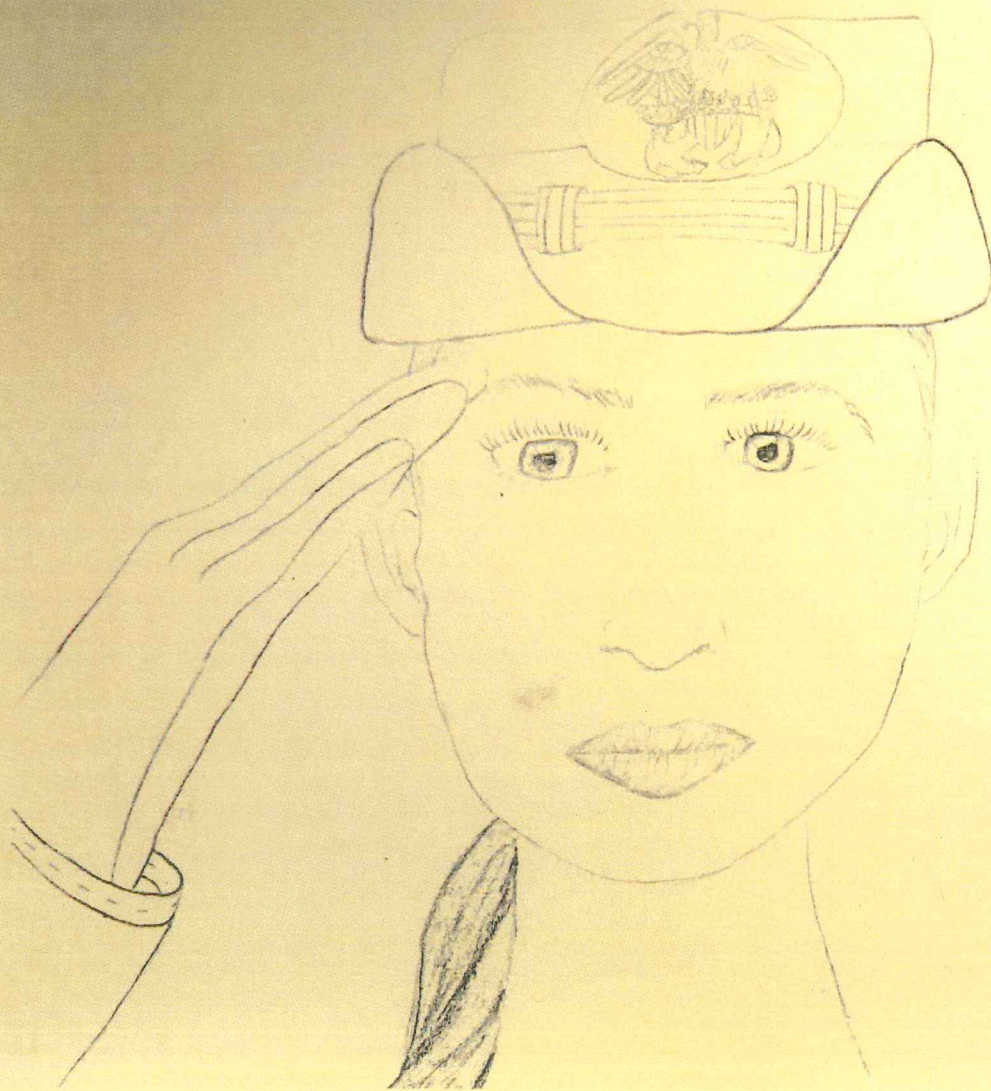


# THE CHOICE TO SERVE

Meadow Glen 7th Grade  
Case Study 2017



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# Dedications

Dedicated to: brave men and women that fought for our  
country.

*“The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our  
country has earned them our lasting gratitude.”*

-Jeff Miller

Did you know that 80% of all women in the military are verbally or physically abused if not sexually assaulted per year? Of those 80%, only 20% tell someone? Terry Atwater was one of those many women who didn't tell anyone.....until now.

During our interview with Ms. Atwater, she mentioned the way women are treated in the military by the men, and so we wanted to do research the topic. We were horrified on the results.

Many of the women in the military are treated horribly by the men, and they can not do nothing about it. Every day, for weeks at a time, they were verbally abusive to the women. For instance she said sexist comments such as, "She won't make it long, she might break a nail." Ms. Atwater didn't listen to them. She persevered and used tenacity while ignoring these comments. She did this until, she was at a place of very high rankings, she steered the ships. Guess what! She didn't break a nail while doing it!

Unfortunately, there are women that can't handle the comments like Ms. Atwater, and quit within the first year. There is a way to stop this, and it starts with not keeping quiet and speaking up. Hopefully one day women like those in the military will be treated with as much respect as men.

## *Growing up with Ms. Atwater...*



The photo above is the USS Hunley, one of the ships Ms. Atwater served on.

## *Daily Routine*

In the year of 1980, a young woman decided she wanted to be a part of something bigger than herself. Ms. Terry Atwater decided to join the Navy to live up to her uncle's standards.

She went to boot camp where she woke up at 4:30 every morning, made her bed, then took roll call, and went into training until 8am. To this day she still makes her bed the same way she did in boot camp.

She finally stepped on ship in the 1980s. She worked hard each and every day and soon became the ships commander, which included steering the ship. She was part of conflicts in Panama, the Cold War, and the Gulf War. Later, She retired spends time with her nieces and nephews.



# THE POWER IN ONE WOMAN BRINGS POWER TO ALL MEN IN SERVICE

**Question 9:**  
What percent of women were in the navy?  
a). 66%  
b). 12%  
c). 38%

**Question 10:**  
What fraction of how many women were sexually assaulted in the military?  
a). One third  
b). One fifth  
c). One seventh

**Question 1:**  
How many women don't speak out about being physical and verbally abused?  
a). 80%  
b). 20%  
c). 60%

**Question 2:**  
What year did the first 2 females graduate from the army ranger academy?  
a). 2008  
b). 1927  
c). 1958

**Question 8:**  
Was there a pay difference because of gender?  
a). Yes  
b). No



**Question 3:**  
In what war did the first and only female get the Medal of Honor?  
a). Korean War  
b). World War I  
c). Civil War

**Question 7:**  
Which branch were women most sexually assaulted in?  
a). Army  
b). Air Force  
c). Navy

**Question 6:**  
Which branch of the military had the most women?  
a). Army  
b). Navy  
c). Air Force

**Question 5:**  
What year was the ban on women in direct combat lifted?  
a). 2013  
b). 2001  
c). 1987

**Question 4:**  
What year did the first woman enlist?  
a). 1992  
b). 1917  
c). 2000

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# Family Tradition

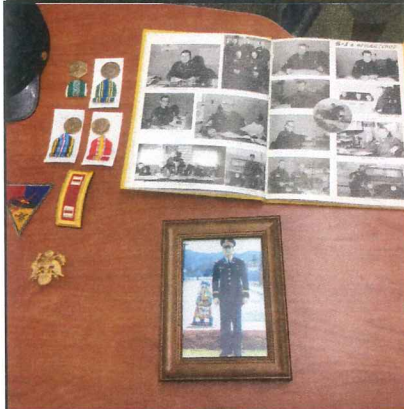


## Interview

Captain Gary Baker is an U.S. Army veteran that served in Korea during the Vietnam War. Captain Baker was led by his past to help him decide to join the U.S. Army. His father served in the U.S. Navy during WWII, his grandfather served in France during WWI, and both of his great-great grandfathers served in the military during the Civil War. He attended the Citadel for four years and was commissioned to the U.S. Army soon after his graduation. Captain Baker served in South Korea with the 2nd Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 7th Infantry Division

During his service, Captain Baker was stationed near the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) where he was responsible for maintaining, servicing and laying out the base weapons combined with the responsibility to call and fire missions. During his service in South Korea, Captain Baker received several honors including the National Defense Service Award, Armed Forces Expeditionary medal, the Korea Defense Service medal, and the Army Commendation Medal.

Following his time in South Korea, Captain Baker completed his military service stationed at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina. After being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, he worked as the Executive Director of the SC State Ethics Commission and the Lexington County Veterans Affairs Office.



## Awards and Medals

The National Defense Service Medal is a service medal of the United States Armed Forces established by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953. The medal was first intended to be a "blanket campaign medal" awarded to service members who served honorably during a designated time period of which a "national emergency" had been declared during a time of war or conflict. It may also be issued to active military members for any other period that the Secretary of Defense designates. Currently the National Defense Service Medal is the oldest service medallion used by the United States Armed Forces. The oldest continuously issued combat medal is the Medal of Honor.

The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) is a military award of the United States Armed Forces, which was first created in 1961 by Executive Order of President Kennedy. The medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after July 1, 1958, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations (UN), or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations.

The Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is a military service medal of the United States Armed Forces that was first created in 2002 when it was signed into law by President Bush. The bill to create the proposal was introduced and championed by Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-CA) and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). Several designs for the medal were proposed. The selected design was done by John Sproston.

