

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

21 September, '11

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

2011

19 October, 16 November, 21 December

2012

18 January, 15 February, 21 March, 18 April, 16 May,
20 June, 25 July, 15 August, 19 September,
17 October, 21 November, 19 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

The smell of victory

Army releases scent named for Patton

By Bethany Bray Staff Writer SalemNews.com, Salem, MA August 10, 2011

HAMILTON — Joanne Patton was just as surprised as anyone to find out the U.S. Army has released a cologne named for her famous father-in-law. The scent, dubbed simply “Patton,” is the Army’s licensed, official fragrance and named for the World War II hero Gen. George S. Patton.

She said the cologne was not initiated by anyone in the Patton family, but took the news with good humor.

“It was a surprise to me. We’ll wait to see how and why,” she said, chuckling. “... I was surprised that a perfume for General Patton wouldn’t be smelling like diesel fuel.”

Gen. Patton, who died in 1945, owned what is now Green Meadows Farm in Hamilton. His son, also a general named George, lived there until his death in 2004, and his widow, Joanne, still lives on the Asbury

Street property.

A park in Hamilton and Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School’s sports mascot are named in honor of Patton.

Patton cologne is made by California-based Parfumologie. A portion of proceeds from sales of Patton, and the scents Parfumologie has created for each branch of the armed forces (Riptide for the Coast Guard, Devil Dogs for the Marines and Stealth for the Air Force), are donated to the Veterans Administration.

The line of colognes was first released in 2009, but made news this week after the Patton cologne was mentioned on the Military Times news website.

Patton is advertised as a woody blend of lavender, citrus, coconut, cedar, sage, tonka bean, bergamot and lime.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Milwaukee Chapter 324

August 17, 2011

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Pat Moore

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance – Dennis Szymanski, John Zutz, Robert Spears JR, Janice E. Dahlke, Milan Mursec, Minnie Harmon, John Morgan, Oliver Williams, Joseph Murray, Joseph Certo, Pat Moore, Joe Herbert

Minutes of July 20, 2011 meeting reviewed and accepted

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA/AVVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert – Holding at 130 members

Volunteering at the VA – September 28 we have been asked to have an information table at the VA – volunteers are needed – The Spinal Cord Injury Building has been dedicated

Stand-Down – Moved and passed to donate \$300 for the September Stand-Down

OLD BUSINESS

Brewers Fund Raiser - \$1265.00 was raised at our August 3rd fund raiser at Miller Park. Thanks to all who helped.

By-Laws – Draft is nearly completed and should be ready to be presented to the membership for review before voting on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Vets For Peace Food Pantry – Moved and passed to donate \$100 in our continuing support – Contact Dennis Johnson – 414-810-0655 for information or if you have items to donate. He can arrange for pickup.

Walk For the Fallen – August 21 at the VA Medical Center

For the Good of the Chapter – Joe Murray is offering auto repair work for NEEDY veterans – contact him for information

Adjournment – 7:25 pm



Treatment Doesn't Ease Veterans' Post-Traumatic Stress, Study Finds

By BENEDICT CAREY [NY Times] August 2, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/03/health/research/03psych.html?hpw>

Drugs widely prescribed to treat severe post-traumatic stress symptoms are no more effective than placebos for veterans and come with serious side effects, including weight gain and fatigue, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The surprising finding, from the largest study of its kind in veterans, challenges current treatment standards so directly that it could alter practice soon among doctors treating returning military personnel, some experts said.

Ten percent to 20 percent of those who see heavy combat develop lasting symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, and about a fifth of those who get treatment receive a prescription for a so-called antipsychotic medication, according to government numbers.

The new study, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, focused on one such medication, Risperdal. But experts said that its results most likely extend to the entire class, including drugs like Seroquel, Geodon and Abilify.

"I think it's a very important study," given how frequently the drugs have been prescribed, said Dr. Charles Hoge, a senior scientist at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, who was not involved in the study but wrote an editorial accompanying it. He added, "It's very rigorously done, and it definitely calls into question the use of antipsychotics in general for PTSD."

The use of such drugs has grown sharply over the past decade, as thousands of returning soldiers and Marines have found that their PTSD symptoms do not respond to antidepressants, the only drugs backed by scientific evidence for the disorder. Doctors have turned to antipsychotics, which strongly affect mood, to augment treatment, based almost entirely on their experience with the drugs, and how they expect the drugs to work.

To test those assumptions, a team of researchers affiliated with the Veterans Affairs medical system had 123 veterans with the disorder begin a regimen that added Risperdal to their existing treatment. Some of the patients had served in Vietnam, others in Iraq or Afghanistan; all had tried courses of antidepressant treatment and found little relief. After six months of treatment, these veterans were doing no better

than a similar group of 124 veterans, who were given dummy, or placebo, pills. About 5 percent of those in both groups recovered, and 10 to 20 percent reported at least some improvement, based on standardized measures of severity.

