

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America

Meeting Notice

16 January, '13

**Elks Lodge
5555 W. Good Hope Rd.**

Board Meeting 6 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday each month. You are also invited to join members for conversation and discussion after the meeting.

Chapter web page :

National web page: www.vva.org

Future Meetings

2013

20 February, 20 March, 17 April, 15 May, 19 June,
17 July, 21 August, 18 September,
16 October, 20 November, 18 December

Chapter 324 Officers

President - Paul Javins 358-2813

Vice President - Pat Moore 354-2533

Secretary - Dennis Symanski 453-3600

Treasurer - Kent Draper 963-0375

Director - Pat Ciofani 332-7734

Director - Ron Coppersmith 262-255-2832

Director - Michael Lang 355-1496

Director - John Morgan 871-9274

Director - Oliver Williams 538-4416

Apartments proposed for female vets

By Tom Daykin Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Dec. 21, 2012

An apartment building for female military veterans is being proposed for Milwaukee's north side - the first of its kind in Wisconsin.

The three-story, 28-unit building would be developed at 4900 W. Fond du Lac Ave., the site of the former headquarters of Community Advocates. That underused building would be demolished, said Joe Volk, executive director of Community Advocates, a nonprofit group that provides social services for the poor.

The apartments would be built by St. Paul-based CommonBond Communities Inc., a nonprofit housing development firm. Community Advocates would provide services to the apartment residents.

There's a growing need for supportive housing for female veterans who have mental illnesses and drug and alcohol addictions, Volk said. The proposed building would have two- and three-bedroom units to accommodate the female vets and their young children, he said.

There are an estimated 13,100 homeless female veterans nationwide, according to New York-based Service Women's Action Network. Women veterans

are up to four times more likely to be homeless compared with non-veteran women and male veterans, according to a 2003 study cited by the network and published in the American Journal of Public Health.

The 52-unit Veterans Manor, an apartment building for homeless veterans that includes social services, opened in 2011 at 3430 W. Wisconsin Ave. It was developed by Cardinal Capital Management and the Center for Veterans Issues.

But Volk said many female veterans who want supportive housing feel safer and more comfortable in a building where the residents are other women.

The building would be the first of its kind in Wisconsin, Volk said. CommonBond will seek federal affordable housing tax credits to help finance the development. Those credits are provided annually through a competitive process. In return for receiving the credits, developers provide apartments at below-market rents to people whose household income is below 60% of the area's median income.

The proposed development also will need zoning approval from the Common Council.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Milwaukee Chapter 324

November 21, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:05 by President Paul Javins

Pledge of Allegiance

A Moment of Silence was observed for our brothers and sisters no longer with us and for all POW/MIA's and their families

Attendance – Dennis Szymanski, John Morgan, Joe Murray, Robert Spear, Pat Ciofani, Ron Coppersmith, Pat Moore, Kent Draper, Paul Javins

Minutes from October 17th meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Kent Draper

Communications

OLD BUSINESS

Membership Update – Joe Herbert

Christmas Party – December 16th – 5:00pm – Serb Hall

Veterans Day Parade – Thanks to the 5 members who represented our Chapter in this year's parade

Americanism Breakfast – Chapter 324 honored Joe Murray and Dennis Johnson for their ongoing efforts to help needy veterans

Candy Cane Lane – We will be participating on December 14th

NEW BUSINESS

Veterans Court Grand Opening – December 5th – Moved and passed to spend up to \$250 to serve and provide fruit and sausage trays for refreshments at the grand opening of the Veterans Court

State Fund Raiser for the Fisher House – It was suggested at the last State Council meeting the Chapter 324 should take a leadership role in a fund raising event for the Fisher House. A state wide raffle has been suggested. After much discussion and many questions, it was decided to bring the idea up before the December State Council meeting to see where they stand on the idea to see what help we could expect from them and from other VVA chapters

2013 Brewers Fund Raisers – We have been given August 2, 3 & 4, 2013 as the dates for our annual fund raising event at Miller Park

Food Certificates – Moved and passed to spend \$150 for \$25 food certificates for the needy at the Vets Center and Dry Hootch

Adjournment – 7:50



Greetings Dear Friends

I am honored to announce our official launch of the Team Sijan website. This site was created in honor of Captain Lance P. Sijan, Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. It's intent now, and as it continues to grow, is to be a gathering place of inspiration, engagement, and community building around service in all of it's forms.