The Army Commendation Medal can be awarded for Valor, service, or achievement. The "V" device does not denote a second award, but indicates the award was for combat heroism. Only ONE "V" device may be worn on any ribbon, but may be worn with Oak Leaf Clusters that indicate additional awards of

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# MR. BILINGS BIOGRAPHY

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## Alan Bilings Story

Alan Bilings is a Vietnam war veteran. He served four tours in Vietnam. He has learned many lessons and had close encounters with death many times. He sat down to share his story with us.

Alan Bilings had just gotten out of high school when he decided to join the navy. He joined the navy because as a kid he saw jet planes fly over and it excited him. He had always known he wanted to be apart of something like the navy, but soon found out he may not be accepted because of his age and education level since he had not gone to college.

Alan was very happy to be accepted into the navy. He knew that if he was accepted it, it would be a lot of work and time away from his family. He knew he might be risking his life, but he knew he wanted to do it for the America.

The navy taught him discipline by having him wake up early, make his bed, and put all his clothes in a specific place. For about three hours, each day, they would have to sit a certain way while they studied.

During his time fighting, he had many obstacles to overcome such as nine engine failures and almost getting his wings taken away because he saved someone who he was told not to save in an unusual way. Instead of getting his wings taken he was awarded a medal for his heroic actions.

When flying Alan had a fear of crashing, but he never showed it. Alan went flying over the ocean for a rescue mission when they mysteriously crashed. Alan and the three other men crashed in the ocean. Their helicopter was sinking. The ocean water was ice cold. He felt that he had to save all the men. He got in the water and swam over to one man, and brought him to safety. He then had to get the two other men. Alan dove into the water several feet down and got the men. By this point Alan



was very tired, he wanted to keep going but just knew he could not. When he got to the sinking helicopter he tried to get the men to safety, but he was frozen in shock and couldn't move. Soon enough Alan realized he could not hold his breath for much longer. He got out of the helicopter just in time to see it sink very, very fast, taking one man with it. To this day it still haunts him because he

thinks, what if I held my breath just a little longer? He knew it would have harmed him if he did.

**"THE ONLY  
LIMITS YOU  
HAVE ARE THE  
LIMITS YOU PUT  
ON YOURSELF"**

Despite this sad story, Alan had many great experiences while in the navy. While he was in the navy he earned over forty medals. After he retired, he went on to write two books about his experiences.

*-ALAN BILLINGS*

"Mr. Bilings Biography." Interview by Elizabeth. n.d.: n. pag. Print.

## MEET DARRELL BILLHAM

Master Sergeant Darrell Billham enlisted on January 8, 1974 in the United States Air Force Reserves and Active Duty Air Force and served our country for thirty-three years. For his entire career, he was stationed at the Charleston Air Force Base in Charleston, South Carolina. His specific role in the Air Force was an Aircraft Loadmaster and the highest rank he received was Senior Master Sergeant.

Billham's favorite part about being an Aircraft Loadmaster was "loading and balancing transport aircraft with cargo and being able to fly it all over the world to support the mission of the United States Armed Forces." His most memorable event was during *Iraqi Freedom* when he flew "a mission in support of the United Service Organizations Show with singer Lee Greenwood, his band, and the New England Patriot Cheerleaders." During this mission, they stopped in Europe, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Hawaii, and then came back to Charleston Air Force Base in Charleston, South Carolina.

At Charleston Air Force Base, he met his wife, Libby, who was also in the military. They met at a dance which was for the Air Force crew and soldiers. Her job was ordering the parts for airplanes that the Air Force needed. They married in 1984 and have a daughter, Renee.

Sergeant Billham also served during the Vietnam War. He flew in a C-17 for many hours and loaded and unloaded cargo for the soldiers in Vietnam. As a Vietnam War Era Veteran, he was recalled to active duty in 1991 to serve during *Desert Storm* and *Desert Shield*. He was also activated a second time in 2001 for *Enduring Freedom*, *Iraqi Freedom*, and the *War on Terrorism* until his retirement on February 1, 2007.

Below are some of the questions that Sgt. Billham answered in a recent interview by students from Mr. Rogers' CREW at Meadow Glen Middle School in Lexington School District One, Lexington, South Carolina.<sup>1</sup>



BILLHAM INSIDE A C-17 GLOBEMASTER

*"Where else would you find a job that you can fly around the world in a multi-million dollar aircraft in support of our Great Nation ... only in the United States Air Force."*

**MGM:** Can you explain why you chose to serve your country?

**Sgt. Billham:** I came from a military family background. My father was retired from the US Air Force and I am extremely patriotic in my causes and beliefs of defending the freedom of this country.

**MGM:** Can you briefly describe your basic training experience?

**Sgt. Billham:** Air Force Basic Training was 6 weeks. Due to my past four years of high school JROTC training I was prepared for the military transition. On Day One, I was selected as Squad Leader to assist new recruits who did not have the JROTC experience.

**MGM:** Describe the bond/friendships that you developed while serving.

**Sgt. Billham:** I made lifelong friends that you have for life. You build a brotherhood from fellow servicemen and women that never goes away.

**MGM:** What are some of your memorable experiences?

**Sgt. Billham:** I logged over 1527 flying hours in the C-141A Starlifter, more than 2678 flying hours in the C-141B Starlifter and over 3411 hours in the C-17A Globemaster III. I had many hours of flying combat missions overseas for conflicts as well as the humanitarian missions and the War on Terrorism after 9/11.

**MGM:** Would you name or highlight some of your achievements?

**Sgt. Billham:** I was the Squadron Senior Program Manager for NCO of the Quarter. This achievement was for personnel who went above and beyond flying and squadron duties. I also was the Moral and Social Event Planner who coordinated all local squadron picnic and social events.

<sup>1</sup>Billham, Darrell. Personal interview. 23 Mar. 2017.

## “WHAT IS AN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT LOADMASTER?”

Aircraft Loadmasters manually check if there are any problems with the airplane and cargo during ground and flying operations. They perform calculations on where to put the cargo, how much cargo can fit, and what supplies are needed the most for the troops

on the ground. They can physically load the aircraft, but they usually just supervise the people loading the aircraft. Equipment such as 25k, 40k, and 60k loaders, forklifts, and winches are used to load the cargo. Chains, straps, and integrated cargo locks are the most common tools used to secure the cargo to prevent it from shifting. This keeps the aircraft within permissible center of gravity limits throughout the flight. Loadmasters calculate the weight, balance, and determine the amount of weight that can be placed in each compartment or station. Loadmasters load the cargo in a way as to prevent overloading sensitive areas of the plane. Once the cargo is in flight, it is their job to make sure that the cargo doesn't shift.



BOEING C-17 GLOBEMASTER



U.S. AIR FORCE PARATROOPERS JUMPING FROM A C-17 GLOBEMASTER

Many loadmasters may also be required to be qualified for “Aerial Delivery” by dropping paratroopers and supplies. For example, before dropping the supplies to the battlefield, they check if the parachutes are functional. Also, if ground troops need more equipment, ammunition, food, or medical supplies, usually the most effective way is by aerial delivery.

The loadmaster may not be as dangerous of a job than others, but it's still one of the most important in the Armed Forces. Many battles have been won because of the supplies dropped by the loadmasters and the assistance and aid it provided.

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# LIBBY BILLHAM

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"I prayed every morning, my faith is really strong."

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## Her Father

**"He always told me to be strong and stand tall"**

Elizabeth's father was a sergeant in the army, but none of her other family was in the military. He fought in World War II and the Korean War. She says that, **"you don't realize how hard we fight...we're told to do something and we do it."** While she was in the Air Force, her father sent her letters and he always told her how proud he was that she was in the military.

## Libby Billham: AirForce

Elizabeth (Libby)

Billham was born on February 21, 1951 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She



lived in a small town her whole childhood, and is the oldest of five children. Living in a small town can be good at times, but a big problem for Libby was that there weren't many opportunities in Cape Girardeau for a 19 year old fresh out of high school. She decided to take a year off to gather her thoughts and help her parents. She then decided she wanted to go to college. Her parents, however, couldn't afford it. Libby found another path to success, a more affordable one, but little did she know that this would turn into more than just a way to get a free education.

At 23 years old, Libby went into the United States Air Force. In the beginning, she worked on planes. She was a part of the Air Craft Corrosion Control, which used to be a job for males. Libby was one of the first female air force maintenance workers. "I was very excited and nervous after my training," Libby admitted. She loved her job, and she loved serving her country.

Although life after the military was hard, her military years were the best time of her life. The Air Force gave her amazing opportunities that she wouldn't have had in the small town where she grew up. Libby said that if she hadn't joined the military, she would be punching numbers into a cash register in Cape Girardeau. For Libby, the choice to serve was the best choice she ever made.



