

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

21 March, 2018

Elks Lodge 5555 W. Good Hope Rd.

Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

Future Meetings: 2018

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

Chapter web page: www.vietnamvetschapter324.com

National web page: www.vva.org

Chapter Officers

President: Pat Ciofani [rezmel\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:rezmel(at)sbcglobal.net)
414-702-7734

Vice Pres: Oliver Williams [w.oliver96\(at\)yahoo.com](mailto:w.oliver96(at)yahoo.com)
414-358-4416

Secretary: Dennis Symanski [dski06\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:dski06(at)hotmail.com)
414-453-3600

Treasurer: Pat Moore [irishpatat\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:irishpatat(at)sbcglobal.net)
414-354-2533 Cell: 414-731-6029

Director: David Titter [d.titterat\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:d.titterat(at)sbcglobal.net)
414-870-7012

Director: John Morgan [asa600\(at\)aol.com](mailto:asa600(at)aol.com)
414-871-9274

Membership: Joe Herbert Joe's a Luddite
414-873-7341

Newsletter: John Zutz [john\(at\)zutz.org](mailto:john(at)zutz.org)
John is listed in the phone book - good luck finding one

More than 16 sexual assaults are reported each day at military bases

BY BRIAN MURPHY NOVEMBER 17, 2017 03:41 PM

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article185273473.html>

More than 6,150 non-domestic adult sexual assaults were reported to the U.S. military from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, according to a new report by the Department of Defense. Nearly 400 of them were reported at North Carolina's major military installations.

There were six North Carolina bases included in the report — Camp Lejeune (169 reported cases), Fort Bragg (146), Marine Corps Air Station New River (32), Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (27), Seymour Johnson Air Force Base (13) and Pope Army Airfield (10).

For context, Fort Bragg, the largest military base in the United States, has a population of about 140,000 soldiers and civilians – outnumbering all but a handful of North Carolina cities.

The report includes rape, sexual assault, forcible sodomy, aggravated and abusive sexual contact and attempts to commit those crimes. It includes active duty service members, activated Reserve and National Guard members, civilian victims who allege a sexual assault by an active duty member and adult dependents of active duty members.

The numbers do not necessarily reflect where

or even when an alleged assault occurred because victims may report a sexual assault at a time and place of their choosing, according to the report. The Army had 2,205 reported assaults, the Navy had 1,285, the Air Force had 1,043 and the Marines had 825. There were 670 reported assaults at joint bases and another 125 in combat areas for a total of 6,153, which averages to 16.8 reported assaults per day.

The Pentagon estimates that just 32 percent of service members who experience a sexual assault go on to report the incident. That's up from 15 percent or fewer prior to 2014.



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
February 21, 2018

Meeting called to Order at 7:00 pm by President Pat Ciofani

A Moment of Silence was observed for our Brothers and Sisters no longer with us, for all POW/MIA's and their families and for all serving our country

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – Dennis Szymanski, Pat Ciofani, Pat Moore, John Morgan, David Titter, Paul Balge, Joe Herbert, Orvey McMahon

Minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore – Our CD was cashed in and \$3317.90 was added to our checking account giving us a balance of \$5574.68

Communications

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert

Allied Veterans Meeting Update – VVA 324 will provide the lunch for the April meeting

Website – Contact Pat Moore to post items of interest on our website

OLD BUSINESS

Donation to UWM – Moved and passed to donate \$300 to the Maverick UWM Foundation to help UWM veteran students

Stand-Down – February 24, 2018

NEW BUSINESS

Household Goods Donation Program – Steps are being taken by State VVA to obtain funds from National VVA being held from now defunct VVA Household Goods Resale Program

State Council Meeting – March 17, 2018

Memorial Day Parade – Moved and passed to donate \$100 for the parade

April Elections – Officers will be elected at this meeting

For the Good of the Chapter – Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of member **Joe Murray** who passed away in February. RIP Brother!

We welcome new member Orvey McMahon – Glad to have you with us

Adjournment – 7:35

25% Vietnam Vets Test Positive in Small Study of Liver Flukes

Martin C. Evans, Newsday, January 25, 2018

Nearly one in four Vietnam War combat veterans who participated in a small study at the Northport VA Medical Center to detect past infestations of the cancer-causing liver fluke parasite tested positive, according to a paper by researchers.

The pilot study, titled "Screening US Vietnam Veterans for Liver Fluke Exposure 5 Decades After the End of the War," is in the current edition of the periodical Infectious Diseases in Clinical Practice.

The VAMC at Northport conducted the study last spring, after Vietnam combat veteran Jerry Chiano of Valley Stream was diagnosed with bile-duct cancer in 2013. Chiano died in November.