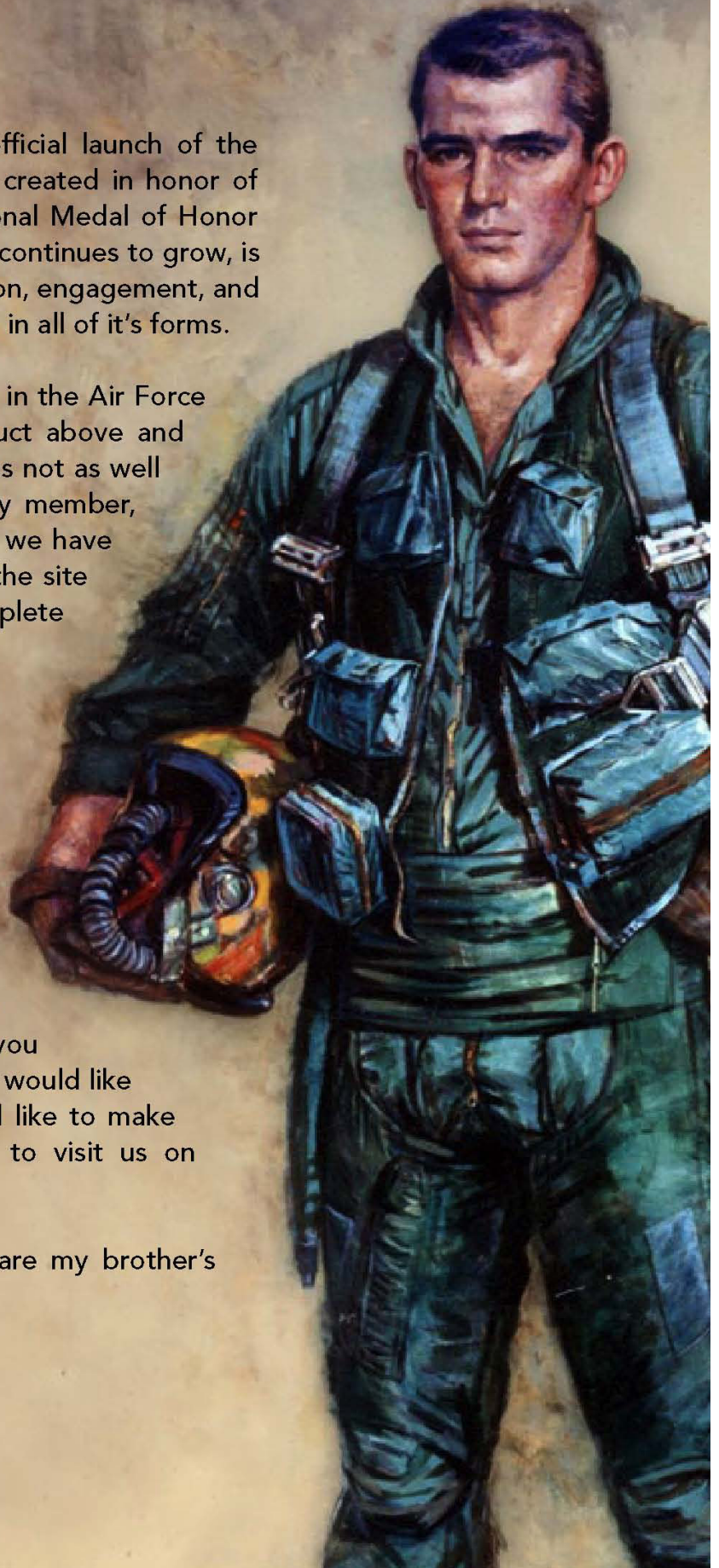
Lance is well known for his service in the Air Force for upholding the Code of Conduct above and beyond the call of duty. What he is not as well known for is being a loving family member, friend, teammate and artist. What we have begun and will continue to do as the site evolves is to paint a more complete picture of Lance.

At a time when honor, courage, commitment, and integrity are fading from the forefront of public consciousness, Team Sijan is being created to celebrate these ideals once again.