**“I got the distinct honor to meet Chappie James.”**

*Daniel (Chappie) James Jr. (1920-1978) was the first African American general in the United States Air Force to rank as a 4 star general. He trained the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II, but did not see combat himself until the Korean War. These men helped defend African American's rights during a time of intense racism*

*“If they were going to hinder me with racism, I was going to overcome with the power of excellence.” –Chappie James*

*“If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl, but by all means keep moving.” –Martin Luther King Jr.*



## *Air Force Corrosion Prevention and Control Office (AFCPCO)*

**“Like flying in a noisy tin can with air vents.”**

When Libby joined the air force she became part of the corrosion control team, or the Air Force Corrosion Prevention and Control Office. Their mission states that they vow to, “Provide world-class aerospace corrosion expertise, guidance and training to maximize mission effectiveness, increase safety and reduce cost through improved materials and processes.” One of AFCPCO’s main values is continuous improvement, especially as the technology world continues to grow.

There are many groups that play a part in the Air Force Corrosion Prevention and Control Office. There are maintainers, engineers, and logistic managers who the AFCPCO works with to ensure a safe flight for the crew. The AFCPCO helps solve issues quickly and efficiently.

**“The air force takes really good care of you mentally. They don’t degrade or disrespect you. You still had those crusty sergeants that thought women should be pouring coffee and typing at a type writer, but there were also men that would teach me and give me the help I needed.”**



### CITATION

Billham, Libby. Personal Interview. 23 Mar. 2017

Force, Air. "Home." Home. United States Air Force, Sept. 2000. Web. 15 May 2017. <<http://www.afcpo.com/>>.

# In the Veteran's Eyes

## How Long

Micah Caskey is a veteran who served in the military for 5 years. He joined the military because he did not have the funds to go to college. He wanted a job that took him out of town. Also when 9-11 happened he felt the need to help others and serve his country.

## Training

In Micah Caskey's words he refers to training as "miserable." He also describes the training as "stressful with people yelling at you as if you did something wrong." They had no choice but to be quiet at all times. Training was also very stressful, he says "you have to be careful because it seems like everything you do is wrong." He had a lot of family supports from his parents, and his grandfather. His grandad also had an experience with serving in the military.

Representative Micah Caskey had to train hard to be in the military. During his time, he learned how training in the military was different compared to the real movies. He said that "generally, scenes in war movies weren't accurate, but some like 'Saving Private Ryan' nail it." When he describes the training he went through, he described it as "you're there, you're working 18 hours a day," says that "it is always throughout the training process, and on the training side it is accurate. On the Marine corps side, it is very accurate."

## Did the Term Affect How He Views the World?

"I see the world more critically," he responded. He said when you see children losing their families, children being killed, and homes being destroyed; It definitely takes a toll on you. "But we have a responsibility," he added. "Likewise we aren't going to punch some bully in the chest. We should be sure that we know what we're doing when we're doing it."

Micah Caskey Interview on March 24

## What Would You Do?

When representative Caskey was deployed, he was in charge of many soldiers because that is what his ranking required. Also he had to make many tough decisions along the way. Representative Caskey was in charge of 250-260 men at any given time. Although he was nervous, he still stood up and did his job right. He said that even though he was scared and there was nowhere to hide, he was headstrong and focused on the good out there in the world. He also said that there is only so much he could do to prepare and he had to know how to shoot, fight, Andre prepared spiritually and emotionally.



## What Would You Do?

Representative Caskey was a civil affairs officer and his role was to communicate. He was the officer that talked to the civilians. One of the hardest decisions he had to make was when he went to a school in Afghanistan to drop off a bunch of supplies. As he and a couple of other men were leaving children started to follow them. This was a good sign because that means the area was generally safe enough that the parents would let their kids out by themselves. As he got further out in the fields he saw a developmentally challenged boy who was pushing a wheel. A man was standing beside the boy yelling at him and beating him worse and worse by the second. One of the sergeants asked to pull the trigger and Caskey had to make a decision. He had to choose between talking to the man which could potentially make him embarrassed and worsen the problem or he could just keep walking. What would you do?

## Did the Term Affect How He Views the World?

# VETERAN'S LEGACY PROGRAM

Administration, National Cemetery. "Veterans Legacy Program." *Veterans Legacy Program One Pager Fall 2016* (n.d.): n. pag. Web. 4 May 2017.

## National Cemeteries

When you hear the words national cemetery, places like Arlington may enter your mind. But there are national cemeteries all over the country, known only to those who live in the general vicinity. The Veteran's Legacy Program has been helping tell the stories of fallen veterans for over 20 years in 135 national cemeteries across the U.S. Their goal is "to honor deceased veterans by telling their stories."

### How can you get buried in a national cemetery?

"Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies while on active duty or any Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may be eligible for burial in a National Cemetery." A veteran's spouse, widow or widower, children, and under certain conditions, unmarried adult children with disabilities may also be eligible for burial.

### Why isn't everyone buried in a national cemetery?

"Veterans whose only active duty service was for training while in the National Guard or Reserves are not eligible unless there are special circumstances (e.g., death while on duty or as a result of training)."



## Headstones

When veterans die, their relatives may choose from "flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble . . . The style chosen must be permitted by the officials in charge of the private cemetery where it will be placed."

"There is no charge for the headstone or marker itself, however arrangements for placing it in a private cemetery are the applicant's responsibility and all setting fees are at private expense."

*"We hold that a soldier's most appropriate burial place is on the field where he has fallen."*

**- Francis George Shaw,  
founder of the Veteran's  
Legacy Program**

## How to apply for the Veteran's Legacy Program

When a veteran is buried in a National Cemetery, their family or fellow soldiers may choose to send in an application listing the accomplishments of the veteran. This includes medals and honorable mentions they have received. If the committee reviewing the form decides that the story is worth sharing, whomever filled out the application will be invited in for an interview, where they will be asked questions about their deceased veteran.



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# WAYNE CAUGHMAN

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**Army National Guard - October 1969 to August 2001**



Wayne Caughman is a veteran of the Army National Guard. There was a draft in progress so he decided to enlist in 1969 to meet his military obligation. He went into the Army National Guard because he wanted to serve in a local unit. He made the selfless choice to serve because he is a loyal patriot and he was very honored to serve his country. He completed his training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, South Carolina which was close to where he grew up. To condition his body and prepare for duty Mr. Caughman claimed that he ran everywhere, as well as spent time at the rifle range and the grenade range. When Mr. Caughman signed up, there was a waiting list for jobs so he had to be happy with whatever he was assigned. He was given the job of a wheel vehicle mechanic, which is something that helped him throughout his career.

Mr. Caughman served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield in the first Gulf War. He was deployed to Saudia Arabia and Turkey for about four months during the preparation and execution of Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. While deployed, he explained that the most difficult thing was finding a way and time to contact his family back home with his busy schedule. He would write letters to his wife, which would sometimes take more than 3 weeks to make it to her. He would also drive into town from the desert and use a pay phone or phone in a restaurant to make a phone call, but it was hard to catch his family while they were home. Since contact couldn't be made often, he would keep a photo book of the things that he saw and experienced to share with his family when he returned home. While deployed, there was very little free time, but when possible the guys that he was with would throw a football and play basketball to pass the time.

During his long career in the service Mr. Caughman was awarded many medals as he rose to a Colonel ranking. These medals include The Legion Medal, Bronze Star, Army Achievement Medal, and fifteen others.

Caughman, Wayne. Personal interview. 24 Mar. 2017.

***“IF I WERE TO GO  
BACK, I WOULDN'T  
CHANGE ANYTHING. I  
AM PROUD OF MY  
TIME AND WHAT I  
DID.”***



Mr. Caughman was stationed all over South Carolina and made many lifelong friends with whom he is still in contact. He is actively involved in the Batesburg National Guard Club, Midlands Guard Retirees Group, and the Lexington American Legion. While participating in these groups he is able to meet people that served and share stories while also influencing the community.

When asked what he would change about his time in the Army National Guard, Mr. Caughman replied, "If I were to go back, I wouldn't change anything. I am proud of my time and what I did." We are thankful that Mr. Caughman gave of himself willingly to serve and protect our freedom and enjoyed learning all that he experienced during his time of service.

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# BROTHERHOOD IN THE MILITARY

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The phrase "brotherhood in the military" is a real thing. Even though there are siblings in the military this statement is not taken in the literal sense. The brotherhood formed during the time enlisted in the military with others is a bond that soldiers never break. Putting your life in the hands of a fellow soldier while deployed builds a relationship that is the definition of trust. The bonds that soldiers create while serving their country in foreign lands or in the United States are often some of the strongest.

