

VFW OBJECTIVES:

- TO ENSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.



POST 2894

Meetings

2nd Wednesday of month – 7:00 pm
Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge,
110 Kempsville Rd, Chesapeake, VA

Post Address:

VFW Post 2894
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Chesapeake, VA 23328

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Web Site: www.vfw2894.org

Visit us on FaceBook

OFFICERS

Commander.....	Chris Mulholland
Sr. Vice Commander.....	John Guill
Jr. Vice Commander.....	Gary Shaffer
Adjutant.....	Tom Benson
Quartermaster.....	Craig Devonshire
Chaplain.....	Mike Morris
Surgeon.....	Ray Brogan
Staff Judge Advocate.....	Matt Hamel
Service Officer.....	Gary Dunbar

NATIONAL

www.vfw.org

STATE

www.vfwva.org

VFW VA DISTRICT 2

www.vfwwebcom.org/va/dist2

City of Chesapeake

www.visitchesapeake.com/things-to-do/events

SSG JONATHAN KILIAN DOZIER POST 2894



Chesapeake, Virginia 23322

NEWSLETTER – Vol. III, Issue 3, June/July 2014

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings Comrades! Please remember to renew your annual dues if you haven't already. And consider becoming a Life Member so that you no longer have to worry about annual dues.

This has been a busy spring! Between award ceremonies, the officer installation ceremony, handing out of Buddy Poppies on Armed Forces Day, and our hosting of the Third Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk on Memorial Day weekend, we were B-U-S-Y!!! Thanks to everyone who helped out! And thanks also to all those friends and family who contributed as well! In view of that, one of our goals in the next few months is to establish a Ladies' Auxiliary so that the Post will have additional helping hands to assist us with all of our events.

I would be remiss if I didn't specifically thank Comrade Matt Schweers and his wife, Grace. Between the two of them, they took a small family idea to honor the heroes of Bataan and evolved it into the large community event that it is today. Without their tireless dedication and work this would not be the annual event it is today. Thanks to you both!

I also want to thank Comrade Gary Dunbar who has single-handedly helped improve the lives of the oldest member of our Post, WWII Vet and Silver Star winner Harry Oakley, and his wife. Gary has been a champion for them, personally driving them to regular VA hospital

appointments and leading the charge on having modifications made to their house to make it more accessible. From wider doors, a chair lift and modifications to their bathroom, Gary has been a one-man gangbuster and his title as "Service Officer" has been well deserved!

This summer marks the anniversary of two major events in US military history, the 70th anniversary of the D-Day landing at Normandy, and the 15th anniversary of the entry of US forces into Kosovo.

Please consider attending a D-Day memorial service somewhere – there are fewer and fewer veterans from that era left alive. There will be services at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek, in Bedford, Virginia (home of the National D-Day Memorial) and at the WWII memorial in Washington DC.

Lastly, another Medal of Honor was recently presented to Sgt Kyle

White in a ceremony at the White House on May 13th. What struck me most was his humility and his comment that – after he thought he was mortally wounded – "If I'm not going to make it, then I'm at least going to try to help somebody until it happens." That could be the motto for all of us as we take care of both our older and younger veterans.

Thanks to all of you and your service!

Semper Fidelis,

Chris Mulholland, Commander

majmule@cox.net

POST AWARDS CEREMONY

At the April 9 meeting of Post 2894 we welcomed numerous VIPs and guests who came to share in recognizing and honoring three of the Posts award winners, the Scout of the Year and the co-Police Officers of the Year. These VIPs included Chesapeake's Mayor Alan Krasnoff, Chief of Police Kelvin Wright, and City Council Member Suzy Kelly, who all made opening remarks before the awards were handed out.

Annually, the VFW recognizes a Boy Scout Eagle Scout, Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, Venture Silver Award recipient and Sea Scout Quartermaster who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank. The National winners are awarded scholarships of up to \$5000.

Post 2894's winner will be an outstanding leader of the future and we wish that all of the members could have



read his amazing resumé. William Wheaton is an Eagle Scout with BSA Troop 824 and a senior at

Norfolk Academy who has been on the High Honor Roll all four years in high school, has a perfect 4.0 GPA (NA does not weigh grades), and is an AP Scholar, co-captain of his school's crew team, 2-year member of the All-State choir, concertmaster of the NA orchestra, and President of the International Relations Club. In scouting, Will is a member of the Order of the Arrow, a Vigil Honor award winner, is working on a Gold Award in Venturing, and has held numerous leadership positions in Boy Scouts, OA, and Venturing Crew. He has attended multiple High Adventure Camps, including Philmont, and National and World Scout Jamborees. Will has already been accepted at the University of Virginia where he wants to major in business but is waiting on responses from several other elite colleges including Princeton and Dartmouth.

Despite his already enormously impressive accomplishments, the main reason that he was selected as our Scout of the Year was because of his Eagle Scout project. In his own words, "After noticing that there was no place in Chesapeake where the names of those servicemen from Chesapeake who have died in the nation's service had been gathered, I set out to remedy this...After collecting [the] data, I gathered information and stories about many of the men through interviews and more research, and wrote a book (*The Gold Star Honor Roll*) that compiled the stories of these men...and filmed a documentary based on the book, with narrators telling the stories at locations in the area significant to each soldier. I then created many copies of the book and movie and distributed them to all of the public libraries and public schools in Chesapeake."

For his notable interest in preserving and publicizing those who perished in service to our nation, Will was recognized with a certificate and a monetary reward which will go to helping him during his first year at college. We are confident that Will's package will be favorably received at the national level and hope that he will receive substantial acknowledgment and appreciation.

Will was accompanied at the ceremony by his mother, Laurie, and grandparents, Captain Bill and Monica Wheaton (USN, ret). His father, Jim, a former school board member, was unable to attend since he was out of town at an American Disabilities Act conference.

Too often we read articles about heroic deeds performed by an officer of the law, a firefighter, or an EMT and there is no recognition for what they have done. Every day these men and women in uniform put their lives on the line for us and our community. Every year the VFW selects emergency services persons, law enforcement officers and firefighters for National VFW Awards. The candidates must have: recognition by their colleagues or those they serve; consistent excellence in the performance of their duties; and consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and continuous



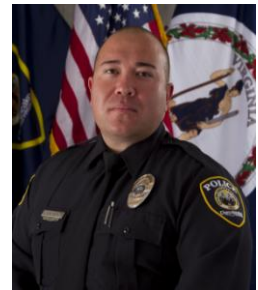
From left to right: Chief Wright, Suzy Kelly, Officer Weir, Officer Beaver, Will Wheaton, Commander Mulholland, and Mayor Krasnoff

growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.

This year, for the first time ever, Post 2894 honored two Chesapeake Police Department (CPD) officers as the co-Police Officers of the Year, Stephen Weir and Selena Beaver

Quoting from their award nomination, "It has been said that 'perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did,' and the perseverance and dedication to service by each of these officers resulted in the successful apprehension of a burglary suspect, the safe recovery of a stolen firearm, and a thorough investigation that lasted for several days. For their collective efforts in providing outstanding service to the citizens of Chesapeake..." they were selected by their peers as CPD's Officers of the Year. Additionally, both were also honored with the department's Outstanding Teamwork and Exceptional Performance Awards and the Chief's Award of Recognition.

Officer Stephen Weir is originally from Philadelphia and has been a member of the CPD for 4 years. He always wanted to be a police officer but his career path took him away from that goal before his brother, a detective with CPD, notified him of an opportunity within the department. While attending the police academy, he traveled back and forth between Virginia and Pennsylvania on the weekends. Stephen and his wife have been married for 11 years and have two beautiful girls, 6 and 8 years old.



