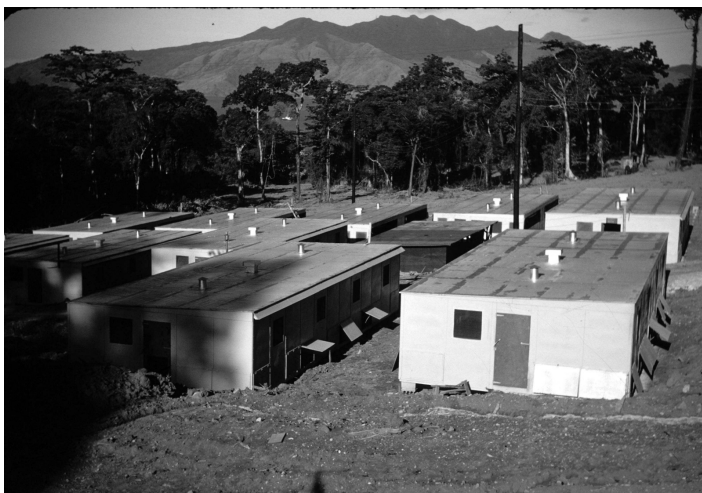
Not only do we have to break the habit of writing 2019, when we really mean 2020, but the dawn of a new decade also creates a unique opportunity for scammers, says Ira Rheingold, executive director for the National Association of Consumer Advocates. How exactly, you ask?

When the year 2020 is abbreviated on official forms and documents, those looking to exploit unsuspecting people can manipulate the numbers and leave people potentially vulnerable to fraud. For example, a document dated 1/4/20 can easily be changed to 1/4/2021 by adding two numbers at the end. There are several ways that could pose a problem. Rheingold cited the example of a stale check, or one that was written more than six months or so ago. If you have an old check lying around that's dated 1/4/20 and someone finds it, they could add "21" to the end of that date, and voila, the check is no longer stale.

Or, let's say you sign a credit contract - an agreement between a borrower and a lender - and date it 1/4/20. Say you miss a month or two of payments, and the lender goes to collect the debt that's owed. Theoretically, they could add "19" to the end of that date and argue that you owe more than a year's worth of payments, Rheingold said.

We could go on, but far be it for us to give scammers more bright ideas. We'll just leave you with a PSA that consumer advocates, auditors, and police departments around the country have been issuing: When you write a date on a document, don't shorthand the year 2020 to just "20." Write out the whole thing (it's only two more numbers, after all). It's still early in the year and there's no evidence yet that anyone has been scammed in this manner. But it's better to be safe than sorry.

"It's just another precaution, another chance to warn people that there are folks out there who will take advantage of you," Rheingold said.



Green hut area, during construction, Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. ca. 1954



## Army veteran faces federal prison time, fines for Stolen Valor and lying about PTSD

- source Army Times

Gregg Ramsdell of Columbus, GA, an Army Veteran, faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, after pleading guilty to lying about a fake tour in Afghanistan and Purple Heart and Silver Star medals he didn't earn, and one count of violation of the Stolen Valor Act. In 2014, Ramsdell claimed he "witnessed horrible atrocities" while deployed to Afghanistan from October 2008 to March 2009. He told VA he saw "men, women and children being executed. Women holding babies while detonating themselves. IED explosions causing severe bodily injuries and death. Retrieving body parts and bagging them. Having blood and body excrements being blown onto my uniform."

Ramsdell said he suffered from PTSD, and was, "unable to live a normal life." VA approved benefits at a 70 % rating retroactive to his discharge date. He received \$76,000 until July 2019.

Ramsdell served on active duty, in the Army National Guard, the Air National Guard and the Army Reserve since his enlistment in 1981, and was honorably discharged in June 2014, but he wasn't in Afghanistan when he said he was. He later admitted to the FBI he lied about having PTSD. Investigators also found he listed the Purple Heart with Cluster and the Silver Star Medal on his application for a civilian job at Fort Benning in 2017. He got the job with a base salary of \$53,137.