When a person enlists or is drafted into the military they are often

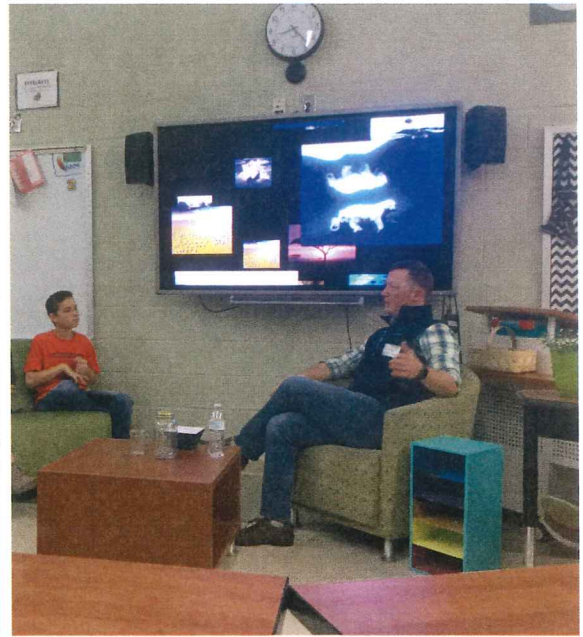
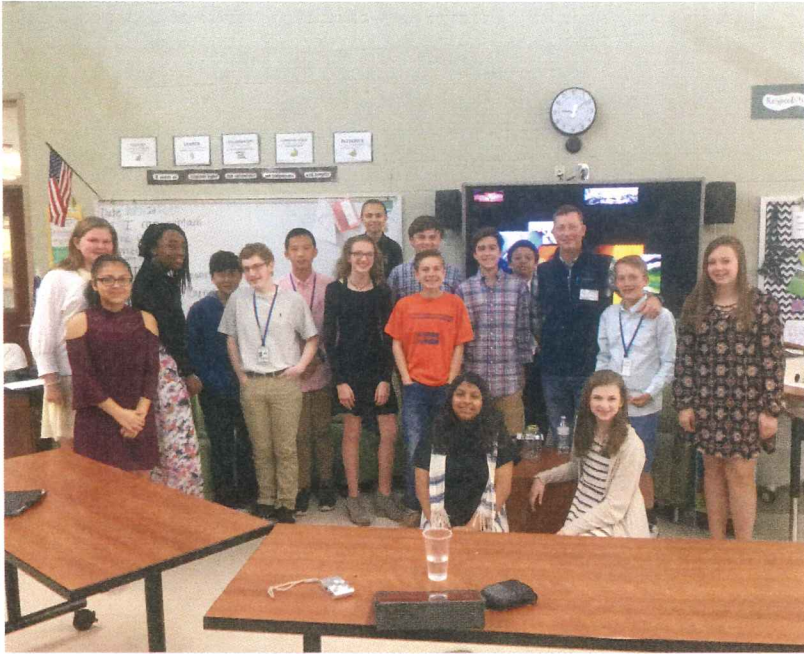
**"The bond formed in the military is unlike any in the civilian world. The phrase "to have your back" truly applies in the military as you depend on other team members for your life"**

-WAYNE CAUGHMAN

put with people who they have never met before and are from different backgrounds and cultures. They then have to learn to trust each other with their life. While they are away from their families, the men and women rely on their fellow soldiers to protect them and keep them together and they truly become "brothers in arms". The men and women that serve our country experience both good and bad things together, which brings them closer together. When they return home after deployment, they rely on the friendships they made in the military to help them survive normal life. The relationships formed in the military go beyond friendships. When you trust someone with your life, you truly become brothers.



# Mr. Crowson



## Our interview with Mr. Crowson

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Mr. Crowson has gone through some intriguing experiences while serving in the Navy. He enlisted in the Navy in late 1998 and is still serving today. Mr. Crowson grew up without a father and said, “playing sports, [that] was always my family so, after college... what do you do? That is why I joined the Navy, that is what I was looking for.”

Mr. Crowson was stationed on the submarine USS Pennsylvania. On the submarine, they had to not keep to a typical schedule because they have 18 hour days instead of 24 hour days. He used his spare time to exercise, and when Mr. Crowson was getting ready for his wedding, he started running eight miles everyday. Once he got off the boat, he had lost a ton of weight. When he went to put his tux back on it was too big!

During his training he stated that they went through the “worst case scenario.” They practiced this because they needed to be prepared if it happened in real life. Mr. Crowson was underneath water when 9/11 took place. The captain had to make sure not to let any of the soldiers know about the incident. All they knew was that they had to be ready in case they were needed. [Mr. Crowson also mentioned that his grandmother passed when he was on the sub, but he wasn't allowed to know until he was off the sub, because they didn't want it to get in the way of his duties.]

Mr. Crowson said they had to learn about everything on the submarine. He had to know where every fire extinguisher, knob, and tank was located. While on the sub, he used a telegram to contact his family!

Mr. Crowson had an interesting life on the sub, and learned a lot from the Navy. He made some life long friends, and the Navy will always be part of his life.

# History of Navy Uniforms



1791: the first uniforms were introduced in the Navy. It provided a short jacket, shirt, vest, long trousers, and a black low crowned hat.

1898: After the Spanish-American War 2 new additions was made to the uniform. Those being the right arm rates(Signified men of Seaman Branch), men's neckerchief(used to show respect towards Admiral

1917: In the midst of World War One, the Aviation Green Uniform was introduced for aviation officers.

1949: Gray uniforms abolished Cutlasses were introduced. Cutlasses are a short saber with a thrust blade and a large hand guard. Along with the blade, a Colt M1911 was also issued but soon abolished in 1949.

1812: War of 1812, they introduced bell-bottom trousers to allow soldiers to roll up their pant legs while washing the decks and the iconic brown shoes worn by the Navy to this day.

1900's: the first women were allowed entrance into the Navy. Their uniforms consisted of a coat(blue in winter and white in summer), long gull bottomed skirts, and a straight-brimmed sailor hat(blue in winter and white straw in the summer), black shoes and stockings.

1942: In World War Two, the Navy Gray Uniforms were introduced

# The Story of David Kerr

“It’s all about service of others... my life has always been about serving others.”

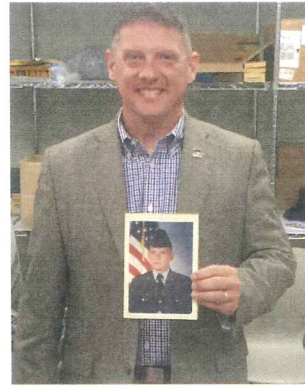
David W. Kerr was involved in the army for 22 years. He fought in the following conflicts, Desert Thunder, Global war on Terrorism, and operation Iraqi freedom. He achieved numerous medals such as the Purple Heart, Bronze Star medal, Army commendation medal, and many more. David strongly believes that teamwork and collaboration is and was very important throughout his life.

## Telling his family

Seventeen year old David came back to his house after making his decision of joining the army. He approached his mother and told her about his choice to enlist in the military. Mrs. Kerr was shocked, but as David explained, she was very supportive. The military served as an outlet for David to pursue his life the way he wanted. Although he knew it would be hard to still connect with his family, he knew that the military was a route that would change his life for the better.

## Laying out a plan

Initially, David planned to join the army and stay for only one tour, however, later on he realized that the army was a huge part of his life. As David explained, the knowledge and preparation he received in high school contributed to success in the military. David said he wished he had payed more attention in school rather than focusing on extracurricular activities.



## Team Work

David learned many lessons in his service in the army, such as teamwork, tenacity, and not taking anything for granted. According to David, “In the military, you can’t be selfish. In the military, it’s all about being a team.” He elaborates on this quote by explaining how the army is a team effort. You always have to lift each other up and trust one another. You are constantly working together to complete challenges. An example of an event that requires teamwork is training. “Training tears you down and builds you back up in the army’s image.” According to David, the hardest part of training is the physical aspect and sleep deprivation. Through training and various conflicts he was involved in, David learned to be grateful for America. A lot of people take freedom for granted, and as David said, he learned the true meaning of freedom during his experiences in other countries around the world. David’s experience is a success story, however he elaborated that his fellow soldiers were the reason for his success.

## Family

During the interview, David said that his biggest accomplishment was keeping his family together and maintaining their relationships. David, his son, and his wife Skyped in order to stay in touch. Although David enjoyed and learned a lot during his service in the army, his family was the reason he came home. While in the military, David realized that he had missed out on so many parts of his seven-year-old son’s life. According to the interview, David’s favorite part of his entire service was seeing his family again, “My family was initially the reason I came home.” David said that he didn’t notice how much he missed his family until he realized how much he had missed.

# The Big Red One



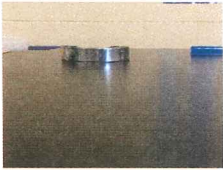
- Major Kerr's Big Red One award

On August 1, 1942, the First Division, also known as "Big Red One" was reorganized and redesigned as the 1st Infantry Division. The Division departed New York Port of Embarkation on August 1, 1942, arriving in England on August 7, 1942. The Big Red One first went into battle on November 8, 1942 when U.S entered World War 2. Then the commander of the German "Afrika Korps" surrendered and the Big Red One ended. After the Big Red One then moved on to battle Sicily in "Operation Husky." Landing at Gela, July 10, 1943, they quickly overpowered the Italian defenses. They then faced about 100 tanks of the Herman Goering Tank Division. They advanced on as the Allies advanced to the Straits of Messina. Then in 1944 the Big Red One moved to England to begin preparing for the invasion of Normandy. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, Big Red One stormed ashore at Omaha Beach. After the beachhead was secured, the Division moved through the Normandy Hedgerows, but then after long horrible days and days of battle Germany gave up on October 21, 1944. The Big Red One then held the critical shoulder of the "Bulge" at Bullingen, destroying hundreds of German tanks in the process near the date December 16th. The First Infantry attacked and penetrated the Siegfried line for the second time and then on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, the Division marched 150 miles to the east of Siegen and on April 8, the Division crossed the Weser River. The Big Red One was fighting in Czechoslovakia when WW2 in Europe ended in May.