Officer Selena Beaver hails from Norfolk – not the one in Virginia but the small town in upstate New York! She has been with the force for about 4-1/2 years, and was accepted to the police academy after 6 successful years in the US Army where she was a Counter Intelligence Agent and Interrogator with the 525th Military Intelligence (MI) Brigade. She was on active airborne status and conducted over 100 jumps, eventually earning the rank of Sergeant (E5) with numerous awards and commendation medals after deployments to Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Iraq. She has an associate’s degree in social science and intends to continue her education and earn a baccalaureate. Selena is married to a Virginia Beach police officer and has a handsome, 6 year old son. At the awards ceremony, along with her certificate she was handed a VFW membership application which she promised to fill out and return! Additionally, she has promised to distribute VFW information within the police department and recruit other veterans to Post 2894. We look forward to her – and other members of the ‘thin blue line’ – joining our ranks!



The three award recipients were then congratulated by all the attendees. We are holding our meetings at the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Lodge 9 at the intersection of Kempsville Road and Battlefield Boulevard. If you haven’t joined us to see this great facility, please make the time to join us at our next meeting on 14 May where we will be installing our officers for the 2014-’15 fraternal year.

GOOD WORK AND JOBS WELL DONE!!!

ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2014-’15

The following slate of officers was elected at the April Post meeting and installed at the May meeting:

- Commander – Chris Mulholland
- Senior Vice Commander – John Guill
- Junior Vice Commander – Gary Shaffer
- Quartermaster – Craig Devonshire
- Adjutant – Tom Benson
- Surgeon – Ray Brogan
- Chaplain – Mike Morris
- Judge Advocate – Matt Hamel
- Service Officer – Gary Dunbar
- 1st Year Trustee – Matt Schweers
- 2nd Year Trustee – Carl Dozier
- 3rd Year Trustee – Geoff Briggs

3RD ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MARCH MEMORIAL WALK

Due to the printing deadline for this newsletter, the complete results from the 3rd Annual Bataan Death March Memorial Walk are not in yet but will be included in the next newsletter. SGM Mimms, a survivor of the death march, was on-hand again this year to regal the participants with stories from this horrific episode in US military history. We had participants from as far away as Seattle, Washington as well as Ft. Bragg, NC and Langley Air Force Base here in Hampton.

Until the next newsletter, here are some quick snapshots from another successful completion of this iconic event.



Patriot Guards motorcycle escort for SGM Mimms



Participants walking for 1LT Vinett of Chesapeake currently in Afghanistan



SGM Mimms regaling a group of young Marine volunteers



Out Post hot dog stand in action!



Comrade Gary Dunbar manning the Post recruiting booth.



Memorial services and speeches



A group of participants posing after their 16.5 mile walk



Chesapeake Fire Department provided a wonderful backdrop with the American flag.

One of the highlights was the “coming out” of our Post’s hot dog stand! It was a welcome sight for the hungry finishers of the long walk.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

This June marks the 70th anniversary of one of the most historic events in US military history...the landing at Normandy, forever remembered as “D-DAY”. Many movies have portrayed both the horror and courage of that day, from “The Longest Day” to “Saving Private Ryan”. By now, the living veterans of that iconic day are in

their 90s. There won't be many of them left for the 80th anniversary. On 6 June, at 9 am, there will be a ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek to honor the men and the moment. This service is open to anyone. Please RSVP to JEBLCES_PAO_GS@navy.mil.



A great invasion force stood off the Normandy coast of France as dawn broke on 6 June 1944: 9 battleships, 23 cruisers, 104 destroyers, and 71 large landing craft of various descriptions as well as troop transports, mine sweepers, and merchantmen-in all, nearly 5,000 ships of every type, the largest armada ever assembled. The naval bombardment that began at 0550 that morning detonated large minefields along the shoreline and destroyed a number of the enemy's defensive positions. To one correspondent, reporting from the deck of the cruiser HMS *Hillary*, it sounded like "the rhythmic beating of a gigantic drum" all along the coast. In the hours following the bombardment, more than 100,000 fighting men swept ashore to begin one of the epic assaults of history, a "mighty endeavor," as President Franklin D. Roosevelt described it to the American people, "to preserve our civilization and to set free a suffering humanity."

Allied losses were high: 2,500 men at OMAHA Beach alone, another 2,500 among the American airborne divisions, almost 1,100 for the Canadians, and some 3,000 for the British – more than 9,000 men in all, one-third of whom were killed in action. Even so, the number was less than Allied planners had expected. Concerned that Hitler would respond to the invasion with extreme violence and might even resort to poison gas, Eisenhower's chief surgeon, Maj. Gen. Albert W. Kenner, and the Chief Surgeon of the U.S. Army's European Theater of Operations, Maj. Gen. Paul R. Hawley, had prepared their staffs to process at least 12,000 killed and wounded in the First U.S. Army alone.

By the evening of 6 June 1944, Allied power had prevailed all across the Normandy beachhead. The British had failed to seize Caen. The Americans had yet to secure a lodgment far enough inland to keep enemy artillery from hitting supply dumps and unloading points they were building along the invasion beaches. Yet more than 100,000 men had come ashore, the first of millions who would follow.

By the last week in July, according to ULTRA intercepts of coded German radio communications, the enemy in Normandy had sustained casualties of more than 100,000 enlisted men and 2,360 officers killed and wounded.

The Allies, for their part, had brought four years of planning and hard work to completion. Exhausted and battle-worn, they had at last reached the Periers-St. Lo road. From there the land was dry and the country relatively open. The final act of the war, the great push through France into Germany itself, could now begin.

It had been a grim fight. Six weeks of battle had left the Germans disheartened and susceptible to any farther blow the Allies might deliver. "It was casualty reports, casualty reports, casualty reports wherever you went," Rommel told his son Manfred from his sickbed. "I have never fought with such losses...And the worst of it is that it was all without sense or purpose." Indeed, Rommel continued, on some days the equivalent of a regiment of his men had fallen in Normandy-more than in a whole summer of fighting in Africa during 1942.

The days had been filled with mud, heartache, and pain for the Allies as well. From the very beginning, little had seemed to go right. The airborne assault on the night before the landing had sown confusion among the enemy and had provided an important diversion, but too many of the men had landed too far from their targets. As a result, the effort had only a marginal effect on the developing battle. Over the days that followed, rather than withdrawing beyond the Seine as Allied planners had expected, the Germans had hung on tenaciously, taking brutal losses but inflicting them upon the Allies as well. Meanwhile, Montgomery's careful plan for the attack had begun to unravel on D-Day itself. His forces failed to take Caen, the key to further operations in the open country to the south. Attacking time and again as the campaign developed, they had nonetheless held the cream of the German force in place, absorbing pressure that would almost inevitably have fallen upon Bradley's forces in the *bocage*.

