

# Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 324 - 240552 - Milwaukee WI. 53224.

In Service to America



## Meeting Notice

19 APRIL 2023

5555 W. Good Hope Rd.  
Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Chapter Meeting 7 - 8 p.m.

**19 APRIL, 2023**

Future Meetings

17 May, 21 June, 19 July, Aug 16, Sept. 20,  
Oct 18, Nov 15

Chapter web page: [www.vietnamvetschapter324.com](http://www.vietnamvetschapter324.com)

National web page: [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org)

## Chapter Officers

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John is listed in the phone book - good luck finding one

### NOTICE: NEW MAILING ADDRESS

We had problems with the Post office so we  
were forced to rent a new box, - a new address.  
P O Box 240552, Milwaukee WI. 53224.

**NOMINATIONS WILL BE OPEN  
ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE APRIL MEETING**

## Masks Required at Zablocki VAMC

VA Press Release

As you may be aware, the VA in early March announced relaxed masking requirements at medical facilities nationwide, which has generated questions about masking policies locally at the Milwaukee VA Medical Center and our outpatient clinics.

For clarification here locally, the Zablocki VA Healthcare System continues to follow VA guidance, which now states that the CDC's level of community transmission and our facility's associated health protection level will guide any changes to masking requirements at our facilities. Currently, the vast majority of Wisconsin counties remain at the High (Red) risk level. Therefore, our facilities must continue to enforce masking requirements in our patient care buildings and outpatient clinics, in accordance with the new policy.

The Community Transmission Level differs

from the Community Level, with which some Veterans may be familiar, and we recognize that these two different measures as well as the VA's announcement about relaxed masking standards at the national level may create confusion. The Zablocki VA Healthcare System will continue to follow VA guidance and monitor local Community Transmission Levels that could affect masking requirements.

Please follow current masking requirements as posted at facility entrances and on our website at <https://www.va.gov/milwaukee-health-care/>. We will also post significant changes and updates on our social media pages and share via bulletins to this e-mail distribution.

We appreciate your continued cooperation as we adhere to VA policy and work to keep vulnerable and immuno-compromised Veterans and staff safe.

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**Milwaukee Chapter 324**  
**March 15, 2023**

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

**Attendance:** Pat Ciofani, John Morgan, John Zutz, Pat Moore, Ed Boyes, Laverne Martin, Dennis Szymanski  
**Minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting reviewed and accepted**  
**Treasurer's Report – Pat Moore - \$4335.44 in our checking account**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**VVA Membership Update – We welcome new member Ed Boyes to our chapter**  
**Fund Raising – In order to get more people involved, we will be sharing dates with American Legion Post 474. This will give us 4 fund raising dates instead of our usual 2. All donations will be**

**split equally between our 2 organizations. The dates will be announced soon.**

**Website - \$200.00 has been paid to Doc Dentice to manage our website for the coming year – Contact Pat Moore to post items of interest to our chapter**

**OLD BUSINESS -**  
**Veterans Board - \$100.00 paid to support Milwaukee City Veterans Assoc. Inc**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VVA State Meeting March 18<sup>th</sup> - Pat Ciofani will attend**

**Elections of officers in April**

**Adjournment 7:30**

## **VA Forced to Research Medical Marijuana?**

By Rebecca Kheel, Military.com, 16 Feb 2023

A key Senate panel has for the first time advanced a bill that would make the Department of Veterans Affairs research marijuana as a treatment for chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee voted in a closed-door session Thursday to advance the VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act, which directs the department to conduct a “large scale” observational study and possibly a clinical trial on the effects of marijuana use on veterans’ health.

“Our nation’s veterans deserve options when it comes to treating the wounds of war, which is why VA needs to have a better understanding of how medicinal cannabis plays a role in their healing,” Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester, D-Mont., said in a statement this month when he introduced the bill. “Our bipartisan bill ensures VA is listening to the growing number of veterans who find critical relief from alternative treatments like medicinal cannabis, while working to empower veterans in making safe and informed decisions about their health.”

The Senate version is co-sponsored by Sen. Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska. An identical bill was also introduced in the House this week by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Jack Bergman, R-Mich., a retired Marine Corps officer.

Even as more than 20 states have legalized marijuana for recreational use and at least 37 states allow medical marijuana, the drug remains illegal at the federal level, and the VA is not permitted to recommend, prescribe or pay for it.

A 2017 survey conducted by the American Legion found that 22% of veterans were using marijuana for medical purposes and that 92% of veteran households supported research into medical marijuana.

Under the bill advanced Thursday, the VA would first have to conduct an observational study that examines both the positive and negative health outcomes for veterans using marijuana, including whether those veterans reduce their use of opiates or alcohol. The study would also have to look at pain intensity, sleep quality, agitation and overall quality of life.

Once the observational study is done, the VA would have to report back to Congress on the results, including whether it believes it can do a clinical trial.

If the department then proceeds with a clinical trial, the research would look at how different forms and strengths of the drug affect symptoms of chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.