We invite you to join us today by visiting us at teamsijan.com. If you have a story of inspiration that you would like to share or a comment you would like to make about Lance, we encourage you to visit us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

Thank you for allowing me to share my brother's story with you.

Respectfully~
Janine Sijan Rozina



Experimentation Suit

By Martha Quillin The Raleigh News & Observer 11 Oct 2012

A North Carolina's man's quest to learn how the military had experimented on him in the 1960s has turned into a class-action lawsuit for as many as 100,000 veterans the government used to test hundreds of different drugs, chemicals and biological agents over more than 50 years.

U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken in the Northern District of California last week said the case could go ahead on behalf of any current or former service members who were subjected to chemical or biological testing without their informed consent. The government has said as many as 100,000 people were used for such testing between 1922 and 1975, when the military says it halted human experimentation.

The suit seeks to lift the oath of secrecy soldiers say they swore about what they went through, and asks the court to compel the government to provide the health care it promised subjects when they participated in the tests.

It does not ask for monetary damages because the government is immune from most damage claims brought by military personnel.

Defendants in the case are the Department of Defense, the Army, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the CIA, which worked together to plan and conduct the tests. Representative of the VA and the Defense Department each said they could not comment on ongoing litigation.

In the 1980s, the National Academies of Science determined that the tests caused no significant long-term physical harm, except in veterans exposed to larger doses of mustard gas, according to VA. In 2004, the NAS followed up and said veterans could suffer post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of "perceived exposure to biochemical warfare agents."

The VA advises any veterans concerned about exposures during testing to contact their health care provider or local VA Environmental Health Coordinator. The plaintiffs in the case have uncovered documents that indicate veterans were exposed to mustard gas, Sarin, phosgene gas, Thorazine, LSD, amphetamines, barbiturates and other agents—sometimes at 10 or more times known tolerances.

In response to the lawsuit, the government says the experiments did not cause long-term problems. The judge in the case said the government's own documents indicate otherwise.

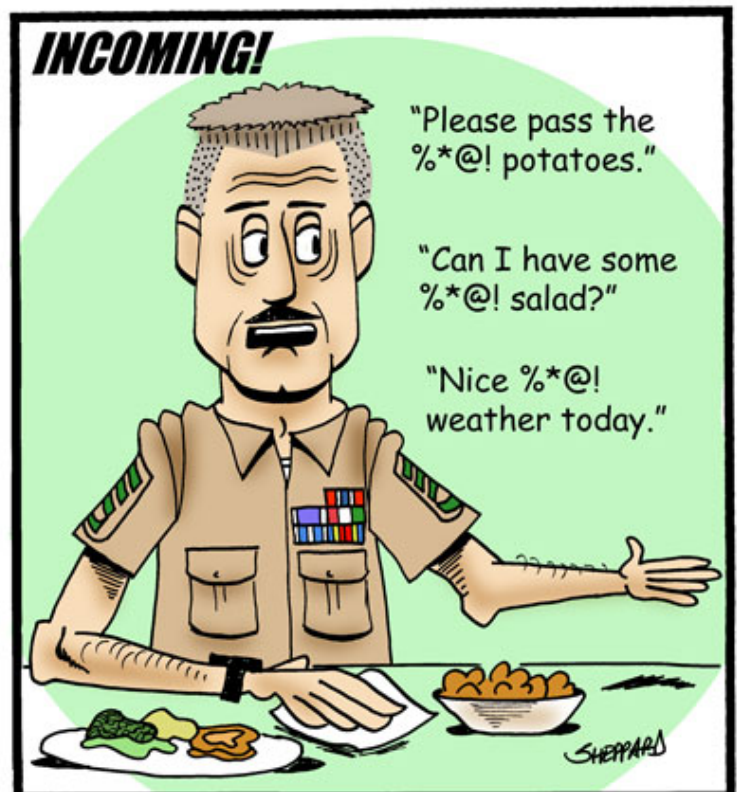
Subjects volunteered for the tests, but most

weren't told what they were exposed to, or what the risks were, according to the lawsuit. "This action chronicles a chilling tale of human experimentation, covert military operations, and heretofore unchecked abuses of power by our own government," the suit says.

"These people were used as cannon fodder, as guinea pigs," said Gordon Erspamer of Morrison & Foerster, a San Francisco law firm that brought the suit in January 2009 on behalf of several veterans and two organizations: **Vietnam Veterans of America** and **Swords to Plowshares**.