# John Hammill

With many years of experience in the military, John Hammill currently serves as a drill sergeant at Fort Jackson. Inspired by one of his high school teachers, he entered an airborne military unit at age 17. He completed training in the 82nd Airborne, a parachute assault unit located at Fort Bragg, NC. After nearly 20 years of military service, we sat down with Drill Sergeant John Hammill to learn about why he made the choice to serve and his experiences in the Army.

Drill Sergeant John Hammill had many inspirations to join the army. He came from a military family, and they all inspired and encouraged him to serve for his country. Another reason he wanted to join the military was his dad and his high school teacher, thought he would be good for the military. John Hammill joined the army, because he felt it would be an honor to serve his country. Throughout his time in the US Army, he has earned many medals and awards.



This is a memorial bracelet for a fallen soldier.

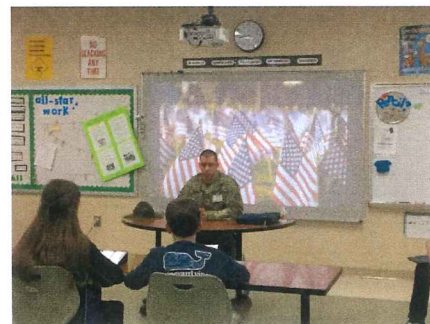
John Hammill received many medals for his service. He has earned many from his training. Some of his medals he treasures more than others because not many veterans receive these medals. He was awarded medals in Italy and Korea. One of the medals he treasures the most is the "Expeditionary Medal," which he was awarded for his service in foreign areas. He treasures his medals, but not as much as he treasures his life long friendships. During his time in the Army, John Hammill has had many different experiences.

In Afghanistan, there were no indoor bathrooms so they had to use camping showers. During his first month in Afghanistan, he had to sleep on the hood of his truck. Although these were tough conditions, he has also lived in everything from a mud house to a mansion during his deployment. Throughout his career, John Hammill has become a true veteran.

Hammill, John P. "MGM Veteran Interview." Personal interview. 15 Mar. 2017.

"I joined the army because I would be honored to serve my country."

-John Hammill



Blake Miller and Lauren Valderio interview John Hammill as fellow CREW members listened.

# Technology in the Army

Technology is prevalent in our everyday lives. Glance around, do you see the lights, the phone screens, or the projectors? Imagine a world without all of the most recent technology. The evolution of technology has changed the lives of those in the US military. During the last twenty years, communication and weaponry have forever changed the act of serving.

Communication has changed the lives of soldiers over the course of the past two decades. Communications amongst people in all branches and rankings of the military is vital to everyone's safety. One common way that people communicate when separated is through radio technology. The countless radios of the past have given way to compatible multi-mode and software defined systems that make the job of communication easier. Just years ago radio systems were not portable or easily accessible. Two-way radios have become increasingly more popular over the years. They allow for long distance communication between units or among soldiers.



As seen in the picture above, a soldier is working on a laptop computer. To his left, an older version is pictured.

Another technological advance is weaponry. Weaponry has developed tremendously over the past two decades. The military will spend a vast amount of money on weapons and other very important technology, often billions of dollars. They value the quality of the weaponry for their soldiers. Each generation of technology is made to improve various components of life.

The M110 Sniper Rifle was adopted by the U.S. military in 2007. Soldiers in the Task Force Fury were the first to use the M110 Sniper Rifle. A few types of weaponry that the military use are grenade launchers, assault rifles, mortars, missile targeting systems. The evolution of technology has changed combat situations.

Solar technology is being set up to help soldiers to communicate farther distances.



# Memories of a Veteran

Even as explosions rocked the Earth down below, the view from the pilot seat of the helicopter was exhilarating. Kenneth Knight served as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam from 1972 to 1973, and was actively in the United States Army from 1970-2013. In Vietnam, he fought against the North Vietnamese, and the Viet-Cong. This was a very dangerous situation as the enemy used long range rockets, heat seeking missiles, mortars, AK-47s, machine guns, and bolt action rifles.

Ken flew a variety of helicopters career. His job was to drop off U.S. troops at designated destinations and pick them up once the job was completed. He liked maneuvering the Cobra the best. It had air conditioning, a mini gun, and a fully automatic grenade launcher on the nose. It also had rockets on the side and could carry around 7-12 missiles. He always flew over the Mekong Delta with at least one other helicopter. He recalled this time in his life stating, "Flying was fun, that is until you get shot." Unfortunately, he was shot down on a few occasions. He described one particular time when he was given orders to fly as part of a Medevac (medical evacuation). During this mission, he was shot down. He had many friends, troops, and some of the troops were even shot while in his helicopter.

## Lt. Col. Ken Knight



As a helicopter pilot, he completed many unique missions and collected quite a few relics along the way. One item he collected on a mission was a Viet-Cong flag. The Viet-Cong raided a U.S. Army base, and he was called to help rescue the soldiers on that base. Unfortunately, Ken arrived too late. By the time the Viet-Cong evacuated, everyone was already killed. A flag that signaled their success was left behind. Ken took the Viet-Cong flag down, and proudly raised the American flag back up. He wanted to show that this was not the end, and he would not let the Viet-Cong win. He was granted permission to keep the flag for himself as a reminder of his experiences, and he has it to this day.

Sadly, when Ken and other Vietnam soldiers returned to the United States, they were treated very poorly. The Vietnam War was not a very popular war, and very few people approved of going to war in the first place. "When I came back again, my family was there for me," he remembered. He had his family's support and he was not alone. Ken continued to serve in the Army and eventually became Lieutenant Colonel, but he was never stationed in any war zones again. Even though the Vietnam War was not appreciated by Americans at the time, today Ken and his fellow veterans should be thanked and appreciated for all they have contributed to this country.



Lt. Col. Ken Knight explained the meaning behind some artifacts including, a missile and the Viet-Cong flag.





# Q&A About the Vietnam War

## When was the Vietnam War?

The Vietnam War started in 1955 and ended in 1975. The United States joined the war in 1961. This war was the second-longest war in the history of the United States, after the war in Afghanistan.

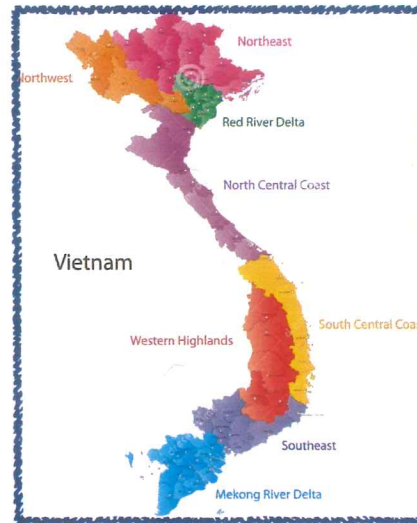
## How many soldiers were sent to serve in Vietnam? How many casualties?

Around 500,040 thousand troops were sent to serve in Vietnam. Out of those 500,040, 58,220 U.S. soldiers died as a result. One out of ten Americans who served in Vietnam did not return. Not only were many people killed, but many people were also injured. 75,000 Vietnam veterans were left severely disabled.

## What was fighting like in the Mekong Delta?

The Mekong Delta was an extremely difficult place to fight during the the Vietnam War. The terrain was very demanding to navigate due to the many rivers, streams, and ditches. The roads in the Mekong Delta were in terrible condition. Many roads could not support 10-20 tons, which made transporting goods difficult.

A map of Indochina shows many countries that were taken into communism, including Vietnam.



This is a map of the sectors of Vietnam. It also shows the Mekong Delta location, which was a prime spot for fighting.

## How did the American people feel about the Vietnam War?

It was the most unsupported war in American history. The American people had many doubts about the military and missions in Vietnam. Soldiers were mistreated and disrespected upon their return. For instance, many were called rude names and discriminated against.

## What was the outcome of the Vietnam War?

The Communist North Vietnamese won the war. The North Vietnamese was able to achieve the goals of reuniting Vietnam under a communist government.

"Lieutenant Colonel Ken Knight." Personal interview. 29 Mar. 2017.

"Research Guides: Vietnam Conflict: Important Battles." Important Battles - Vietnam Conflict - Research Guides at Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Dudley Knox Library (DKL). N.p., n.d. Web. 03 May 2017.

Statistics about the Vietnam War. Gary Roush, n.d. Web. 03 May 2017.

"Statistical Information about Casualties of the Vietnam War." National Archives and Records Administration, National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Web. 03 May 2017.