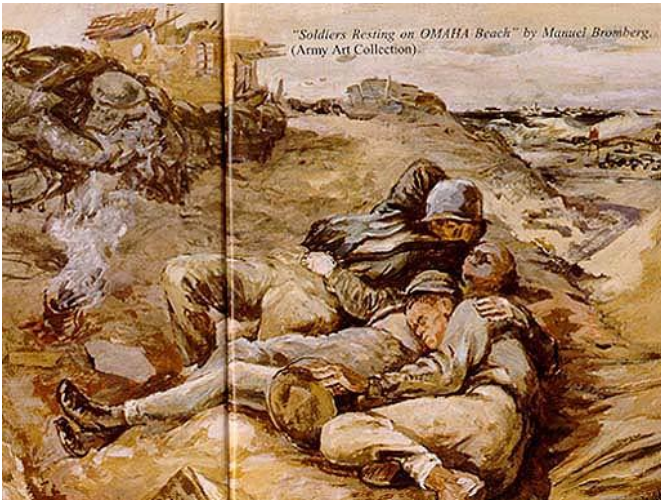
As for the Americans, the landing on OMAHA Beach had been a near-disaster averted only by the courage of unsung sailors and soldiers. When air attacks and naval gunfire had failed to silence German guns and the momentum of the assault had begun to lag, those heroes had pushed their frail landing craft to shore despite the traps and obstacles blocking their way. Rallying to the directions of their commanders,



they had then climbed the bluffs overlooking the beach and advanced inland, often at the cost of their own lives. In the same way, although Maj. Gen. J. Lawton Collins' VII Corps captured the port of Cherbourg on 29 June, the American advance bogged down in the hedgerows. Bradley's First Army absorbed forty thousand casualties while slowly advancing twenty miles to St. Lo.

Even so, enough went well for the campaign to succeed. Roosevelt, Marshall, Eisenhower, Churchill, and Montgomery were master communicators who bonded an unwieldy coalition into an extraordinary fighting machine. The plan they and their staffs devised failed to foresee every circumstance that would occur on the battlefield, particularly the difficulties Bradley's forces would encounter in the *bocage*, but it was still a masterpiece of innovation that provided ample means for Allied commanders to prevail. Cunning deceptions kept the Germans transfixed on the Pas de Calais until long after the real invasion had occurred; Allied airmen swept the skies clean of the enemy fighters and bombers that might

have imposed a heavy toll upon the landing force; and the effort to build up the stocks of supplies and munitions necessary for an effective attack succeeded beyond the most optimistic expectation. In the end, notwithstanding, it was the heroism of the individual infantryman, who rose day and night to the challenge despite almost overwhelming fear and fatigue, that afforded the critical margin for success.



"Soldiers Resting on OMAHA Beach" by Manuel Bromberg. (Army Art Collection)

General Eisenhower published the following message the day before the landing: "Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force! You are about to embark upon a great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

"Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle hardened, he will fight savagely.

"But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man to man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our home fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men.

"The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to victory!

"I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full victory!

"Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessings of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

Further information can be obtained at:

- www.dday.org/70th-anniversary-events
- www.army.mil/d-day/resources.html

OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN - KOSOVO

This June also marks another anniversary...the 15th year since US forces entered the war-torn Serbian province of Kosovo.

By early 1999, more than eight-hundred thousand ethnic Albanians had been driven out of Kosovo by Serbian forces under Slobodan Milosevic, while as many as twelve thousand may have been murdered in a wave of ethnic cleansing that horrified the world. Working again in concert with European allies, US forces, organized as Kosovo Forces (KFOR), entered Kosovo in June 1999 with the primary objective of bringing peace to that troubled land.

The task, code named OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN, proved exceedingly difficult. Entrenched ethnic hatred between Albanians and Serbians continued to fuel the conflict, and the general devastation continued for many weeks.

Nominally a part of Serbia, Kosovo has essentially been a United Nations protectorate since 1999. By the late twentieth century, roughly 80 percent of the population self-identified as Muslims, reflecting centuries of Turkish influence and the region's place in the former Ottoman Empire; 12 percent of the population identified as Orthodox Christians, and 8 percent as Catholics.

The center of the province is the site of the climactic fourteenth century Battle of Kosovo in which a largely Serbian army fought the invading Ottoman Turks in 1389. In the centuries that followed, the battle achieved near-legendary status, and the site became a historical shrine for Serbians.

Albanians, who dominated demographically and politically in the southern Balkans for almost five hundred years, usually served the Ottomans, bitter foes of Serbia. Not until the 1870s, when Serbia achieved its independence from the Ottoman Empire, did it become politically feasible for Serbs and Albanians to express their hostility to each other.

In 1989, Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic paid an official state visit to Kosovo to mark the anniversary of the famous fourteenth-century battle there against the Turks. He promised to restore Serbian control over the autonomous province.

Many ethnic Albanians hoped that their own independence would be achieved through a resolution of the 1995 Dayton Accords, which put an end to the fighting in Bosnia. They were bitterly disappointed. In 1996, a small group of ethnic Albanians formed the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Later that year, the KLA launched its first attacks against the police forces in Kosovo.

Sporadic fighting, student demonstrations, and strikes continued, even as Serbian security forces became more aggressive in response.

After 1997, the Serb infusion of military and paramilitary forces into the region and its expulsion of ethnic Albanians were deliberate moves that had been orchestrated. By August 1998, more than fifteen hundred ethnic Albanians had been killed in the escalating conflict, and almost four hundred thousand had been expelled from Kosovo.

Thousands of NATO peacekeepers already were scattered throughout the former Yugoslavia to prevent the spread of violence to the other independent republics. A large US Army contingent—Task Force Eagle—stationed in Bosnia- Herzegovina late in 1995 had achieved sufficient success

to permit the number of military personnel to be reduced significantly by 1998. At the time, however, it seemed likely that US forces would remain in Bosnia for several more years.



U.S. soldiers maintain crowd control as Albanians protest on January 9, 2000

A much smaller Army task force was located at Camp Able Sentry in what was officially called the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The US camp was only a few miles north of the Macedonian capital. While TF Eagle labored to prevent further fighting among Bosnians and Serbs, the American forces in Macedonia monitored the border that separated that country from Yugoslavia.

Conditions in Kosovo deteriorated throughout the winter of 1998–99. KLA attacks became bolder and more frequent among Serbian civilians. Kidnapping, torture, and assassination were common occurrences. The KLA taunted the Serb security forces to respond more aggressively, and the Serbs responded as expected.

In fact, the Serbs expelled even more ethnic Albanians from Kosovo. Property in predominantly Albanian neighborhoods was systematically destroyed. Often Serbian paramilitary units entered an Albanian village at night and randomly fired weapons into homes, burned selected buildings, and vandalized property. Ethnic Albanians working in their fields or walking on town streets would be beaten or bullied by roving gangs; sometimes they simply disappeared. Albanians refused to file formal complaints: doing so often resulted in more intimidation—or death.

By 18 March, NATO had agreed to use air strikes to stop the violence in Kosovo, and it now seemed certain that there would be a military intervention to reverse the deteriorating conditions in the province. On 20 March, observers withdrew from the region and Serbian forces launched a major offensive throughout the province, pushing more refugees across the borders, destroying property, and killing or wounding thousands of civilians.

On 24 March 1999, therefore, a series of orchestrated air strikes hit military, communications, and industrial targets throughout Serbia and Kosovo. Code-named Operation Allied Force, nineteen NATO countries employed Cruise missiles and a variety of aircraft to pummel the Serbian military. About thirty-eight thousand sorties were flown during the 77-day air campaign. Of these air strikes, US military aircraft flew more than 60 percent.

But the Serbs doubted NATO's determination to intervene in Kosovo, especially after US political leaders explicitly denied that American ground troops would invade the province. Serbian resolve – especially as related to the location of their historic stand against the Turks in Kosovo – as well as posturing, in the face of repeated bombing raids forced NATO to reevaluate its campaign plan.

