

Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - PO Box 18631 - Milwaukee, WI 53218

In Service to America



Meeting Notice

15 October, '14

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

2014

19 November, 17 December

2015

21 January, 18 February, 18 March, 15 April

Chapter 324 Officers

President - Pat Ciofani 702-7734

Vice Pres. - Oliver Williams 358-4416

Secretary - Dennis Symanski 453-3600

Treasurer - Pat Moore 354-2533

Director - Ron Coppersmith 262-255-2832

Director - John Morgan 871-9274

Director - Joe Murray 262-389-7325

Director - Mike Ducette 262-968-5508

China rig finds gas after Vietnam sea standoff

http://www.aol.com/article/2014/09/16/china-rig-finds-gas-after-vietnam-sea-standoff/20962939/?icid=maingrid7%7Chtmlws-main-bb%7Cd13%7Csec3_in4%26pLid%3D535119

By IAN MADER Sep 26 2014

BEIJING (AP) - The Chinese exploration rig at the center of a tense maritime standoff with Vietnam earlier this year has made its first deep sea gas discovery in the politically volatile South China Sea, state media announced Tuesday.

The discovery by China National Offshore Oil Corp. was made about a month after its rig withdrew in July from Vietnam's exclusive economic zone to far less-contested waters closer to China.

The find by CNOOC's two-year-old, \$1 billion deep sea rig is about 150 kilometers south of China's southernmost island of Hainan. It's unclear whether the discovery will become commercially viable, but the announcement represents a significant step in China's ability to seek resources beneath the South China Sea.

Petroleum reserves and fisheries are among the resources at stake in disputes over the sea, which is one of the world's busiest shipping routes and a patchwork of overlapping claims by governments including China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The find was China's first without the participation of foreign partners that in the past have included companies such as Chevron and BP, said Felix Tan, a Beijing-based analyst for energy and resources consultant Wood MacKenzie.

"This is the first discovery they've done all by themselves," Tan said in an interview. CNOOC has rapidly developed a deep-water exploration capability, he said.

The gas field was discovered Aug. 18 at a depth of about 1,500 meters, CNOOC said on its website.

The depth is at the extreme cusp of what the industry considers a deep-water field, or those from 400 to 1,500 meters. Below 1,500 meters would be ultra-deep, where extraordinary pressures make the building of facilities extremely difficult.

Xinhua said the field's viability is still to be proven, but quoted a CNOOC manager, Xie Yuhong, as saying the well could be capable of producing up to 56.5 million cubic feet of gas per day, or about 9,400 barrels.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
Milwaukee Chapter 324
September 17, 2014

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer – Mike DuCette

Minutes of the July 16, 2014 meeting reviewed and accepted

Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$6604.19 balance in our checking account

Communications

Attendance – Dennis Szymanski, Patrick Moore, Paul D Balge, Pat Ciofani, John Morgan, Mike DuCette, Joe Campbell, Joe Herbert, John Zutz

COMMITTEE REPORTS

VVA/AVVA Membership Update – Joe Herbert – 87 Veterans – 21 Associates

Fund Raising – Pat Moore applied for 3 2015 Brewer dates for the chapter

Website – We will contact Jeff Dentice to see if we can be part of his web site

OLD BUSINESS

Miller Park Fund Raising – We collected \$2851.00 in our 3 days at Miller Park – Thanks to all who participated

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival – Oct. 27 – Nov. 2, 2014 in Milwaukee – Moved and passed to donate \$500 to help with this event.

State Council Raffle – Did not go well – Most state chapters did not participate – Those that did and won returned their winnings to the council as such a small profit was seen

NEW BUSINESS

Connecting Aging Veterans to Their Benefits – Pat Ciofani and Joe Herbert manned our table and reported a number of positive contacts

September State Council Meeting – Dealt mostly with the Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings and with suspended chapters

Stand Down – Moved and passed to donate \$300

Elks Lodge Donation – Moved and passed to donated \$300 to the lodge maintenance fund for allowing us to hold our meetings there

Americanism Awards Breakfast = Oct 26 – Moved and passed to purchase a table and to honor our members, Joe Herbert and John Zutz for their work

Ron Hutchinson Donations – We have received substantial donations from the family of Ron Hutchinson from memorials given at his funeral. More details to follow.