The Mekong Delta.n.p.,n.d.web.03 May 2017.

# Our Moment With a Hero



## Vietnam Submariner Hero, Terry Matlosz

For bravery, hard work and dedication to our country, we thank you.

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

-John F. Kennedy



### Did you know?

Submariners make their own oxygen. Oxygen is supplied either from an oxygen generator, oxygen canister or pressurized tank.



### Did you know?

Sub Grub is planned out carefully, they are allowed to carry 110 pounds of food part person on board.



### Did you know?

Submarines are used for salvage missions, deep sea and military operations.

1

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Vietnam War is the longest war in American history.

2

### DID YOU KNOW?

Nearly 2/3 of the American men serving in the war were volunteers.

3

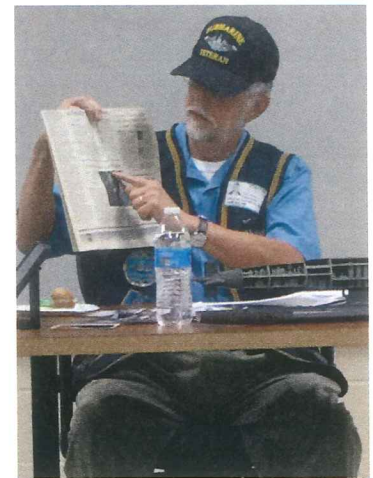
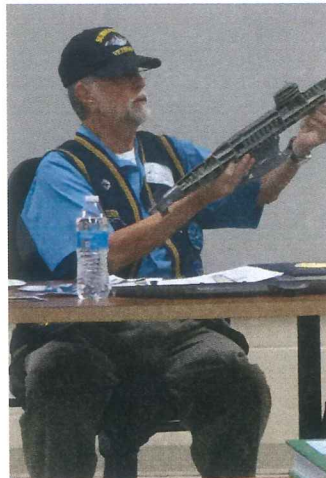
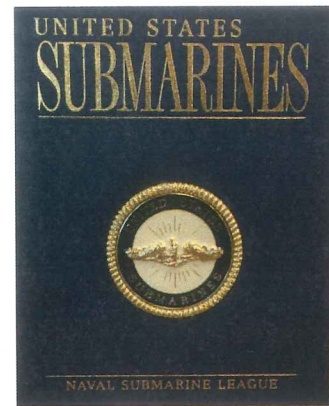
### DID YOU KNOW?

President Kennedy was in power in 1954 when the U.S first got involved in the war.

## Terry Matlosz, A True Inspiration

Have you ever been away from your loved ones for multiple months? It's likely as a civilian you haven't, but that is what happens when you enlist in the Navy when you are stationed on a submarine. This is what happened to Terry Matlosz. He and other submariners are away from average society. They only possess the things they bring on their backs with them at the start of their patrol that lasted for months on end.

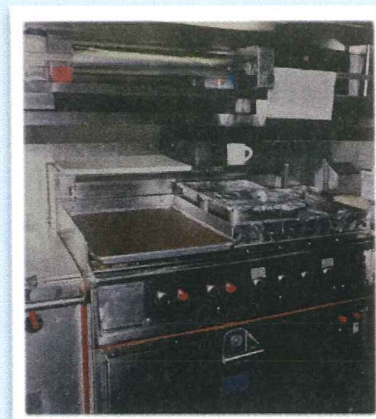
Terry never thought he would do something so important for his country, but as soon as the option was presented to him, he knew what he wanted to do. "I saw a way to show pride," Matlosz states. He was selected for his abilities in math. Because they deemed mathematics a valuable skill, he was sent to training school for about 4 years to learn how to operate and maintain the nuclear warheads they had on submarines. Terry was now licensed to operate a submarine and was placed on the James K. Polk submarine. On submarines, teamwork was a priority, "If they didn't do their job, you couldn't survive." On these subs, people would develop lifelong friendships by being in close proximity for 3 months at a time. In total, they spent half the year submerged every year they were on duty.



### FOR AMUSEMENT ON THE SUBMARINE

On the sub, when they were finished completing chores and duties, they had to find ways to entertain themselves in a time where technology was not commonly used recreationally. Sometimes when entertainment was scarce, they would create their own, an example of this was dressing up for hilarity and occasionally, they would play pranks on each other. In one instance, as one person was trying to level the submarine, everyone would run from one side to the other. These types of activities made them laugh and distracted them from their daily stressful duties

[www.uswings.com](http://www.uswings.com), personal interview, Terry Matlosz

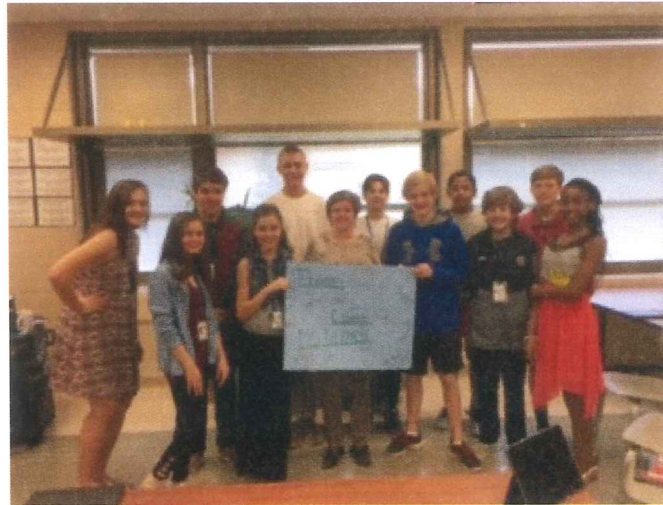


# TIFFANY MARTSCHINK'S JOURNEY IN THE MILITARY

## Battle Buddies

SSG Tiffany Martschink, along with all the other soldiers, had to go through an intense training. In basic training, they train to become a soldier and learn how to survive in tough situations. One part of training, is called battle buddies. A battle buddy helps their partner be ready. An example is getting ready and making sure they have all their equipment.

She shared how her battle buddy heard a general say “take out the short girl” and her battle buddy told her while she was getting ready for the training course. When she got to her training course the general made her go to the ground and do push-ups with his foot on her back. She asked the general if she had permission to get up and he said to get back down. She got down and did more push-ups and asked if she had permission to get up. This happened many more times until she finally had permission to get up.



## Tiffany Martschink

Tiffany Martschink enlisted on February 3, 1995. She has been in the military for 23 years and her job is a religious affairs specialist. A religious affairs specialist helps meet the needs of soldiers religions.

For example she would work with pastors and other religious personnel to get soldiers the religious attention they needed. She was also in Operation Joint Endeavor and Iraqi Freedom. She now teaches people how to be a religious affairs specialist, and she is one of four personnel that can teach this. Throughout all her 23 years of service and teaching we all owe Tiffany Martschink a thank you for what she has done to serve our nation.



# Apache AH64

The Apache AH64 is a top secret helicopter for the United States Army. In the front of the helicopter, there is a 30mm cannon under the chopper. This cannon can fire 1200 rounds in 2 minutes. Behind the cannon are two 70 mm rocket that are on each side of the helicopter. The Apache can hold up to 70 of these rockets. On the wings there are something called hellfire missiles. These missiles can shoot

very accurate from very far away. The first time that the AH 64 was used was in the 1989 invasion of Panama. Now the Apache is used by more than 12 countries.



## Challenge Coins

In the army they have something called challenge coins. Challenge coins are coins soldiers get from higher ranked personnel for doing a good deed. They are used to recognize accomplishments that are not recognized through ribbons and medals.

Tiffany Martschink got three challenge coins in one day! She did this by saying 2 prayers and playing the piano. She has earned many other coins along her years of service.

Tiffany had a great opportunity when she was assigned to a Apache unite. Tiffany said that the gadgets and buttons that controlled the helicopter were cool and she enjoyed her experience. This helicopter is so top secret that she could not even take a picture of it to remember the Apache

The Apache is now used by 12 countries. The average cost for one of these helicopters is around 52 million dollars.

### Sources:

Lockie, Alex. "Behold the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter and All of Its Weapons." Business Insider. Business Insider, 06 Jan. 2016. Web.

Apache AH-64. N.d. AH-64 Apache. Web. 20 Apr. 2017.

T.Martschink, personal communications, March 31, 2017

T.Martschink, personal communications, May 5, 2017

Flickr. Yahoo!, n.d. Web. 19 May 2017. <<https://www.flickr.com/commons>>.

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# MARINE CORPS MASTER SERGEANT: JERRY MILLS

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Mr. Jerry Mills was a Master Sergeant in the Marines for 20 years. He served in many operations such as Operation Restore Hope, Operation Rapid Cheetah, and trained in Okinawa. He was awarded several medals during his years of service, and he has no regrets. It has taught him to be thankful in everything he does while respecting life. He is a man who has great pride and leadership. He believed that those things could get him far in life. He used these ideals while recruiting new Marines and during difficult training sessions.