Northport examined 97 Vietnam War veterans and selected 50 who met the inclusion criteria of having eaten undercooked freshwater fish while serving in Vietnam. Blood samples were subjected to serological examinations performed by researchers at Seoul National University College of Medicine in South Korea because no facility in the United States is equipped to identify the antigen marker that shows the parasite was once present.

Two members of Congress — Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-Glen Cove) — released statements calling for a broader study to determine whether wartime exposure to liver fluke should be considered service-related.

Liver flukes are parasitic worms that spend part of their life cycle in freshwater snails that inhabit rivers throughout parts of the Far East, including Southeast Asia, China and the Korean Peninsula. The snails release larvae that burrow into the flesh of fish and can infest the bile ducts of humans who eat the fish. They can reside in a victim's body for decades.

The adult worm is believed to release an irritant during its quarter-century life span — an irritant that can lead to cancerous lesions in the bile duct decades after the parasitic infestation has died out. In some south Asian villages where raw fish consumption is part of the culture, more than one in two people harbor liver fluke infestations, according to parasitologists.

Some activists have likened the seriousness of fluke exposure in veterans to Agent Orange.

Scientists find heightened attention to surprise in veterans with PTSD

January 9, 2018 <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/01/180109090251.htm>

Ed Note: DUH!

Fireworks on nights other than the fourth of July or New Year's Eve might be nothing more than inconsiderate neighbors, but for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), the shock of noise and light may trigger a deeply learned expectation of danger.

Scientists at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute (VTCRI) have found that people with PTSD have an increased learning response to surprising events. While most everyone reacts to surprise, people with PTSD tend to pay even more attention to the unexpected.

The study was published this week in *eLife*, an open-access journal published by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Max Planck Society, and the Wellcome Trust.

"Disproportionate reactions to unexpected stimuli in the environment are a core symptom of PTSD," said Pearl Chiu, an associate professor at the VTCRI and the lead author on the study. "These results point to a specific disruption in learning that helps to explain why these reactions occur."

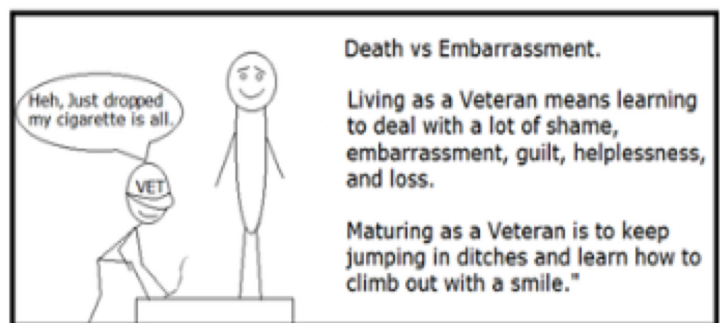
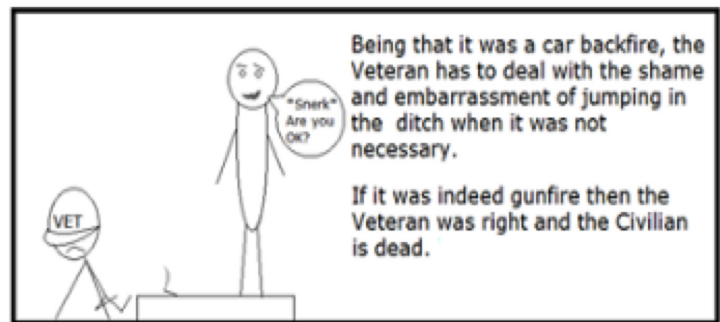
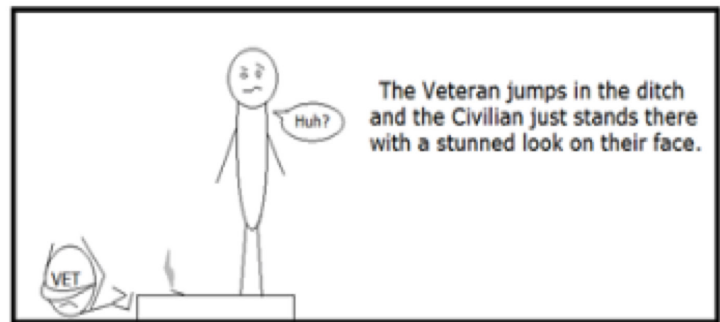
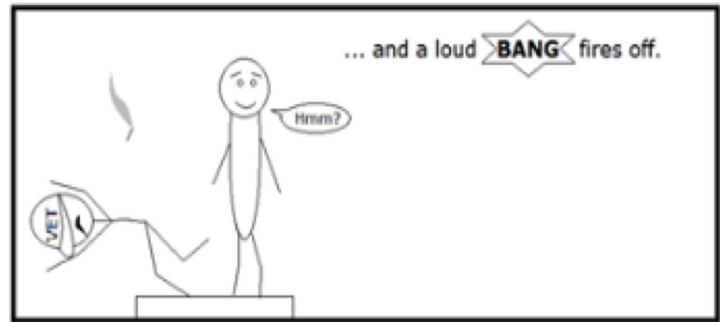
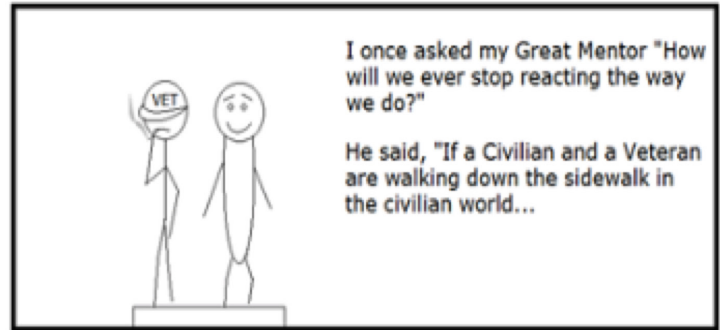
Chiu and her team used functional MRI to scan the brains of 74 veterans, all of whom had experienced trauma while serving at least one combat tour in Afghanistan or Iraq. Some of the study participants were diagnosed with PTSD, while others were not. In the functional MRI, participants played a gambling game, in which they learned to associate certain choices with monetary gains or losses.