The Stolen Valor Act makes it a criminal offense to falsely claim military status and awards to claim "money, employment, property or other tangible benefits."

## VA Fraud, Waste, & Abuse

A Pennsylvania man has been accused of defrauding VA by falsely claiming to have been a Navy SEAL who had been a POW and a Silver Star recipient. Richard Meleski was arrested in Philadelphia on charges of fraud, stolen valor and making false statements. Federal prosecutors say the rip-off, which began in 2010, scammed the VA out of \$300,000 in medical benefits. "These allegations are truly shocking and a huge insult to anybody who has worn our country's uniform," U.S. Attorney William McSwain said in a news release. The press release said Meleski never served a single day in the U.S. military.

Prosecutors said Meleski also sought benefits for PTSD, claiming it was brought on by what happened to him when he was serving in Beirut as a SEAL more than 30 years ago. "In his fabricated description of the incident causing PTSD, defendant Meleski stated, '18 hr hostile takeover. Became POW, during this tour. Beaten, shot. head injury, tortured. Hospitalized in Germany for injuries sustained. Crushed hand. Shrapnel,'" the indictment alleged. "Meleski further falsely stated he was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing three teammates." The indictment also stated Meleski claimed to have suffered a traumatic brain injury when he escaped captivity in Beirut by jumping out a window with the body of his executed partner on his back.

Authorities accused Meleski of also obtaining Social Security disability payments after testifying about his phony military record before an administrative law judge. The hearing was held after his application for benefits was rejected and he appealed. Prosecutors filed court papers seeking to detain Meleski without bail, citing his rap sheet which included convictions for arson and stealing a gun that resulted in long prison sentences. He was last released from prison in 2008, prosecutors said.



30th Naval Construction Regiment sign, Subic Bay, Philippine Islands. ca. 1954  
MCBs 2, 3, 5, 9, 11.



## 1,500 Health Sheets and 150 Videos Available

- Source Vantage Point Hill

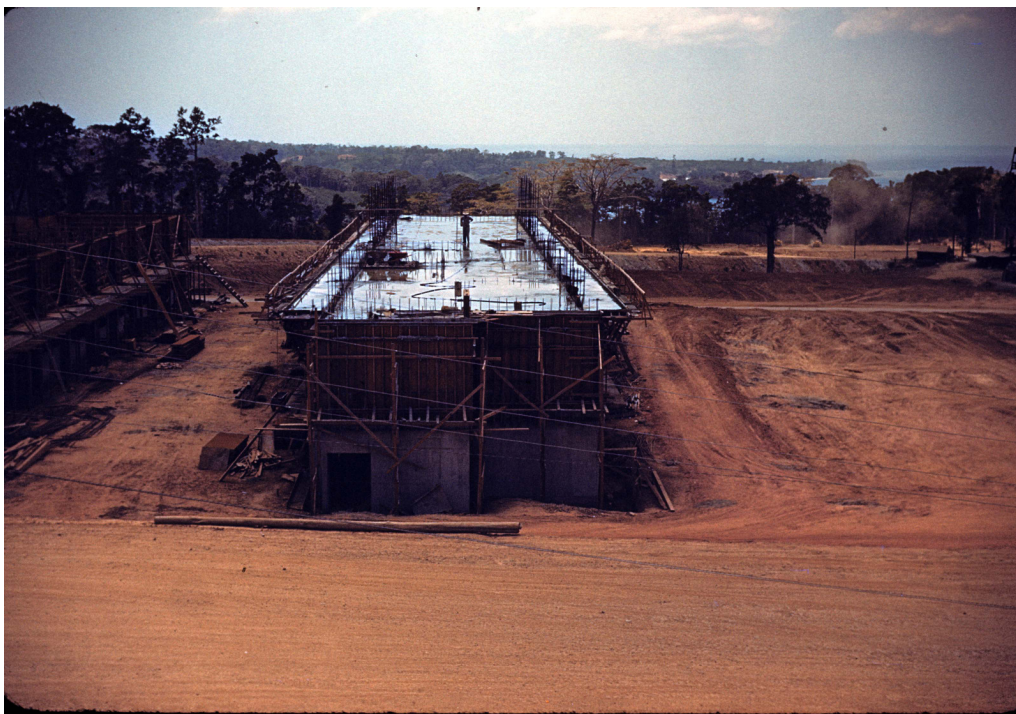
Veterans have access to a 24/7 online Veterans Health Library that provides information and education about treatments and conditions offered by VA. The VHL