In the meantime, atrocities multiplied, and hundreds of thousands more ethnic Albanians fled Kosovo in the weeks that followed.

Early in the air campaign, the US Air Force lost an F-117 "Stealth" aircraft to anti-aircraft fire over Belgrade, but the pilot was rescued. More troubling was the capture of three US soldiers along the Macedonian-Kosovo border from the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, of the 1st Infantry Division at Camp Able Sentry. They were detained for several days before being released.

As the air campaign continued without any clear end in sight, the number of military targets diminished—in part because the Yugoslav Army dispersed its mobile weapons and equipment and placed the materiel in close proximity to civilian areas. Anticipating this, NATO had initiated planning for the deployment of forty-eight AH-64 attack helicopters from the 11th Aviation Brigade. These aircraft could engage specific targets at close range and minimize the possibility of collateral damage to civilians and nonmilitary facilities.

However, the deployment of such a complex force was difficult and took longer than expected due to various operational and support changes.

Lt. Gen. John Hendrix, the commanding general of the US Army's V Corps in Germany, served as the commander of Task Force Hawk, with Brig. Gen. Richard Cody and Col. Raymond Odierno assisting as deputy commanders for aviation operations and fire support and ground operations, respectively.

The lead elements for the task force arrived at Rinas Airfield, outside Tirana, Albania, on 9 April. By 26 April, sufficient forces had arrived at the site to declare the task force as mission ready and operational. The final elements arrived on 7 May. Although the task force was never directly employed in Operation Allied Force, two AH-64 helicopters were lost in Albania, and the pilots died as a result of accidents.

Critics slashed the Army for its apparent timidity or absence of energy in committing assets to the air campaign against Serbia. Political uncertainties, the rapidly assembled and deployed forces, and the extremely austere base of operations in Albania exacerbated the task force's preparations for employment in the air campaign. The Yugoslav Army was known to have an extensive array of air



U.S. Marines march with local Albanian children down the main street of Zegra on June 28, 1999

defense weaponry available to combat low-level aircraft. The commitment of TF Hawk would significantly alter Allied Force, reflecting a more intensive war in Kosovo and an increase in casualties on both sides of the conflict. This scenario was not a welcomed one, either by the Army or NATO.

Operation Allied Force ended on 10 June after Slobodan Milosevic agreed to permit NATO peacekeepers to enter Kosovo, while agreeing to withdraw all Serbian security forces from the province.

Selected personnel from TF Hawk provided most of the core American assets of the initial entry of the US Army. Changing their designation to TF Falcon on 9 June, elements of Hawk began deploying to Camp Able Sentry in Macedonia for insertion into Kosovo as part of Operation Joint Guardian. By 2 August, all TF Hawk units had departed from Albania.

On 1 April 1999, the commander of European Command (EUCOM), General Wesley Clark, directed USAREUR to freeze all planned deployments for organizational training in anticipation of requirements for moves into Kosovo. One operations officer declared that Kosovo "has got to be one of the hardest places to get to in the world."

By 8 June, the USAREUR task organization for TF Falcon, commanded by Brig. Gen. John Craddock, was settled: 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor; 9th Engineer Battalion; 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery; 299th Forward Support Battalion; 2d Brigade Reconnaissance Troop; and the headquarters for the 2d Brigade and selected support elements of the 1st Infantry Division.

To ensure stability in Kosovo and prevent further bloodshed, the US was able to commit most of the elements from TF Hawk, the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and an advanced contingent from the 1st Infantry Division that was flown in from Germany to Macedonia and then convoyed into Kosovo on 12 June.

NATO divided Kosovo into five multinational brigade sectors: MNB-North (France), MNB-Central (United Kingdom), MNB-West

(Italy), MNB-South (Germany), and MNB-East (United States). Within the US sector of KFOR, military personnel from Greece occupied two municipal areas, a combined Polish-Ukrainian unit occupied another municipal area, and a Russian parachute battalion occupied the northern municipal district.

Operation Joint Guardian had five, basic components:

- Establish a secure presence in Kosovo in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1244.
- Verify and enforce the terms of the Military Technical Agreement.
- Establish a safe and secure environment for refugees and displaced persons.
- Establish a secure environment to permit international organizations to operate, interim administrations to function, and humanitarian aid to be delivered.
- Help achieve a self-sustaining, secure environment to transfer public responsibilities to civil authority.

Chaos dominated the environment as Operation Joint Guardian began in earnest. The solitary two-lane road from the Macedonian capital to Kosovo was clogged with refugees and military vehicles. In Germany, units and their equipment were intermingled on aircraft to maximize available space, which was efficient to get units en route to Kosovo, but added to confusion at the arrival airfield. In spite of these difficulties, within forty-eight hours of the end of the air campaign, there were about two hundred fifty “trigger-pullers” in MNB-East, occupying two campsites (soon to become Camps Bondsteel and Monteith), trying to maintain the peace among more than one hundred and fifty thousand civilians—a number that was growing daily as ethnic Albanian refugees returned home.

No one in TF Falcon anticipated the level of violence and lawlessness, sometimes within minutes, following the departure of the Serbian security forces and preceding the arrival of NATO forces. The task force entered the province prepared to protect ethnic Albanians only to discover that the tables had turned: Ethnic Serbs now required the protection. Thousands of Serbs fled Kosovo within days of the end of Operation allied force. One municipality went from a population of ten thousand Serbs to fewer than twenty. Murder, assault, kidnapping, extortion, burglary, and arson were reported daily throughout the province. One TF Falcon staff officer summarized the early days of Operation Joint Guardian well: “I think everybody was surprised at the amount of retribution that was occurring. . . . We handled it the best we could. . . . Short of having a soldier in front of every Serb house, there was no way we were going to stop it.”

Many departing Serbs destroyed their own homes and any



A USAF F-15E taking off from Aviano Air Base

property that they could not carry out of Kosovo. Animals that could not be taken were slaughtered. One staff officer later reported: “The horizon glowed with burning houses.” Abandoned Serbian military installations were destroyed, vandalized, or mined. Even grave sites were booby-trapped. The absence of order and public services was total. In the first few hours of the transition, fleeing Serbian civilians and security forces were responsible for most of the property destruction in Kosovo, but the source of destruction soon changed. Ethnic Albanians, consumed with hatred and resolved to avenge

past grievances, initiated a wave of destruction that equaled in method if not in volume what they had experienced earlier during the Serbian ethnic cleansing. Anything Serbian was destroyed or vandalized—even abandoned houses and churches. Each day in June, American soldiers confronted new expressions of hatred. A newborn infant was found abandoned outside the city of Vitina. Reputedly, the mother had been raped by a Serb, and she refused to care for the child. US soldiers placed the baby with an Albanian health clinic.

By 10 July, the bulk of the US Army contingent from Europe was in-country. This presence permitted the departure of the 26th MEU. To ensure a seamless transfer of authority, the relief occurred during the early morning darkness. From this point on, the US KFOR mission in MNB-East was largely an Army operation.

On 15 July, during market day in Vitina, a bomb exploded outside a former Serbian store, injuring more than thirty civilians—all ethnic Serbs.

Throughout the first month of the peace enforcement operation in the US sector, the level of violence did not change significantly. The daily routine entailed the same jobs: fight fires, disperse crowds, and quell violence. Small caches of weapons and ammunition usually were found every day. Wounded Serbs were treated regularly by Army medics or evacuated to medical facilities. The episodes seemed constant and blended into an endless stream of violence.