**"If I could tell the world one thing that we all need to learn how to get along. We need to learn that there's really no such thing as color, there is really no such thing as ethnicity... every one of us, we bleed red."**

-Master Sergeant Jerry Mills

## MEDALS AWARDED

- Meritorious Service Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
- Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal
- Good Conduct Medal

During his service operations, Master Sergeant Mills had a close encounter. While in Haiti, working Operation Restore Hope, he and his fellow soldiers were providing the under developed country with medical assistance. Everything turned to chaos when they were ambushed. Mr.Mills' friend, Eric, was scraped across the side of his head with a bullet. This was the most terrifying moment of his life.

Master Sergeant Mills' most heroic experience was an encounter with a dog in the former Yugoslavia. He was put in charge of a small sniper team in Kosovo. From an elevated position they watched the border for Serbians crossing with weapon caches to sell on the black market. The Serbians sent massive, wild dogs ahead to alert them if there was a presence of danger. Mr.Mills'

group were on a hill, watching the border as weapon caches disguised as a hay wagon crossed. All of a sudden they heard a loud growl, when they looked over they saw a huge dog, that was prepared to attack them. But they had to be careful because the Serbians weren't that far from them. If they move too much, they could



have been seen. But they didn't want the dog to attack them, so he skillfully shot and killed the dog. If he had not done this his friends would've been attacked and their position would've have been compromised. While in Kosovo, during Rapid Cheetah, Mr.Mills found out about the Twin Towers

“Every single person has to leave a legacy, but you get to decide what that legacy is. So what's it going to be?”

-Master Sergeant Jerry Mills

collapse. He was immediately taken out of Kosovo and taken to Afghanistan.

The training was one of the hardest parts of his career but prepared him for the future. Some of the training they went through included physical fitness drills, marching in formation, and using rifles per command. This took place in all parts of the world from the jungles of Okinawa, to the bases across the U.S., and while training he stared death in the face. Solders were practicing with live rounds and had to crawl up to a bunker and drop in a grenade. When he dropped the grenade into the bunker it bounced back and exploded above his head. Had it been any lower it could have been tragic. This shows the training he went through prepared him for anything that was thrown at him.

Master Sergeant Mills has served in the Marine Corps for 20 years. He has won many medals and awards for his difficult work. Some operations include Operation Restore Hope, Operation Rapid Cheetah, and training in Okinawa. His many deployments have taught him to be thankful and respect life. Two words that he lives by are pride and leadership. In his many years of service he has learned a great deal and he now understands his duty to this world and wants everyone around him to learn theirs too.

## Operation Rapid Cheetah

- Started as a training operation conducted by NATO
- Troops of the 24th Marine Expeditionary
- August 22-September 24,2001
- Maintain a safe area and provide protection for citizens of Kosovo



Mills, Jerry. "Veteran Interview." Interview by Abe S. Khalil and Megan M. Lally. Choice to Serve May 2017: n. pag. Print.

Egeberg, Capt. Kristoffer. "Kosovo Force (KFOR)." NATO. N.p., 13 Mar. 2007. Web. 15 May 2017. <[www.nato.int/Kfor/chronicle/2001/nr\\_010921.htm](http://www.nato.int/Kfor/chronicle/2001/nr_010921.htm)>.

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# DAVID MONTS II

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David Monts, age 25, is a part of the army. He has been in the military since March 11th, 2011. His rank is known as what is called an E4. David describes basic training as one of the hardest things due to "yelling and chaotic situations". He works as an operator who tears down buildings and makes driveways along with other things in that general area. He was involved in Operation of Freedom. David thought deployment was a very beneficial experience. His unit is located in South Carolina and he has been stationed in Afghanistan. He was given a coin as an award, from a general, which he cherishes.

## Why Did he Decide to Join?

When David was little, he had always loved war movies, and when he was older, he already knew what he wanted to do. His family supported him all the way, and in basic training he met friends very quickly. He says, "it's easy because they all have the same things in common". They all became close, but overseas they became brothers. David states, "The bond is incredible. I've made brothers for life serving with them overseas." When he was in basic training and during his deployment he could Skype his family and write letters. He explains that when he sees people in public many will thank him for his service if he is in uniform.



# Engineering in the Military



Military engineering is the practice of designing and building military works and maintaining lines of military transport and communications. Military engineers are also responsible for logistical vents behind military tactics. There are many different types of military engineering, such as civil, electrical and mechanical engineering. The types of military engineering has different levels of expectation, and salaries. Civil engineering deals with design, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, canals, dams, and buildings. Electrical engineering deals with power in buildings, tunnels, power plants, military electronics, and electromagnetism. Mechanical engineering deals with physics, manufacturing, analysis, and mechanical systems. It works with production, operation, and design too.

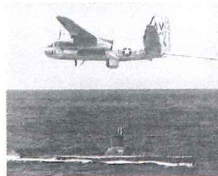




This is a piece of steel that was used in making submarines. It was used in the USS Tecumseh that was launched on June 22, 1963 and decommissioned on July 23, 1993.



The USS Tecumseh has surfaced temporarily.



The USS Sirago was a different kind of submarine, equipped to carry aircrafts.



The USS Volador being drained before it was launched.

## TOM O'BRIEN



### "Just a good saila..."

Commander Tom O'Brien was a navy submariner. He was inspired to join the military because sixteen of his family members had been in the armed forces. His father was in the U.S Navy during ww1, and his brother fought in the army in WW2. O'Brien enlisted in the Navy on April 4, 1958. He attended Great Lakes Naval Training Center for boot camp in the winter of 1958. Commander O'Brien recalls, "I was colder than I have ever been." The physical aspects of boot camp were fairly easy for him because he participated in boxing, baseball, and football in high school. While he was serving, he was stationed on the *USS Sea Devil*, *USS Sterlet*, *USS Char*, *USS Tecumseh*, *FBMSTC*, *USS Cubera*, *USS Volador*, *USS Sirago*, *USS Frank Cable*, and the *USS Orion*. He was in the Vietnam war and Desert Storm. Commander O'Brien said his best experiences were visiting many places around the world and working with the best of the best. He retired from the armed forces on June 1, 1997.

Tom O'Brien, a Navy Submariner, who served on 8 submarines and in 2 wars.

# Sharks of Steel

## HISTORY

The first plan for a submarine was created by William Bourne in 1578. Bourne thought that ships float by displacing its weight of water. Bourne said, "It is possible to make a Ship or Boat that may go under the water unto the bottom, and so to come up again at your pleasure. [If] Any magnitude of body that is in the water . . . having always but one weight, may be made bigger or lesser, then it Shall swim when you would, and sink when you list . . ."

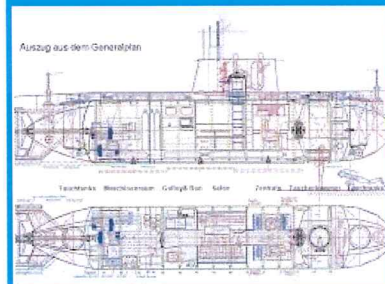
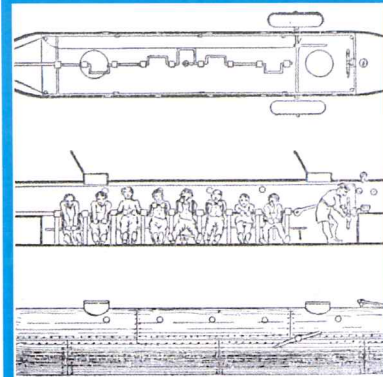
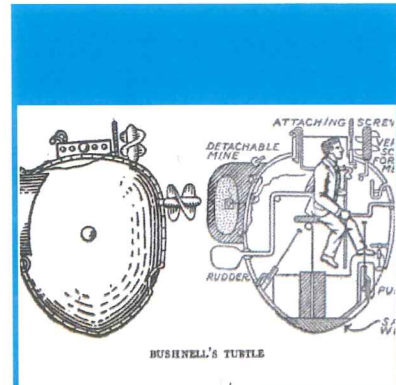
Basically, Bourne thought that decreasing the volume to make the boat heavier than the weight of the water it displaces will make it sink. If the boat was made lighter, increasing the volume, it would rise.

## FIRST MILITARY SUBMARINES

The first military submarine built was the *Turtle* in the 1770's however, it was not able to sink a ship. The first submarine that was successful in sinking a ship was the CSS H.L. Hunley in 1864. Although these submarines weren't the best, it sparked a new era in naval technology.

## TECHNOLOGY

Since the first submarine technology has significantly advanced over time. The major advancements in technology is the ability to remain underwater longer and being stealthy. The first submarines could stay underwater for hours, but now they are able to stay underwater for over a few months. The Navy is now designing a prototype to improve sonar detection to make submarines less detectable. This includes a special coating for the exterior of the submarine to make it more challenging to be seen on enemy sonars. They are also adding noise reduction technologies for the engine room.



These are diagrams showing the evolution of submarines.