([www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov](http://www.veteranshealthlibrary.va.gov)) has over 1,500 health sheets and 150 videos in both English and Spanish. It gives Veterans access to health information to help them make informed decisions on their care. VA clinicians are also aware of the VHL. The medical content in the library aligns with DoD and VA clinical guidelines. Becky Hartt Minor, a health educator and program manager for the VHL, said the program has grown. "The VHL is nearly eight years old, and we average nearly a million-page views a year," she said. "We know Veterans want a source for medical information that is relevant and provides easy to read information on health conditions ranging from PTSD and Mental Health to Chronic Pain and Heart Disease."

The VHL is mobile friendly and offers links to other VA resources. It can be also be accessed on the MyHealtheVet web site where Veterans use secure messaging to communicate with their VA care providers and order their prescriptions for home delivery. Unlike other health web sites, the VHL is free of advertisements and pop up ads.



**My sister took going  
to jail really badly.  
She refused food, drinks.  
She spat and swore at  
anyone who came near her  
and started throwing things  
everywhere.  
After that we NEVER  
played monopoly again.**



Building the barracks. top of the hill  
above the airplane hangars, Subic  
Bay, Philippine Islands, 1950.



## Notes from our members:



Thanks all for the support checks and dues. Greatly appreciated. I received checks from **Wayne Heple** and **Pete Elliott**. Thanks, guys! A Christmas note from **Stoney**: (for **Rachel**, too)



Thank you both for all the joy that you have given through the years. You have been very special to me over the years, in all kinds of ways (visiting you in your home in Villa Rica). I do look forward to visiting



you again next summer. As you know, I have a son, **Mike**, who lives in Atlanta and I hope to visit him again also. I will continue to stay in touch. As you know, I made 95 years old November 25th. I do



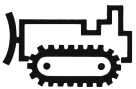
have plans next summer to visit my niece who lives in Sequoia, California. Also, many other friends in California. Take care and have a great Christmas and New Year. (PS: I do hope you can read my handwriting.... 95 years has



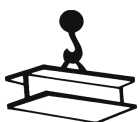
taken its' toll)..... from **Jack Schrader**: I hope you and **Rachel** had a great holiday season and are in good health [we are, thanks]. **Wanda** and I had a great week as **Anna Marie** and **Kent** came home for the week. It really has been a big change



since we quit our reunions... really miss them. We enjoy your Newsletters and we want to thank you for your work [thanks, **Jack**]..... from **Mary Henrichson**: [a Christmas card] Hope you and **Rachel** had a Happy and Merry Christmas! Sending a check so you can keep up the Newsletter. Love to get it. Thanks for all your work [thanks, **Mary**]



..... from **Don "Ike" Eminhizer**: [**Ike**] mailed a 1950 Atsugi reunion book I had loaned him] As promised I am returning the Seabee reunion book. Thank



10

you for trusting me with it. It sure brought back a lot of memories. An old Seabee on his last legs. Thanks so much..... That's all the mail received since the last issue. I'll try and get another issue sent out in about three months. I am still sending around 12-14 copies to those that do not have computers. I am sure there are more, so if you know someone that is not receiving an issue, please let me know and I will mail one to them. But that costs about \$2.50 per issue so keep those checks coming. I have Seabee caps and US flags if you are interested. Send me a note and have a good spring....  
Scott



This R4D (aka DC3) airplane flew in the mail and people making scheduled landings on the Cubi Point airstrip after it was finished and dedicated.