In mid-July, three US soldiers died in two separate incidents. The first combat death, Spc. Benjamin McGill, occurred as he and two fellow soldiers were pursuing armed Albanians who had recently fired at the Americans. McGill adjusted his vehicle antenna moments before it struck a power line, killing him instantly. Two more soldiers died hours later when their armored vehicle skidded off the road and overturned. These men, too, were responding to reports of gunfire at a nearby village.

Even if it seemed that the Army had made little headway, significant changes actually had occurred and conditions in Kosovo improved slowly. The most obvious element of success was the absence of massive ethnic cleansing of Kosovo-Albanians. Unfortunately, the reverse was happening to Kosovo-Serbs, albeit on a much smaller scale and level of intensity. Progress in rebuilding the province, restoring its economy, and repairing its infrastructure was still months away, but the wholesale destruction of homes and businesses was being stopped. Comparing the first three weeks of August with the last week of the month, the number of reported assaults dropped almost in half. When contrasted with the hundreds of murders, assaults, and kidnappings that preceded the arrival of KFOR three months earlier, this reduction in violence was no mean achievement.

Army engineers invested thousands of hours in repairing or rebuilding public schools in response to the damage or destruction of almost five hundred educational facilities throughout the province between 1996 and 1999. Individual Army units took it upon themselves to solicit their home stations, and, in less than twelve months, received hundreds of pounds of school supplies, including writing instruments, paper, and notebooks, which they distributed to schoolchildren in MNB-East.

Every effort was made to make school buildings habitable and operational by mid-September. Most teachers worked without salaries until December; there were few textbooks and no school supplies, except for the small contributions coming from American soldiers. Schoolchildren and teachers often were the Army personnel’s greatest supporters, and they frequently greeted the irregular visits as festive occasions.

Children were back in school, receiving a rudimentary education, and were no longer subject to the violence that had terrified them months earlier. Looking back on the first few weeks of that new school year, one US KFOR officer proudly proclaimed, “There’s hope.”

On the eve of one battalion's redeployment back to Germany in December and following a spate of grenade attacks in which there were "no witnesses," the unit historian summarized the sentiments of his fellow soldiers, who were becoming "disgusted with the complete lack of a civilized nature or sense of morality among the people."

Throughout the remainder of 1999 and continuing into 2000, no Army report or briefing, nor personal reminiscence by individual commanders and staff officers, could avoid citing episodes of murder, arson, or vandalism. Yet two characteristics soon became apparent nonetheless.

First, the reported acts of violence became less frequent and affected fewer people. Murders and assaults were reported on a weekly basis and no longer were daily events that dominated the early summer of 1999. Second, crowds could gather in municipal areas in 2000 without always starting a riot, and phrases such as "celebrated peacefully" and "without violence" began to appear in various reports.

TF Falcon was officially created on 5 February 1999. In the years that followed, a wide assortment of Army organizations from both the active force and reserve components participated in the peace enforcement mission in Kosovo. Most of the units that made up TF Falcon served six-month tours and came from these divisions: 1st Infantry, 1st Armored, 101st Airborne, 82d Airborne, 10th Mountain, 3d Infantry, 28th Infantry (Pennsylvania National Guard), 38th Infantry (Indiana National Guard), 40th Infantry (California National Guard), 36th Infantry (Texas National Guard), and 29th Infantry (Virginia National Guard).

One of the great advantages that the Kosovo mission possessed was the opportunity it gave many soldiers to learn how to operate in a demanding peace-enforcement environment. The American force had come to Kosovo to stop the horrible violence afflicting the province's Albanians. In short order, however, those victims became the victimizers.

There was no denying that Operation Joint Guardian achieved major, measurable successes. Although some eight hundred thousand ethnic Albanians had fled Kosovo in the 1990s, for example, almost as many returned after NATO forces entered the province to enforce peace. Such a massive return of people to their homes was perhaps the most satisfying measure of operational success and a direct reflection of the situation on the ground: The level of violence had diminished, a measure of law and order had been reestablished, schools and stores were reopened, free elections became possible, public services came back on line, and most of Kosovo's civilians once more had freedom of movement.

In 2000, TF Falcon's commander, Brig. Gen. Keith Huber, assessed the situation in Kosovo this way:

"So are we safe and secure? For the moment. Is it tense? Yes. Are these people capable of momentary violence? Yes. Is there hatred here? Yes. But it's like any other society in the world. And at least the people of Kosovo are moving forward on a democratic path, and at least they are trying, some of them willingly, some of them grudgingly. But they are being assisted along this path of democracy, which says that you accept diversity, you tolerate differences, and you try to provide a better life for your children than you had."

Peace and a better future for Kosovo seemed like fanciful illusions as TF Falcon entered that troubled land in June 1999. The events of Operation Joint Guardian were extraordinarily frustrating and difficult but, as Lt. Col. Timothy Reese, commander of TF 1-77th Armor, wrote after boarding his plane for home late in 1999, there were compensations and hope:

"We gave everything we had to fulfilling our tasks and could remember hundreds of small successes. We saved many lives, prevented the killing of many others, delivered life saving aid to tens of thousands of people, and did our best to get Serbs and Albanians, Catholics and Gypsies to work together for a brighter future in Kosovo. And for the first time in the lives of Kosovars, they experienced a conquering Army that did not loot, and rape and kill. It did not seem arrogant for me to think about the line in the biblical Beatitudes: 'Blessed are the peacemakers.'"

The Kosovo Campaign Medal (KCM) was established by President Bill Clinton on May 3, 2000. The medal recognizes military service performed in Kosovo from March 24, 1999 through December 31, 2013. US Service members may also be eligible to wear the UN Kosovo Service medal when authorized.

(Extracted from "Operation Joint Guardian", by R. Cody Phillips (Center of Military History Publication 70-109-1))



Kosovo Campaign Medal (US) on left, UN Kosovo Service Medal on right

✚ SAFETY CORNER ✚ JUNE IS NATIONAL SAFETY MONTH

Stop slips, trips and falls

We all know to be careful to avoid slips, trips and falls on ladders or stairs, but more often than not, this type of injury is caused by simply walking!

This is because walking is something we all do all of the time. And doing the same thing over and over again often leads to complacency. So how can we avoid becoming complacent? The best way is to trigger on the state so that you don't make a critical error. And of course remember to keep your eyes and mind on task – this is crucial for avoiding problems with balance/traction/grip that can lead to falls.

Here are some tips for how to handle common items or locations that can lead to slips, trips and falls:



Ladders

- Use a ladder instead of standing on a chair, table or box.
- Never stand or step on the top platform of any ladder.

Parking Lots

- Watch for uneven surfaces and walk slowly, with short strides.
- Look for curbs and potholes when walking between motor vehicles.
- Assume ice is on the ground in near-freezing temperatures

Cords

- Do not extend electrical cords across a walking path, and tie up loose cords.
- Tape down or otherwise secure cords that are temporarily located in high-traffic areas.

Stairs

- Keep one hand on the handrail.
- Limit your carrying load.
- Keep your vision unobstructed.

Work areas

- Wear appropriate slip-resistant shoes.
- Walk slowly around corners, turns and other areas where visibility is limited.
- Keep workspaces and walkways clear and well-lit.

Wet floors

- Immediately clean up spills, and warn others of wet surfaces.
- Use caution while walking in areas where wet floors are likely, such as entrances or restrooms.