Adjournment – 7:50



National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Festival - October 27 - November 2, 2014

Events Open to the Public - Sunday, November 2, 2014

Milwaukee Theatre 500 West Kilbourn Avenue

Art Exhibit - 12 Noon - 1:45 p.m. Stage Show - 2:00 p.m.

Contact: Host Site Coordinators: Sheppard.Crumrine@va.gov and Marisa.Straub@va.gov

Join Us and Celebrate 10 Years of Quality K-12 Education

HMONG AMERICAN PEACE ACADEMY

*Celebrating Our School, Honoring Our Heritage and
All Vietnam Veterans and Their Families*



SAVE THE DATE • Friday, Nov. 7, 2014 • 10:00 a.m.-12 noon
4601 N. 84th St., Milwaukee, WI



Milwaukee Admirals Military Appreciation Night!

USO OF WISCONSIN, INC

Friday, November 7, 2014 from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM (CST)

The USO of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Admirals are hosting a Military Appreciation night. This is open to ALL currently serving Military from ALL Branches, Veterans and their legal dependents. The service member will receive up to 6 FREE Tickets to the game from the Milwaukee Admirals and the USO of Wisconsin!

We will have a raffle for a custom USO Admirals Jersey. (only 10 created)

Games on the ice where the branches are competing against each other for the ultimate Military on Ice title.

Special recognition of each branch of service

Grand unveiling of the new USO Military seats of the game.

Great giveaways and a chance to see your Milwaukee Admirals in action!

More info at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/milwaukee-admirals-military-appreciation-night-tickets-12855028737?ref=enivte001&invite=NjU2MTg4NS9qZmNhbXBiZWxsQG1hY2h3ZWxkLmNvbS8w&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=invitenew001&utm_term=eventpage

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DoD Has Agreed to Reconsider Vietnam PTSD Discharges

Andrew Tilghman, NavyTimes, Sep 03, 2014

The Defense Department has agreed to reconsider the bad-paper discharges for thousands of Vietnam-era veterans who may have suffered from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder but were kicked out of the military in the era before that became a diagnosable condition. In a new rule announced 3 SEP, the Pentagon said veterans from the Vietnam era and other past wars with other-than-honorable discharges will be given “liberal consideration” if they seek to correct their military records and provide some evidence of a PTSD diagnosis that existed at the time of their service. Upgraded discharges could result in the restoration of some benefits, such as disability pay, separation pay or GI Bill benefits from the Veterans Affairs Department, which are typically denied to vets who receive other-than-honorable discharges. Health

care in the VA system is typically provided to veterans regardless of their discharge.

In today’s military, PTSD is considered a mitigating factor for misconduct and behavioral problems. The military services are required to grant a medical evaluation to any service member who claims PTSD before finalizing a bad discharge. vThe Pentagon’s new rule comes in response to a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of several veterans in March that claimed the Defense Department was wrongfully denying discharge upgrade applications from veterans with claims and evidence of PTSD. The new policy was applauded by the Yale Law School Veterans’ Legal Service Clinic, which is spearheading the federal McTiernan, a student intern involved with the lawsuit. However, she said, it’s too early to tell how the new rule will be.

A Small Band of Brothers

<http://www.creators.com/liberal/marc-dion/a-small-band-of-brothers.html>

By Marc Dion

We lost the war in Vietnam.

To counter that, in the decades following that war, we made two kinds of war movies.

The first kind of war movie we made centered on the insanity of war. The second kind centered on the idea that we would have won in Vietnam if, instead of sending a huge army, we’d sent somewhere between one and four weightlifters armed with big machine guns and really long knives.

We got rid of the draft, too, restricting membership in the armed forces to those who apparently enjoyed insanity or were able to bench press at least twice their own weight.

And then, we became involved, not in wars but in a series of colonial punishment expeditions requiring the increasing use of those Americans who had joined the military.

We had, however, learned two crucial lessons from Vietnam. The first was that referring to all soldiers as “heroes” absolves from any responsibility for any killing done in any of our colonial expeditions.

The second was that we weren’t going to lose another war. The third, rapidly being learned, is that he only way not to lose is either to stay there forever, or keep returning time after time.

Some bombing. Some “advisors,” or, better yet, “training forces.” Some special operations troops, who are presumed to be heroes, are known to be skilled in the use of long knives and who, we guess,

enjoy insanity more than most.