"We didn't find any suggestion that the drug treatment was having an overall benefit on their lives," said Dr. John H. Krystal, director of the clinical neurosciences division of the V.A.'s National Center for PTSD and the lead author of the study.

Dr. Krystal said the benefits that many doctors thought they were getting from the drugs "quite possibly came from simply engaging the patient in treatment, and not from the medication."

The findings come at a time when the V.A. and the Department of Defense are straining to provide treatment to returning service members who are not only concerned about the stigma of mental illness but often skeptical of the value of treatment. Surveys have found that only about half of those thought to need treatment actually seek it out — and many of them drop out before completing it.

Yet studies suggest that talk therapy, alone or in combination with antidepressants, can accelerate the relief of common symptoms, like nightmares, intrusive thoughts and reclusive behavior. These psychotherapies tend to include relaxation skills; incrementally increased exposure to stress triggers, like driving over a bridge or being out in the open; and challenging some of the inaccurate assumptions that fuel anxiety.

Time, too, should be taken into consideration during any treatment, recent research has found. "We're finding that about 24 months after a one-year deployment is about enough" for the body to reset itself physiologically, Dr. Hoge said.



War-related contracting wasted up to \$60 billion, commission reports

By Megan Scully National Journal August 31, 2011

A staggering \$12 billion squandered every day for the last 10 years -- that was among the findings the Wartime Contracting Commission uncovered in more than two years of investigating war-related spending since 2001.

Releasing its report on Wednesday, the bipartisan commission set up by Congress urged lawmakers to enact many of its recommendations in order to prevent billions more in wasteful spending in Iraq and Afghanistan.

It found that between \$31 billion and \$60 billion spent on projects in Iraq and Afghanistan over the last 10 years has been lost to waste and fraud. That amounts to as much as 29 percent of the \$206 billion spent on security, infrastructure, and other projects in those two countries over the last decade. If the amount of contract fraud and waste falls in the middle of the commission's estimated range - and at least one commissioner said he believes it is closer to the high end -- the commission concluded that it comes to \$12 billion wasted every day for the last 10 years.

"The commission sunsets on Sept. 30, but the problems in contingency contracting do not," said former Rep. Chris Shays, D-Conn., the commission's co-chair. "There is still time to make a difference in Iraq and Afghanistan, and there will be new contingencies."

The commission acknowledged that many of its recommendations, such as the creation of a permanent inspector general for contingency operations and more personnel and resources to protect the government's interests in war contracting, would require an upfront investment during a time of fiscal belt-tightening.

But several of the eight commissioners argued that the money required to implement the reforms would be significantly outweighed by the savings generated.

"Unfortunately, the current stress on the budget may discourage members of Congress from supporting the investments that some of our recommendations would require," Shays said. "I appreciate the difficulty of proposing new spending in a time of revenue constraints, but some of the reforms require no new spending and some could be

made by simply reallocating existing resources."

But holding back funds and blocking the reforms that do require some upfront funds "would really be false economy," Shays added.

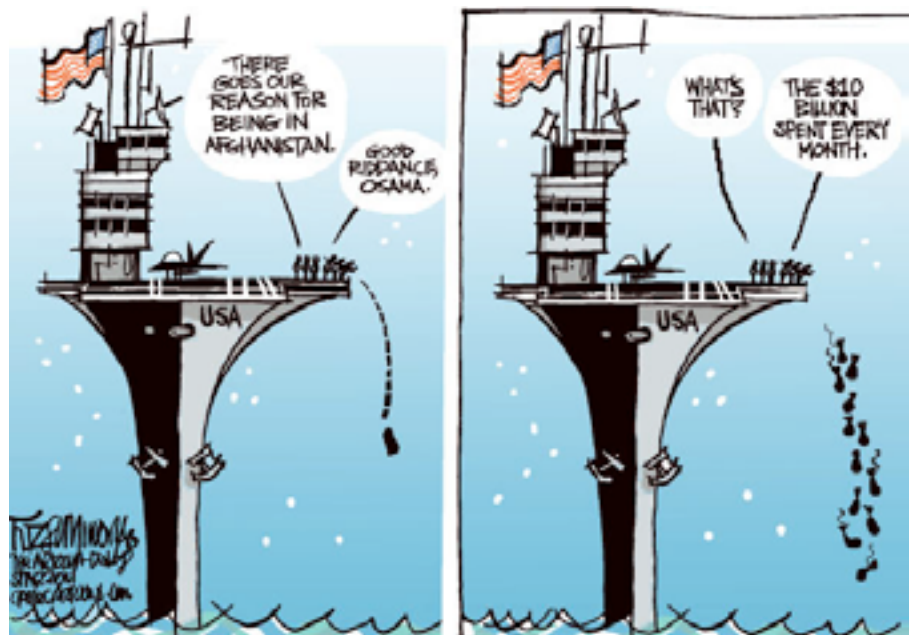
Among its 15 recommendations, the commission wants Congress to provide resources for contingency contracting reform to mitigate the problems uncovered in the report. In addition, the commission wants lawmakers to pass legislation requiring the agencies to provide updates on their efforts to implement the recommendations.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who chairs the Senate Homeland Security Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight and who pushed for the creation of the commission, said she intends "to go at this as hard as I know how." McCaskill, a former state auditor, said the commission's recommendations could save billions and could make it easier to find the significant cuts to the military's budget that are expected over the next 10 years.