✦ SAFETY CORNER ✦ JULY IS NATIONAL UV MONTH

An individual's risk of skin cancer is related to lifetime exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun and artificial sources (tanning booths/beds and sunlamps). The skin is the body's largest organ. It protects against cold, heat, sunlight, injury, and infection. Yet, some of us don't consider the necessity of protecting the skin from overexposure to the sun.

Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the United States, developing in approximately one million Americans each year. Nonmelanoma skin cancers (basal cell cancer and squamous cell cancer) are much more common than melanoma; however, melanoma is the most serious type of skin cancer. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays (both A and B rays) appears to be the most important environmental risk factor for the development of skin cancer. The most effective way to lower the risk of skin cancer is to engage in sun-safety practices, such as wearing sunscreen and protective clothing, seeking shade, and avoiding artificial sources of UV rays (tanning booths and sunlamps).

Respondents to the 2005 Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS 2005) were asked a series of questions about the frequency with which they engage in sun-safety practices. Only a minority of Americans reported "always or often" engaging in protective behavior when outside for an hour or more on a warm, sunny day. Although 43.4% of respondents reported "always or often" seeking shade, half said they "rarely or never" used sunscreen. Other protective strategies were also used more commonly than sunscreen: 45.4% "always or often" wore long pants and 34.7% "always or often" wore a hat. Only 16.1% "always or often" wore a long-sleeved shirt. Data from the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) confirm relatively low prevalence of sun-safety behaviors, with estimates of use of sunscreen, protective clothing, or seeking shade hovering around 30% since the early 1990s. In HINTS 2005, 91.7% of American adults reported that they had not used indoor tanning devices during the previous 12 months.

Just visit www.FOH.hhs.gov/UVIQ to find out more—and take our interactive quiz to find out how much you know about protecting yourself from the sun's UV rays.

The risk for skin cancers is highest for fair-skinned populations, but skin cancer can develop in all individuals, regardless of skin pigmentation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following sun-safety practices:

- **Seek shade**, especially during midday hours (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), when UV rays are strongest and can do the most damage.
- **Cover up** with protective clothing, such as long-sleeved shirts and long pants of tightly woven fabrics.
- **Wear a hat** with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears, and neck.
- **Wear sunglasses** that wrap around the head and that are designed to block as close to 100% of both UV-A and UV-B rays as possible.
- **Use sunscreen** that protects against UV-A and UV-B rays and has a sun protective factor (SPF) of at least 15. Apply liberally and often while exposed to the sun.



YOU CAN HELP!

If you are looking to get involved and help the Post improve its work for and with veterans, think about joining one of the recently established committees. Contact one of the members of the committees you're interested in and let them know you'd like to help:

- **Budget Committee:** Chair – Carl Dozier. Looking for additional volunteers.
- **Awards Committee:** Angela Taylor, Gary Dunbar, Mark Rios, and Chris Mulholland
- **Membership Committee:** John Guill, Mark Rios, Gary Dunbar, and Chris Mulholland
- **Building Committee:** Carl Dozier and Gary Dunbar

MEMBERSHIP

Please remember to always look for new members to recruit for Post 2894. The three prerequisites for VFW membership include: (1) US Citizenship, (2) Honorable service in the US Armed Services, and (3) Service entitling the award of a recognized campaign medal or as set forth in the VFW Congressional Charter and By-Laws.

Prospective members can sign up on-line at <https://www.vfw.org/oms/NewMember.aspx>.

FOR MILITARY AND VETERAN FAMILIES IN NEED, THE NATIONAL HOME HELPLINE IS JUST A TOLL-FREE CALL AWAY

The National Home Helpline is the gateway to help for military and veterans' families, providing connections with supportive services and resources in communities all across the nation as well as referrals to our on-campus programs.

And our war heroes can take comfort in knowing that their call will be answered by a caring professional who understands the unique challenges faced by today's military and veterans' families.

The toll-free Helpline is answered Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

1-800-313-4200, help@vfnationalhome.org

QUARTERMASTER DESK



Post 2894 Annual Dues are \$35.50.

Annual dues can be paid via mail (see our new address on front of newsletter) or to the Quartermaster at one of our meetings.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

You can become a VFW Life Member by paying a one-time fee as listed in the table below, or making an initial \$35 payment and then paying the remainder over an 11-month installment plan. You will be issued an annual membership card and can elect, upon receipt of the first monthly invoice, to pay via check, credit card or ACH Debit. The applicable Life Membership fee is determined from the schedule using the applicant's age on Dec. 31 of the installment plan year in which the application is submitted, regardless of actual date of birth. A permanent Life Membership card will be issued upon completion of this agreement.

Age	One-Time Payment	Installment Payment
18-30	\$ 425	\$ 38.64
31-40	\$ 410	\$ 37.27
41-50	\$ 375	\$ 34.09
51-60	\$ 335	\$ 30.45
61-70	\$ 290	\$ 26.36
71-80	\$ 225	\$ 20.45
81 & over	\$ 170	\$ 15.45

<http://www.vfw.org/Join/Dues-Structure>

Life Memberships can be paid online at www.vfw.org, via mail, or in-person at the meetings.

JUNE MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1774 British close Port of Boston in punishment for "Tea Party"
- 1862 Battle of Seven Pines: Confederate Gen. Joe Johnston is wounded, and relinquishes command to Robert E. Lee
- 1864 Battle of Cold Harbor, Day 1
- 1866 Fenians attack Fort Erie, Ontario, from US soil
- 1871 US Sailors & Marines land in Korea, to protect U.S. citizens
- 1877 US troops authorized to pursue bandits & Indians into Mexico
- 1914 SecNav Josephus Daniels' G.O. 99 bars alcohol in the fleet
- 1939 Director of Naval Research Laboratory, proposes research in atomic energy for use in submarines
- 1944 Allied forces begin covering much of Britain with smoke screens, as troops crowd assembly areas for D-Day
- 2** Feast of St. Elmo, Patron of Sailors
- 1774 Parliament passes Quartering Act, billeting troops in private homes
- 1784 Congress disbands last elements of Continental Army, save for 100 troops guarding supplies at West Point and Ft. Pitt
- 1865 Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department surrenders to Union
- 1914 Glenn Curtiss flies his 'Langley Aerodrome'
- 3** 1784 Congress creates US Army, forming 1st American Regt (now 3rd Infantry) on cadre of 100 troops left over from Continental Army
- 1916 Congress establishes ROTC
- 1959 First US Air Force Academy graduation
- 1965 First American "space walk", Maj. Edward White, Gemini 4
- 4** 1789 Constitution of the United States goes into effect
- 1918 US & French halt Germans at Chateau-Thierry
- 1942 Battle of Midway: Japanese lose four CVs, USS Yorktown badly damaged
- 1944 Allied forces liberate Rome
- 5** 1917 US begins draft registration: 10 million eventually sign up