"Computer science and mathematics have given us new tools to understand how the brain learns. We used these tools to study whether and how learning might play a role in PTSD," said Chiu, who is also an associate professor of psychology in Virginia Tech's College of Science. "These results suggest that people with PTSD don't necessarily have a disrupted response to unexpected outcomes, rather they pay more attention to these surprises," Chiu said.

The researchers found that people with PTSD had significantly more activity in the parts of their brains associated with how much attention they paid

PTSD continued next page

Stick Vet



By: Travis Landchild *Travis Landchild*

PTSD continued

to surprising events when the learning task threw an unexpected curve ball their way.

“Fireworks unexpectedly going off after a person has exchanged fire in the field can trigger an over-estimation of danger,” said Brooks King-Casas, an associate professor at the VTCRI who co-led the study. “Particularly for individuals with PTSD, unexpected surprising events -- noise or otherwise -- could be a matter of life or death. The study shows that while everyone is affected by unexpected events, in PTSD extra attention is given to these surprises.”

King-Casas is also an associate professor of psychology in Virginia Tech’s College of Science and an associate professor in the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest School of Biomedical Engineering and Sciences. Earlier studies have connected greater attention to perceived threats and unexpected events in PTSD, but the mechanistic underpinning of this hypersensitivity to unexpected outcomes have been unclear until now.

“The work by Brown and colleagues is an important step forward to be able to differentiate the

brain and behavioral processes that are affected as a consequence of post-traumatic stress,” said Martin Paulus, a medical doctor and the scientific director and president of the Laureate Institute for Brain Research in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was not involved in this study. “The finding that individuals with PTSD have difficulty appropriately allocating attention to their environment when it changes has clear implications for the development of novel behavioral interventions.”

Vanessa Brown, first author on the paper and a graduate student in the department of psychology in Virginia Tech’s College of Science, said that both the behavioral and neural findings show that people with PTSD pay more attention to surprise while learning.

“This disrupted learning increases with more severe PTSD,” said Brown, who is conducting her dissertation research in Chiu’s laboratory at the VTCRI. “Now that we understand how attention to surprise plays a role in PTSD, we may be able to refine our assessment tools or develop new interventions that target specific learning disruptions in people with PTSD or other psychiatric disorders.”

Women Vet Health Risks Greater Than Civilians

Gina Harkins MOAA Leg Up November 3, 2017

Women who’ve served in the military are more likely to suffer from suicidal thoughts, cardiovascular disease, arthritis, and other problems according to a new study looking at the health of female veterans. Female vets report higher rates of cancer, mental illness, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and depression when compared to women with no military experience, the United Health Foundation Health of Women Who Have Served Report found. MOAA teamed with United Health Foundation to produce the report.

More than 8 percent of the female veterans surveyed over a four-year period reported having suicidal thoughts in the past year - nearly twice that of their civilian counterparts. About a third reported arthritis, compared to about 26 percent of civilian women. Other findings include:

- About 13 percent of women who served had cancer, compared with roughly 11 percent of women who did not.
- Nearly 42 percent reported getting insufficient sleep, compared to 34 percent of civilian women.