"Particularly in this budget climate, we cannot waste this kind of money under the umbrella of contracting practices," she said during a teleconference with reporters.

Shays, meanwhile, said he hopes the super committee charged with trimming the federal deficit by at least \$1.2 trillion reviews the commission's recommendations to find savings.

"We're just one small part of their mammoth task, but if they don't take a good look at it, it would be a failing," he said.



Agent Orange Relief for Vietnam?

By MICHAEL UHL In the Mindfield.

If 'justice for all' were more than misty sentiment appended to a perfunctory 'pledge of allegiance,' H.R. 2634 — a bill seeking broad and long delayed remedial action on behalf of all Vietnam Era victims of Agent Orange — would sail through Congress and gain swift approval from the President.

Introduced by California Congressman Bob Filner, the senior Democrat on the House Veteran's Affairs Committee, the proposed 'Victims of Agent Orange Relief Act' challenges our lawmakers and our nation to finally confront and repair the chemically induced public health and environmental wreckage that remains the most shameful and unresolved legacy of the U.S. war against Vietnam.

Why is this bill necessary? Let's review the facts as the proposed bill presents them:

*From 1961 to 1971, approximately 19,000,000 gallons of herbicides, primarily Agent Orange, were sprayed over the southern region of Vietnam, much of it contaminated with deadly dioxin.

*Potentially 4.8 million Vietnamese were exposed to herbicides in this period, resulting in chronic illnesses, shortened life spans, and high rates of birth deformities. Even today, exposure continues in contaminated areas, designated dioxin 'hot spots,' and through contact with the food chain.

*Public health resources in Vietnam are inadequate for the necessary care and treatment of Agent Orange victims, many of whom reside in remote rural areas far from available medical and custodial services.

H.R. 2634, which was authored for Representative Filner by the Vietnam Relief and Responsibility Campaign, many of whose members are U.S. veterans of the war, authorizes the creation of programs throughout Vietnam to deliver an appropriate level of medical assistance to the victims, and provide much needed home, respite and daycare services as well.

One component of the bill, moreover, would authorize "assistance to repair and rebuild substandard homes in Vietnam for covered individuals," as well as proposed funding for the long overdue clean-up of "those areas in Vietnam that continue to contain high levels of dioxin," a program of critical importance to public health issues associated with on-going exposure to these deadly toxins.

H.R. 2634 is unique in that, presenting upfront the case of the victims in Vietnam, the bill recognizes

the failure of American policy as we now approach four decades since the war's end to recognize the heavy responsibility our government bears for the human suffering and environmental devastation resulting from our chemical assault on the people and land of southern Vietnam.

But the bill by no means limits its remedial reach to the victims within Vietnam. There are generous provisions that will expand programs and research to benefit our own veterans, and create medical centers "designed to address the medical needs of descendants of the veterans of the Vietnam era." In essence this means that, as in Vietnam, there would be a presumption that certain birth anomalies among the children and grandchildren of exposed victims would be recognized as resulting from contact with Agent Orange.

Finally, H.R. 2634 would launch an assessment and treatment program aimed exclusively at Vietnamese-Americans who lived in Vietnam and parts of Cambodia and Laos during the exposure period from January 9, 1961 through May 7, 1975.

If you want to see the face of justice as it applies to the unfinished business surrounding the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam, give the H.R. 2634 a thorough read, and find a way to support it. Will H.R. 2634 get far in today's troubled political climate? It certainly should, but it's not very likely.

However if we think of this honorable document, to the degree it is aimed at the victims in Vietnam, as a wedge in an on-going campaign that both the U.S. and Vietnamese governments are anxious to resolve in their bi-lateral relations, its chances of contributing in the not too distant future to the implementation of much that it contains might not be as slim as we imagine.

Michael Uhl - author of Vietnam Awakening.



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



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Chapter 324
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