- 1944 First B-29 raid over Tokyo; one lost to engine failure
- 1947 SecState George C Marshall outlines the "Marshall Plan"
- 1967 Six Day War begins between Israel & its Arab neighbors
- 6** 1898 Marines land at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
- 1898 Action at Santiago, Cuba: US ships exchange fire with Spanish batteries
- 1918 US Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1944 D-Day - www.strategypage.com/cic/docs/cic174b.asp#three
- 1944 Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., earns Medal of Honor on Utah Beach
- 1945 Okinawa: Marines capture Naha airfield
- 7** 1775 The "United Colonies" change their name to the "United States"
- 1912 US Army Air Service tests airplane-mounted machine gun
- 1917 Liverpool: first American troops reach Europe
- 1942 Aleutians Campaign: Japanese troops land on Attu.
- 1942 Midway Campaign: the 'Yorktown' (CV-5) sunk
- 8** 1965 US troops ordered to fight offensively in Vietnam
- 1967 Israeli air and naval forces attack USS 'Liberty' (AGTR-5), 34 Americans die
- 9** 1863 Battle of Brandy Station; largest cavalry fight of the Civil War
- 1944 Normandy: U.S. VII & V Corps link up to form continuous beachhead
- 1945 Luzon: Sixth Army manages to isolate Japanese forces.
- 1945 Premier Kantaro Suzuki declares Japan will never surrender
- 1959 The first ballistic missile sub is launched, USS 'George Washington' (SSBN-598)
- 10** 1776 Congress appoints a committee to write a Declaration of Independence
- 1801 Tripoli declares war on the US, for refusing to pay protection, initiating the First Barbary War (1801-1805)
- 12** 1987 Ronald Reagan says, "Mr. Gorbachov, tear down this wall."
- 1999 NATO peacekeeping forces begin operating in Kosovo, Yugoslavia
- 13** 1900 Boxer Rebellion begins in China
- 1912 First successful parachute jump from an airplane, Capt Albert Berry, Jefferson, Ms
- 14** 1775 US Army is formed from New England forces before Boston
- 1777 Congress replaces "Grand Union Flag" with "Stars & Stripes"
- 1777 John Paul Jones takes command of USS 'Ranger'
- 1942 The bazooka goes into production at Bridgeport, Ct
- 1949 State of Vietnam is formed within 'French Union' under Emperor Bao Dai
- 1982 Falklands: Argentines surrender to Britain; 74-day war ends
- 1985 Lebanese Shiite gunmen hijack TWA 847 after takeoff from Athens
- 15** 1776 Americans burn and abandon Montreal
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg: Grant's first assault
- 1864 Robert E Lee's home, Arlington, becomes military cemetery
- 1877 Henry O Flipper becomes first black cadet to graduate from West Point
- 1944 US Marines land on Saipan
- 1955 First nationwide civil defense drill - "Duck and Cover!"
- 1991 Mt Pinatubo in Philippines erupts, closes Clark Air Force Base
- 16** 1858 Lincoln says "A house divided against itself cannot stand"
- 1864 Siege of Petersburg & Richmond begins
- 17** 1745 American colonials capture Louisburg, Cape Breton I, from French
- 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill
- 1777 19 year old Marquis de La Fayette (Marie-Joseph Paul Yves Roch Gilbert du Motier) & several other French volunteers

- for American Revolution land at Charleston
- 1898 Navy Hospital Corps ("Corpsmen") is established
- 1916 Pershing leads Punitive Expedition into Mexico in unsuccessful attempt to kill Pancho Villa
- 1945 Final Japanese defensive line on Okinawa breached
- 1965 Vietnam: First B-52 raid, 50 km north of Saigon
- 18** 1778 British evacuate Philadelphia
- 1812 US declares war against Britain
- 1878 Congress creates US Life Saving Service
- 19** 1778 Washington's troops leave Valley Forge
- 1878 Congress passes Posse Comitatus Act, to prevent military from enforcing civil rights laws
- 1944 "Marianas Turkey Shoot" - Battle of Philippine Sea: in 2 days Japanese lose 3 CVs, 426 a/c, US c. 70 a/c.
- 1967 Muhammad Ali is convicted of refusing induction into Army
- 20** 1675 Wampanoag Indians raid Swansea, Mass., initiating "King Philip's War" (1675-1676)
- 1782 Congress adopts Great Seal of the United States
- 1813 War of 1812: U.S. gunboats engage three British ships at Hampton Roads, Va
- 1867 US buys Alaska from Russia for \$7.2 million
- 1941 U.S. Army Air Corps is reorganized as Army Air Forces
- 1947 Cold War: Congress charters CIA
- 1963 Cold War: Washington-Moscow "hot line" established
- 21** 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 22** 1938 Joe "the Brown Bomber" Louis KO's Max "Hitler's Heavyweight" Schmeling at 2:04 into their rematch, in Yankee Stadium
- 1942 US introduces "V-Mail" for military personnel
- 1944 FDR signs "Servicemen's Readjustment Act", betterknown as "the GI Bill of Rights" --
<http://www.strategypage.com/cic/docs/cic310b.asp#two>
- 1945 Okinawa secured: 110,000 Japanese troops, 100,000 civilians, 17,520 US troops died
- 23** 1938 Congress establishes U.S. Maritime Service
- 25** 1864 Petersburg: Union troops begin tunnel under Confederate lines
- 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn: Crazy Horse does in Custer
- 1918 4th Marine Brigade secured Belleau Wood, Chateau-Thierry, France
- 1942 Eisenhower takes command of US forces in Europe
- 1950 North Korea invades South Korea. claiming "self-defense"
- 1996 Dhahran, Saudi Arabia: Islamists bomb Khobar Towers, 19 Americans die, c. 500 Saudis & Americans injured
- 26** 1917 First American combat troops arrive in France
- 1924 Marines leave Dominican Republic after 8 years of occupation
- 1963 Berlin: Kennedy's "Ich bin ein Berliner" is wildly applauded
- 27** 1927 USMC adopts "Sgt Jiggs," an English bulldog, as its mascot
- 1950 US sends 35 military advisers to South Vietnam
- 28** 1948 Berlin Airlift begins
- 1965 President Johnson orders US ground forces to Vietnam
- 29** 1863 Lee orders his forces to concentrate near Gettysburg
- 1945 Operation Olympic: Truman sets invasion of Japan for Nov 1st
- 1867 Dominion of Canada is formed
- 1870 James W Smith becomes first black man to enter West Point
- 1918 Marines secure Belleau Wood
- 1950 First US ground troops arrive in Korea
- 2** 1776 Continental Congress declares Thirteen Colonies independent
- 1777 Vermont abolishes slavery, first "state" to do so
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 2: A draw
- 1903 US leases Guantanamo Bay from Cuba for \$2,000 a year
- 1926 Congress authorizes Distinguished Flying Cross
- 1942 JCS authorize "Operation Watchtower," seizure of Guadalcanal
- 1957 'Seawolf' (SSN 575) completed, first sub with liquid metal cooled reactor
- 3** 1754 Col. George Washington (22) surrenders Ft. Necessity to French
- 1775 Gen. George Washington (43) assumes command of Patriot forces investing Boston
- 1863 Battle Gettysburg, Day 3: "Pickett's Charge" is shattered
- 1950 First US-North Korean clash: TF Smith is overrun
- 1988 USS 'Vincennes' (CG-49) accidentally shoots down Iranian airliner, 290 die
- 4** 1776 Independence Day: Two days after voting for independence, Continental Congress adopts "Declaration of Independence"
- 1777 John Paul Jones hoists Stars and Stripes on Ranger, Portsmouth, NH
- 1801 1st Presidential Review of Marine Band and Marines, at White House.
- 1802 US Military Academy opens at West Point
- 1818 Congress rules that flag shall have 13 stripes, and 1 star for each state
- 1832 Samuel Francis Smith's "America" is sung in public for first time
- 1863 Vicksburg surrenders to U.S. Grant
- 1942 First American bombing mission over Nazi-occupied Europe
- 1942 Te American Volunteer Group ("Flying Tigers") becomes 14th AF
- 1950 Carriers USS 'Valley Forge' (CV-45) & HMS 'Triumph' make first UN air strikes of Korean War
- 5** 1814 Battle of Chippewa: "Those are regulars, by God!"
- 1814 US Sloop-of-War 'Peacock' captures four British ships
- 1861 Skirmish at Newport News: US retakes Gosport Naval Base
- 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day 5: Lee retreats
- 6** 1777 Burgoyne's British & Hessians capture Fort Ticonderoga
- 1785 Congress introduces the dollar
- 1911 First naval air station established, Annapolis, MD.
- 1976 Women are admitted to US Naval Academy for first time
- 7** 1846 Commo John D. Sloat takes Monterey, claims California for US
- 1920 USN aircraft tests "radio compass", Norfolk, Va
- 1941 Iceland: US Marines relieve British forces so they can fight elsewhere
- 1944 Saipan: Japanese troops make final "banzai" charge
- 1944 US B-29s from China attack Japan.
- 1966 Marines initiate "Operation Hasting" - to clear NVA from DMZ
- 8** 1853 Commodore Perry sails frigate Susquehanna into Tokyo Bay
- 1865 C.E. Barnes receives US patent for machine gun
- 1945 TF38 arrives off Japan with 20 carriers; to stay until end of war
- 1950 Douglas MacArthur named CinC UN forces in Korea
- 9** 1755 Braddock's Defeat: Battle of the Monangahela - Daniel Boone is a wagon driver
- 1776 Declaration of Independence read to Washington's troops in