This dozer operator and I were tent mates but I cannot remember his name.

Photos above from David Anderson.

# The Good Guy List

**For 2019**

Dave Budworth, John Bloem, Ralph Bokern, Pat Carey, Frank (in memory of his brother Mike) Castelvechi, Roy Cone, Ballard Credeur, Paul D'Angelo, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Tom Dowd, Pete Elliott, Don 'Ike' Eminhizer, Doug Emond, Al Erb, Richard Farbo, Frank Fibich, Richard Forster, Jack Foster, Yvonne Fowler (in memory of Bob Fowler) Meredith, Claude Garcenot, Robert Graf, John Grasz, Jim Green, Gordon Gwathney, Pauline (in memory of Charlie) Hagemann, Roger Hamilton, Ruth (in memory of Alex) Hamilton, Bert Helms, Mary (in memory of Duane) Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Althea (in memory of Jerry) Herr, Juanita (in memory of Leonard [Hersh]) Hershberger, Sam Holsomback, Erling Husby, Vic Jaccino, Joe (Frenchie) Jandreau, Sharon (in memory of Larry) Jessop, Sharon (in memory of Ambrose) Johnson, Carol (in memory of my loving husband of 62 years Charles) Kangas, Duane Keech, Denise King (in memory of her Dad, Don Truskey), Marilyn Knight (in memory of Bill), John Kolasz, Betty (in memory of Emil) Krygier, H.A. 'Herb' Liverman, Ivan Majetic, Bob Markey, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, John Petronka, Earl Presson, Sam Ragusa, Gary Rawlings, Rex Roark, C. Edner Rudolph, Jack Schrader, John Stock, Stoney Serrett, Dick Skillicorn, Alice (in memory of Ray) Sonnen, Ray Sorrentino, Marian (in memory of Clyde) Stenholm, Stiles Stevens, Lucy (in memory of Lee) Stevens, John Stock, Willie Struecker, Judy (in memory of Richard) Todd, Rodney White, John Wilborn, Scott Williams, R.G. 'Pete' Williams, and Bill Wisnowski.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2019, some much longer. If you don't find your name on this list, then maybe you have forgotten to send in your dues recently. All dues are paid through the calendar year, January 1 through December 31 (no dues card sent out). This list is as of August 6, 2019 There are currently 57 paid up members through 2019. The Newsletter is sent primarily by email. If you or a

son or daughter have an email address and you wish to receive the Newsletter by email, please send an email to Scott at [williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com). Online, you will get the Newsletter with color pictures if they are in the original, which is cost-prohibitive to print in the Post Office-mailed version

Everyone can read the Newsletter on-line on our Web page: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

## Need a Membership Roster?

If you have a need for an up-to-date membership roster, drop me a line with a couple of bucks and I'll send you one. We currently have 713 names and addresses of former CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1/101, CBMU 577, and MCB 2 personnel, so this is a pretty thick directory (22 pages). Glad to have all aboard! And, if you would like a directory sorted by ZIP numbers, let me know. You can see who lives close to you or use it when you travel. And keep sending those cards and letters – especially the ones with checks!  
Scott Williams

## Who to contact about your dues

Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas.  
MCB 2 Reunion Association  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180  
(770-456-4246)

e-mail: [williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com)

make checks payable to:  
Scott Williams/MCB 2 (or CBMU 1, etc.)

## Dues are \$10/year

January - December

This is what keeps us going  
and enables us to send this eNewsletter.

\*\*\*

Web page: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

# MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

c/o Scott H. Williams  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180

We're the **SEABEES** of the Navy