# The Air Force Built One of the Fastest Computers Out of PlayStations

We Are The Mighty, By Blake Stilwell, Military.com, 17 Feb 2023

When the PlayStation 2 was first released to the public, it was said the computer inside was so powerful, it could be used to launch nuclear weapons. It was a stunning comparison. In response, Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein opted to try and buy up thousands of the gaming consoles, so many that the U.S. government had to impose export restrictions.

But it seems Saddam gave the Air Force an idea: building a supercomputer from many PlayStations.

Just 10 years after Saddam tried to take over the world using thousands of gaming consoles, the United States Air Force took over the role of mad scientist and created the world's 33rd-fastest computer inside its own Air Force Research Laboratory.

Only instead of PlayStation 2, the Air Force used 1,760 Sony PlayStation 3 consoles. They called it the "Condor Cluster," and it was the Department of Defense's fastest computer.

The USAF put the computer in Rome, New York, near Syracuse, and intended to use the computer for radar enhancement, pattern recognition, satellite imagery processing and artificial intelligence research for current and future Air Force projects and operations.

Processing imagery is the computer's primary function, and it performs that function miraculously well. It can analyze ultra-high-resolution images very quickly, at a rate of billions of pixels per minute. But why use PlayStation consoles instead of an actual computer or other proprietary technology? Because a PlayStation cost \$300 at the time, and the latest and greatest tech in imagery processing would have run

the USAF a much heftier cost per unit. Together, the PlayStations formed the core of the computer for a cost of roughly \$1 million.

The result was a 500 TeraFLOPS Heterogeneous Cluster powered by PS3s but connected to subcluster heads of dual-quad Xeons with multiple GPGPUs (general-purpose graphics processing units). The video-game consoles consumed 90% less energy than any alternative.

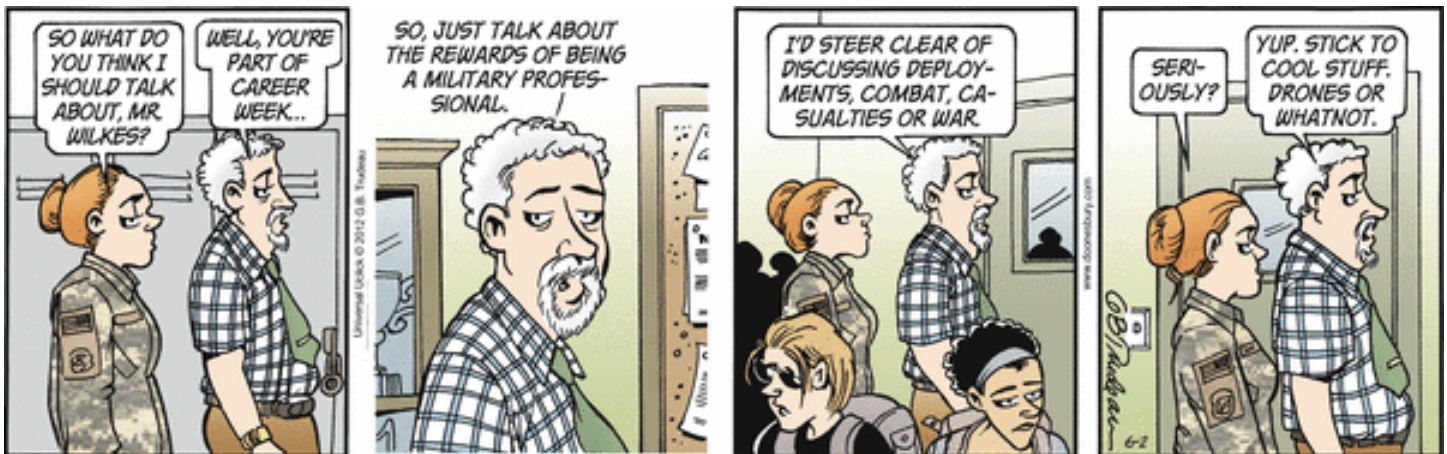
If the Air Force had built a special machine with more traditional components to create a processing center, the branch could have paid upward of \$10 million, and the system would not have been as energy efficient.

It was the PlayStation's ability to install other operating systems that allowed for this cluster -- and is what endangered the program.

In 2010, Sony pushed a PlayStation firmware update that revoked the device's ability to install alternate operating systems, like the Linux OS the Air Force used in its supercomputer cluster. The Air Force unboxed hundreds of PlayStations, and after imaging each unit to run Linux, Sony ran updates on them a few weeks later.

The Air Force, of course, didn't need the firmware update, nor could Sony force it on those devices. But if one of the USAF's PlayStations went down, it would be the end of the cluster. Any device refurbished or newly purchased would lack the ability to run Linux.

The firmware update was the death knell for the supercomputer and others like it that had been produced by academic institutions. There was never any word on whether Saddam ever created his supercomputer.



## New Tech Being Tested

# Female Air Force Pilots Would Be Able to Safely Pee In-Flight

By Thomas Novelly, Military.com, 20 Mar 2023

Pilots at an Air Force base in North Carolina are the first to test out a new system that would make it easier for female aviators to urinate during long flights.