Since the testing ended, Erspamer says, the agencies involved have resisted Congressional instructions to find the people it tested and notify them that they may have ongoing problems associated with the tests. "The government looks at them this way: 'It's not in our interest to try to find them; it's not in our interest to treat them. It's just going to cost us money,'" Erspamer said.

Roughly 7,600 service members were used in experiments at what was then known as Edgewood Arsenal, and thousands more in testing done elsewhere, according to the lawsuit.



Subtle behavior mods are required after a deployment to get your Marine back to the way he was.

Wounded In Iraq, Afghanistan Includes More Than 1,500 Amputees

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/07/iraq-afghanistan-amputees_n_2089911.html

Posted: 11/07/2012 5:38 pm EST Updated: 11/08/2012

According to new data released Wednesday, more than 1,500 Americans have lost a leg or arm in combat in Iraq or Afghanistan, and hundreds have suffered the amputation of multiple limbs.

The Huffington Post reported Oct. 25 that the number of American battle wounded has passed 50,000, a grim milestone of more than a decade of war and a reminder of the war's enduring human cost. On Wednesday, the wounded toll stood at 50,159, according to Defense Department data.

Since 2001, when the war in Afghanistan was launched in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 5,225 American military personnel have been killed in action in Afghanistan or Iraq.

The casualty statistics only begin to suggest the suffering of the injured and of the families of those killed or injured. Because so many of the wounded are in their early 20s, they and their families face a lifetime during which the medical care required may be costly, intense and constant. Amputees, for example, must be fitted for new prosthetics every few years.

The roster of wounded, including those with physical and psychological wounds, explains why the Department of Veterans Affairs is rushing to expand its medical and mental health services for the new generation of veterans.

According to a 10-month investigation by The Huffington Post, more than 16,000 Americans have been taken from the battlefield with severe, disabling wounds.

The new casualty data, released by the U.S. Army Surgeon General's Office in response to a request by The Huffington Post, shows a dismaying range of injuries. Overall, 253,330 servicemen and women have suffered traumatic brain injury on the battlefield or elsewhere, including 3,949 with penetrating head wounds and 44,610 with severe or moderate brain injury.

In the Army alone, 73,674 soldiers have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of their combat experience. The Army also has diagnosed 30,480 soldiers who returned from combat with traumatic brain injury, often caused by one or more severe blows to the head or exposure to a concussive blast.

Among the combat wounded from all the military services are 1,572 patients with major limb amputations, including 486 wounded troops with multiple amputations. These numbers do not include those who suffered the loss of fingers or toes.

Most of the amputees, 83 percent, have lost one or both legs, mostly from the blast of improvised explosive devices. These deadly homemade bombs are also the cause of most of the genital wounds suffered by 1,410 U.S. troops.

The data released Wednesday indicates that 2,542 servicemen and women have suffered traumatic burns; 142 have lost at least one eye, and five lost both eyes in combat.

The financial cost of caring for the wounded is dwarfed by the emotional cost, of course. But in 2008, Harvard economist Linda Bilmes has estimated the lifetime cost of caring for the war wounded to be between \$600 billion and \$900 billion. Since then, the data she has gathered indicate that the cost will rise, she told The Huffington Post Wednesday.

Although U.S. military operations in Iraq ended in December 2011, some 66,000 U.S. military personnel are still engaged in Afghanistan. President Barack Obama has pledged to withdraw all U.S. combat troops by the end of 2014, but U.S. and Afghan officials expect that some American military presence will continue, with trainers and special operations forces.



Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Vietnam Veterans (A copy of your DD214 must be included):

- Individual Member - 1 year \$20 • Individual Member 3 year \$50 • Life Member \$250
- Life Member Installment Plan (\$50 Deposit; \$25 per month for 8 Months)

Anyone Else:

- Associate Member - 1 year \$20 • Associate Member 3 year \$50 • Associate Life Member \$250
- Associate Life Member Installment Plan (\$50 Deposit; \$25 per month for 8 Months)

Please Print

Name _____ Membership # _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

I would like to help Chapter 324 by donating \$ _____

Make checks payable to VVA324 and mail with this application to:

VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America #324

PO Box 18631

Milwaukee, WI 53218

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