- About a third of female veterans reported mental illness in the last year, compared to about 22 percent of women who didn’t serve.

Members of Congress, VA officials, and other leaders met in Washington 2 NOV to discuss the study’s findings. “The focus of the study released today is so incredibly important and so needed,” said Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), a retired Army officer who lost her legs in Iraq. “That data is missing in the health care and scientific world in terms of the research and analysis of female vets. People talk about it, but actual reports like this one are so rare.”

There are about 2 million female veterans and another 200,000 women on active duty, according to the report. Since 2000, there’s been a 30 percent increase in the number of women who’ve joined the military, said Rep. Julia Brownley (D-Calif.), who serves on the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. “While we have made improvements, the VA remains ill-prepared to deal with growing number of women veterans whose mental and physical health care needs can be different from their male peers and from

Women continued next page

Women continued

civilian women,” Brownley said. The data on female veterans from the MOAA-United Health Foundation study, Brownley added, will help congressional veterans committees set new policy that benefits them.

Dr. Patricia Hayes, the VA’s chief consultant for women veterans’ health, said the study’s findings were consistent with what she sees in her female patients. Despite facing some higher rates of health problems, female veterans show tremendous resilience. That’s likely why 56.4 percent of female vets reported being in very good or excellent health compared to civilian women, according to the study. “There’s an attitude of ‘I’m feeling pretty OK and healthy and functional,’ even in light of the trends and similar data showing higher [rates of certain health problems],” Hayes said.

Now that there’s data on some of the physical and behavioral health problems facing female veterans, it’s important to research what might be causing them, said Capt. Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret), director of MOAA’s government relations health affairs. “We can’t develop solutions until we know the root of some of the problems,” Beasley said. “We’ve got some cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and behavioral health concerns - significant disparities between women who served and their civilian counterparts. Why is that? What are the factors that are contributing to those outcomes?”

U.S. Navy veteran’s mom denied visa to attend son’s funeral

By ALEX SUNDBY CBS NEWS January 15, 2018

A U.S. Navy veteran’s mother was twice denied a visa to attend her son’s funeral in Arkansas around Christmas, [CBS affiliate WREG-TV reports](#). The U.S. State Department won’t say why the visa requests were denied.

Ngoc Truong, 22, died Dec. 17, shortly after being diagnosed with leukemia. He left the Navy in October after being in the service for four years.

Truong’s father Hung Truong, a jewelry store owner in eastern Arkansas, told WREG-TV that his ex-wife applied for a visa to travel from Vietnam to attend their son’s funeral. Each of her requests was denied.

“That’s what made me fuming mad,” Truong told the station. “Fuming. Why?”

The study on female veterans provides an opportunity for more research, policy changes, or better access to VA or community health care that will benefit female veterans, said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana T. Atkins, USAF (Ret). It’s important for health care providers to start asking more women if they’ve

served in the military, Hayes added, especially if they’re seeing doctors outside the VA in their communities. If female veterans are at higher risk for some cancers, heart disease, or depression, doctors need to ask them the right questions and test them for some conditions earlier than they test women

who didn’t serve. That applies to male veterans, too, Hayes said. If doctors know someone served in the military, it will help them better understand

their health challenges. That’s one reason it benefits veterans to go to the VA for at least some of their health care, said Deputy Secretary of the VA Thomas Bowman, a retired Marine Corps officer.

Bowman said he’s dedicated to ensuring VA health facilities are providing good care to women. His sister served in the Air Force, he said, and she’s been candid with him about some of the VA’s shortcomings when it comes to treating women. “We want to make sure that women vets will choose VA for their health care,” Bowman said. “We’ve made significant strides, but we can’t give up on that, and we’re not going to. “This study helps focus VA and some of its activities.

The State Department told the station that it couldn’t provide more details about the case. “Visa records are confidential under U.S. law,” a State Department official told WREG-TV. “We are unable to discuss specific visa cases.”

Truong told the station that his son admired President John F. Kennedy’s famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you – ask what you can do for your country.”

Truong used words from that statement to express his frustration with the government. “He’s already done for this country, but what this country done for him?” Truong asked. “What this country do for him?”

Cancer Rates:
Women Vets - 13%
Women Civilians - 11%



In Service to America

Vietnam Veterans of America #324
PO Box 18631
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Time Valued Material
Correction Service Requested
Forwarding Postage Guaranteed

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 completed application to:
VVA Chapter 324 - Membership, PO Box 18631, Milwaukee, WI 53218