A long-standing issue for women in the service has been not having a practical or safe way to relieve themselves, often having to rely on dehydration, diapers or simply holding their urine during training or a mission.

Holding in urine for extended periods of time can lead to a variety of health complications, ranging from headaches, infections and an overall weakening of the bladder muscles. One method referred to by aviators as “tactical dehydration” involves not drinking liquids at all for hours before a flight, which can lead to a variety of safety risks, according to the Air Force.

“This method can cause fatal errors and health issues, such as lowering the aircrew’s ability to withstand high g-forces by 50% and increase headaches,” the 4th Fighter Wing said in a press release.

But female pilots at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, are ground testing a new bladder relief method.

The system -- called Airus by Airion Health -- was awarded a prototype contract by the Air Force last year, according to the 4th Fighter Wing. It uses a cup liner that is docked to the body and worn under the pilot’s underwear. A pumping system then pulls the liquid away from the flight suit and doesn’t require pilots to remove their harness.

“We brought in a lot of female experts to really take a look at what this is and how to make a system for women from women versus being a male-driven design,”

Cam Chidiac, Airion Health managing member, said in the news release.

Prior bladder relief equipment was designed with male physiology in mind; as women began entering aviation and combat roles, the technology needed to be modified. The Air Force started soliciting contracts and ideas on how to improve their systems in 2020.

One of the popular current methods used by pilots requires them to unstrap from their harness and gear, which can take nearly an hour, to urinate into a bag collection system, according to the press release, and can be unsafe in the case of a sudden in-flight emergency.

In 1992, an American F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed after the fighter pilot was forced to eject when he lost control of the aircraft while trying to urinate, The Associated Press reported at the time.

News of the testing comes as the Air Force has worked to amend numerous long-standing policies aimed at improving the quality of life of women and pregnant service members.

In the past two years alone, the service has authorized longer hairstyles for women, and it is developing a maternity flight suit and a wrap-style dress for pregnant airmen.



“You’re accused of being raped... How do you plead?”

**Less Screaming, More Weightlifting:**

## **The Army Is Reinventing Basic Training for Gen Z**

By Steve Beynon, 18 Oct 2022, Military.com

Army drill sergeants who model themselves on R. Lee Ermey's ruthless Marine Corps drill instructor in "Full Metal Jacket" are on their way out the door.

Those noncommissioned officers have for generations been a new recruit's first real introduction to the Army, and they have famously been known to scream, curse and physically punish trainees. But Army planners are hoping that instead of the stereotypical screaming drill sergeants in round brown hats, the new crop of NCOs will act more like strict football coaches.

"They're not trying to make the walls sweat, they're not throwing trash cans," Command Sgt. Maj. Scott Beeson, the top enlisted leader at the Army's Center for Initial Military Training, or CIMT, told Military.com in an interview earlier this month during the Association of the United States Army conference in Washington, D.C. "All that stuff is slowly going away."

The shift follows substantial changes in the Army's physical training. While recruits may have to endure less screaming at boot camp, the new training has effectively made the fitness and marksmanship requirements for recruits more demanding.

The loud and brutal drill sergeant was seen as a way to toughen up fresh recruits and prepare them for the harsh realities of war, from the jungles of Vietnam to the post-9/11 battlefields in Afghanistan and Iraq. But that thinking is changing, and many in the service believe a less harsh approach may actually be more effective with recruits.

"The naysayers who we were initially fighting against didn't believe this new way of doing things," Beeson said. "Gentler isn't the right way to say it; it's just dignity and respect. People desire structure, and we're trying to give it to them. We're just not being assholes when we're doing it."

The idea is to build a bond of trust with new soldiers early on, which could result in them being more comfortable with bringing issues to their leaders. Tweaking how boot camp instructors do business could also help new privates better absorb the training, much of it dealing with safety issues ranging from

I DUNNO BUT I'VE BEEN TOLD...  
SHOOTIN' THINGS IS GETTIN' OLD...  
KISS A BABY - HUG A TREE...  
SHOW SOME HOSPITALITEEE...  
SOUND OFF HUT HOO HREE HO...



**SENSITIVITY TRAINING.**

proper handling of firearms to working out.

And the revamp is driven partly by the Army's need to appeal to Gen Z, who are now reaching enlistment age.

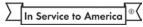
"This generation is very intuitive," Maj. Gen. John Kline, commander of CIMT, said in an interview with Military.com. "I think that they can see whether somebody is authentic or not. So if [drill sergeants] are putting on some sort of facade, they'll see right through it."

In 2020, the Army got rid of the so-called "shark attack."

During the purposefully chaotic reception of new trainees, drill sergeants would swarm them, scream and inflict physical pain by ordering them to perform rigorous tasks such as holding heavy bags over their heads for hours. The goal was to immediately set the power dynamic and cause as much stress as possible.



Vietnam Veterans of America #324  
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## Sign Up Now With Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 324

Anyone can join! Membership Options:

Veterans:

Life Membership for all veterans \$50 (with a DD214 submitted).

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)

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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, P O Box 240552, Milwaukee WI. 53224