JULY MILITARY HISTORY

- 1** 1863 Battle of Gettysburg, Day1: Lee wins, but Union troops fall back on strong position
- 1864 Battle of Petersburg (to July 31)

- NY, whereupon citizens pull down George III's statue to make musket balls
- 1918 Congress establishes Distinguished Service Cross
- 1944 US secures Saipan: 3,200 US, 27,000 Japanese KIA, & many civilian suicides
- 10** 1821 US takes possession of Florida from Spain
- 1943 Operation Husky: US & Commonwealth forces invade Sicily
- 1953 American troops abandon Pork Chop Hill, Korea
- 11** 1786 US pays Morocco \$10,000 to "protect" merchant ships from piracy
- 1798 Congress reactivates USMC, disbanded in 1784
- 1812 US invades Canada near Detroit
- 1919 US Navy Pay Corps becomes Supply Corps
- 1943 USN surface ships break German-Italian tank attack at Gela, Sicily
- 1955 USAF Academy opens with 300 cadets at Lowry AFB, Colo.
- 12** 1942 U-Boat lands four German saboteurs on Long Island, who are soon captured
- 14** 1813 Lt John M. Gamble, becomes only US Marine to command a ship, prize 'Greenwich'
- 1825 Lafayette reviews 2nd Bn, 11th NY Arty (7th NY), which adopts name "The National Guard"
- 1900 "China Relief Expedition" captures Tientsin from Boxers
- 1959 First nuclear powered cruiser commissioned, USS 'Long Beach' (CGN 9)
- 1972 Vietnam: Jane Fonda makes first of 10 broadcasts on Radio Hanoi.
- 15** 1958 Marines land in Lebanon, to support government
- 16** 1861 Bull Run Campaign: Gen McDowell advances from Washington toward Fairfax Courthouse
- 17** 1927 USMC pilots conduct first combat dive bombing, Ocotol, Nicaragua.
- 18** 1863 54th Mass. leads gallant attempt to storm Fort Wagner, near Charleston
- 1914 US Army Air Service is formed within Signal Corps
- 1944 US troops capture St. Lo, Normandy
- 19** 1812 1st Battle of Sackett's Harbor: Americans beat off British attack across Lake Erie
- 1886 'Atlanta' commissioned, first USN steel cruiser
- 1897 Lt Robert E. Peary departs on year-long Arctic Expedition
- 20** 1881 Sioux leader Sitting Bull surrenders to federal troops
- 1942 Congress creates Legion of Merit
- 1942 First WAACs begin basic training
- 1944 Marines land on Guam.
- 1948 US reinstitutes draft, for Cold War
- 21** 1823 Lt David G. Farragut leads raid to destroy pirate base in Cuba
- 1861 First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas: Confederate Victory
- 1930 Veterans' Administration established
- 1969 Neil Armstrong's "small step" on moon - 2:56:15 AM GMT
- 22** 1802 US Frigate 'Constellation' defeats 9 corsair gunboats off Tripoli
- 1905 Remains of John Paul Jones removed from Paris for transportation to Annapolis
- 1943 Patton captures Palermo
- 1987 USN begins escorting re-flagged Kuwaiti tankers in Persian Gulf
- 23** 1944 US forces land on Japanese-held Tinian from nearby Saipan
- 24** 1948 Soviets initiate blockade of Berlin
- 1969 Muhammad Ali is convicted of refusing induction in US Army
- 25** 1866 David G. Farragut is appointed first Admiral in US Navy
- 1866 U.S. Grant is named first full general in US Army
- 1947 US Army, Navy, & Air Force are subordinated to new Dept of Defense
- 26** 1948 Truman initiates integration of Armed Forces
- 27** 1909 Orville Wright demonstrates plane for Army, flying 72 minutes
- 1953 North Korea & UN sign armistice
- 1954 Armistice divides Vietnam in two
- 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial dedicated in Washington
- 28** 1898 Skirmish at Ponce, Puerto Rico, which shortly surrenders to US
- 28** 1914 Austria-Hungary attacks Serbia, igniting WW I
- 1931 Congress makes "The Star-Spangled Banner" national anthem
- 1932 Douglas MacArthur routs Bonus Army against orders
- 1945 Kamikaze sink their last ship, USS 'Callaghan' (DD-792), off Okinawa.
- 1945 Army B-25 crashes into 79th floor of Empire State Bldg, 14 die
- 29** 1949 Berlin Airlift ends, as Soviets end blockade
- 1967 Fire aboard USS 'Forrestal' (CV-59), Gulf of Tonkin, 134 die
- 30** 1864 Petersburg Campaign: Battle of the Crater
- 1909 US Army accepts delivery of first military airplane
- 1942 WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) created
- 1945 USS 'Indianapolis' (CA-35) torpedoed & sunk; nearly 900 die over next 4 days
- 1966 US airplanes bomb demilitarized zone in Vietnam
- 31** 1777 Marquis de Lafayette becomes major-general in Continental Army
- 1813 British attack Plattsburgh, NY
- 1925 Last Allied occupation forces leave the Rhineland

FROM THE EDITOR

If you are interested in submitting articles, photos, updates on events, for inclusion in the newsletter, please send them to me at:

505 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, VA 23322
757-482-4981 or majmule@cox.net

If you know of a business or anyone who would like to help sponsor Post 2894, please let them know that their help will be recognized in the newsletter.

The primary means for disseminating the newsletter will be via e-mail.

Semper fidelis,

- Chris Mulholland

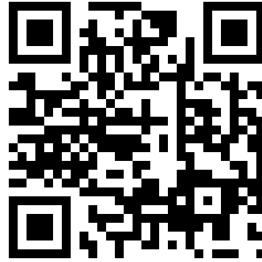
**YOUR AD
COULD BE
HERE!!!**

POST 2894 CALENDAR

<u>JUNE</u>	
5-8	State Convention, Williamsburg
6	70 th Anniversary of D-Day Landing
11	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
14	Flag Day
15	Father's Day
21	First Day of Summer

<u>JULY</u>	
4	Independence Day
9	Post Meeting, 1900 (7 pm)
19-23	VFW National Convention, St. Louis
31	Quarterly Audit due

**OR YOUR AD
COULD BE
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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