This spreads the volunteer army pretty thin but there will be no draft, no matter how tired the heroes get. We’ll use the reserves, and the National Guard.

There will be no draft because the people at the top, the legislators and the president are scared to death that a return to compulsory military service would reveal to our enemies that a significant percentage of our young people will not fight for this country, or even serve.

And that, more so than planes crashing into towers, more so than rusting, abandoned Detroit, more so than the billions of tons of cocaine we Hoover cross the border every year, would signal the end of America, or at least its reinvention as a very large version of Sweden.

I don’t see, in the demeanor of the young Americans I know, any kind of broad-based ability to take orders, to accept the fact that they can do what everyone else can do and, most of all, that their time and their lives are not their own, at least not for the period of service that would be required by law.

There are still enough volunteers to handle our state of constant emergency. There are still enough of them to fire the missiles and the rifles, to crouch when told to crouch and run forward when told to run forward but their number is so few that we have to send them back again and again because we will not lose another war.

Acknowledging the first of many “50th Anniversaries”

From The New Hampshire Gazette, July 25, 2014

A Very Big Bang, Indeed

On August 4, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson announced, and Defense Secretary Robert Strange McNamara reiterated, that North Vietnamese patrol boats had, in a “deliberate” pattern of “naked aggression,” made the second “unprovoked attack” in two days on U.S. Navy warships which had been “on routine patrol in international waters” in the Gulf of Tonkin.

In short, America, immensely powerful and wholly innocent, was being picked on by a fourth-rate nation made up largely of barefoot — and apparently suicidal — peasants. It made little sense but a more accurate account would have been less palatable.

The Sordid Truth

By July of 1964, the U.S. had been conducting a covert operation called OPLAN34Alpha for about two years.

On July 31st, as part of that operation, gunboats manned by South Vietnamese personnel and foreign mercenaries, under the direction and control of the CIA and the Pentagon, shot up North Vietnamese military installations on two offshore islands. Naturally this caused a surge of traffic from North Vietnamese radar and radio facilities.

That traffic was then monitored by the U.S.S. Maddox, a Bath, ME-built destroyer converted to an electronic surveillance spy ship.

It was only then, in broad daylight on August 2nd, that three North Vietnamese PT boats approached the Maddox, which opened fire at a range of 10,000 yards. Each boat launched a torpedo; none hit their mark. One boat sank, the other two, damaged, retreated. The Maddox sustained a single hit from a 14.5- mm machine gun.

U.S. officials knew immediately and exactly what all the fuss was about. As Robert Scheer reported in the LA Times in 1985, the following night then-Secretary of State Dean Rusk cabled Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, the U.S. ambassador to Vietnam, “the Maddox incident is directly related to [North Vietnam’s] efforts to resist these [OPLAN34Alpha] activities.”

The following night, August 4th, 1964, the moon was but a sliver. Atmospheric conditions made radar unreliable, but jittery operators on the Maddox thought they saw potential attackers on their screens. A two-hour firefight followed against the phantom foes.

As soon as the shooting stopped the Captain of the Maddox warned the Pentagon that the threat could very well have been illusory. The Pentagon ignored him.

The NSA, according to a secret official history made public in 2005, distorted the evidence to cover up honest mistakes.

Relying largely on that distorted NSA report, the U.S. attacked North Vietnam. Three days later Lyndon Johnson had carte blanche from the U.S. Congress to do as he saw fit. The rest is misery.

It Gets Worse

It was bad enough that we killed millions of Southeast Asians; it was worse, as we Americans generally reckon things, that we killed about 58,000 of our own young men (though, truth be told, they’d have mattered more if they’d come from a higher socio-economic strata). Perhaps worst of all, the American tragedy in Vietnam stemmed from a futile effort to preserve the indefensible.

We became involved in Vietnam at the end of WW II to defend Western Europe from the Bolshevik menace. To bolster France we tried to help it prop up its wretchedly corrupt colonial government in Saigon — at exactly the time when colonialism was rightfully dying.

In the process, the Vietnam War killed off America’s tradition of the citizen soldier and replaced it with the standing army Washington had warned us against, drove our economy off the rails, and rotted our faith in self-government — to preserve a system that deserved to die.



JOHN COLE, THE [SCRANTON PA.] TIMES-TRIBUNE

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

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