## The Middle Eastern Warrior: Major Rauch Serves Us All

While growing up, hunting and fishing in Lexington, South Carolina, Major Rauch was surrounded by veterans, especially his Dad. As a child he heard stories from his father and others about their experiences in the military, including first-hand accounts of the invasion on D-Day. He saw these veterans as heroes; they influenced him to join the army and serve his country just as they did.

### Training of Major Rauch

Right after school at the age of 18, he joined the Reserves. Major Rauch trained at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and he has training bases all over the U.S. "Training is like learning," Major Rauch said. "Training doesn't stop."

"Training for specific missions is more difficult and more in depth," Rauch explained. To prepare for deployment to Iraq he took 4 months of training in Georgia and a couple months in Texas. He said that the purpose of training is "to break you down" and teach you "to follow orders and to think clearly".

He faced many challenges during training: obstacles in large groups, marches, skill sets, and timed and tested training experiences. About training, the Major stated that it must be difficult since "actual deployments are harder because that's real life".



Satti, Abijit. Major Christopher Rauch. Digital image. N.p., n.d.

### Why should someone volunteer to join the military?

Serving is a duty for everyone, according to Major Christopher Rauch. "Everyone should serve in some capacity," he said.



Satti, Abijit. Major Christopher Rauch. Digital image. N.p., n.d.

### Major Rauch's Service

Major Christopher Rauch is in employee of the U. S. Department of Defense serving in the Army National Guard. He enlisted in 1998 and was commissioned in 2001. He has served with the 122<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment; the 751<sup>st</sup> Combat Service Support Battalion, 10<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade; and the South Carolina Joint Force Forward 48, 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Expeditionary Force. He has served in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan in the Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom Campaigns of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars.

## **The Middle Eastern Warrior: Major Rauch Serves Us All**

### **Military Job**

As a Combat Engineer Major Rauch searched for and destroyed bombs, an extremely dangerous job, since anything can set them off. Over time explosives have become more and more complex, but he learned to find them through a "combination of technology and experience".

To destroy the bombs, Rauch detonated an IED (improvised explosive device) with a trigger. By destroying bombs, he was able to make civilians and his fellow soldiers safer. This job was continuous, and he acknowledged that he "found bombs every day".

### **Lasting Friendships**

While in Afghanistan in he lived with the British and the Danish. He enjoyed their personalities, especially their pranks and senses of humor. He learned a lot from them, and he still has contact with many of them today.

### **Dangers of the Job**

Real explosions are not like the movies. According to Major Rauch, "When a bomb blows up, there's a big huge push of air pressure; then it sucks back in."

In 2003 Major Rauch's humvee was destroyed by a bomb. He and the soldiers with him were beaten up and bruised. He also suffered from a concussion, and the explosion "blew out his ear drum". He said that he was grateful to have made it of the wreck alive.



This picture, published by CBS News, shows what was left of Major Rauch's vehicle after an explosion.

Roberts, Joel. "Rummy: 'Long, Hard Slog' In Iraq." *CBS News*. CBS Interactive, 23 Oct. 2003. Web. 2 May 2017

Major Rauch is a highly decorated soldier. We are fortunate to have him and others keeping us safe.

### U. S. Decorations and Badges

Combat Action Badge      Army Service Ribbon  
Afghanistan Campaign Medal (W/2BSS)      Iraq Campaign Medal (W/3BSS)  
Valorous Unit Award      Bronze Star (10lc)      Purple Heart  
Army Commendation Medal – with Combat "V" Device and (50lc)  
Army Achievement Medal (10lc)      National Defense Service Medal (w/1BSS)  
Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (10lc)  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal—with "M" Device and Numeral 4/Bronze Hour Glass  
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal      NATO Medal Afghanistan  
Army Overseas Seas Service Ribbon (W Numeral 3)

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# BOB ROEMER SR.

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Picture taken after interview

Bob Roemer Sr. was an emergency responder and a member of the Security Police in the Air Force from 1975-1979. His highest ranking was Sergeant E-4 which means that he was enlisted in the fourth rank. Mr. Roemer achieved a lot in his years of service, in both the Air Force and National Guard. While spending his four years in the Air Force, Mr. Roemer utilized several airplanes like the C5 which was very large and had a lot of room compared to helicopters. He assisted in the Canary Island Tsunami disaster and Jimmy Jones Homicide. Mr. Roemer began his military career because of the benefits that would come from it, good military training, a place to sleep and be fed, and job he would be given after training. While he was in the service, he traveled a lot, especially in Europe, Germany, and India where he enjoyed traveling in the military.

Mr. Roemer spent eight years in the Army National Guard and went through training to prepare himself for the military years ahead of him. Such training included running a lot and being under strict rules like having to wear his uniform in a certain order. While in the service, Mr. Roemer had to wear specific clothing such as a blue beret for when he was in security police. After

**"If something  
you've done  
you're not  
proud of, that  
happens...  
Don't quit."**

**- ROBERT ROMER SR.**

being in the military, Mr. Roemer worked in a hospital, in ambulances, and as a firefighter where he earned his trusty dog, Billy. He still keeps in touch with a few of his friends from his time in the service. Life after serving our country has been very good for Mr. Roemer, even after being in an accident as a firefighter and having a vivid remembrance of being in battle. Bob Roemer proudly and bravely served our country.

## Service Dogs

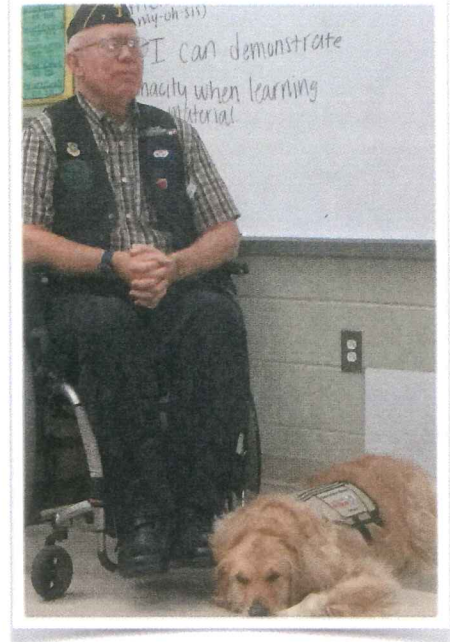
A service dog is a type of assistance dog. It helps people who have disabilities such as mental illness, stress disorder, hearing impairments, diabetes, deaf, blood sugar alerts, loss of eyesight, or are in a wheelchair. When people think of medical service dogs, they usually think of guide dogs for the blind, or perhaps they think of therapy dogs. By law, they are allowed to go anywhere that is permitted for the general public. Service dogs are legally permitted to travel on any public transit sys. They help give people back their self-confidence and independence. Often forget about the challenges faced prior to having wonderful support. It generally takes one to two years to train a service dog. The dog must be trained to mitigate your disability, and must behave appropriately in public to avoid being removed. This means there are two main facets of service dog training: public

access behaviors, and disability-related work and tasks. You can send your own dog to a program or private trainer. If you have a disability, you qualify for a service dog. You must be at least twelve years old unless you have autism. You must have a diagnosed physical disability, anxiety disorder such as PTSD, debilitating chronic illness, or neurological disorder affecting at least one limb. You also must be physically and cognitively capable of participating in the process of training, which can take up to one hour per day. You must be able to command and handle the dog yourself. Service dogs assist people with disabilities other than vision or hearing impairment. They can be trained to

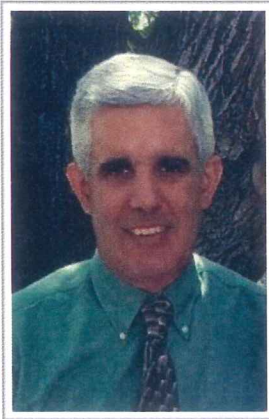
work with people who use power or manual wheelchairs, have balance issues, have autism, seizures, need to be alerted to other medical issues. These specially trained dogs can help by retrieving objects out of reach, opening and closing doors, barking to indicate that help is needed, and many other individual tasks as needed by a person with a disability

-Robert Roemer, Sr.

Roemer, a Robert, Personal Interview. 24 March. 2017



## Major Michael James Smith



Cynthia Ozick once said that, “We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude.” Thousands of veterans who serve this country truly deserve our gratitude, appreciation, and respect for all the things they have done to make this country one of the greatest nations in the world. Every single veteran has his or her own unique story to share. Michael James Smith is one of them, and we would like other people to hear it: the story about his bravery, the story about the duties and tasks he performed outside the country, the story that clearly shows the great importance of his family that supported him in difficult times, always being there for him to help him survive all the hardships and troubles of the military life.

### How it All Started

Michael James Smith joined the military on December 9th, 1994. People join the army for different reasons. Mr. Smith said that he grew up wanting to join the military. It had been a family tradition passed down from his father’s side of the family. Since early childhood, little Michael would hear the stories that his father would share about the army, various deployments, and experience in military service, therefore the choice to join the army was very natural for him. Besides, Mr. Smith admitted that he “likes the adventure, ..discipline, structure, and organization...” of the army.

### Great Service for the Great Country

Even though Michael grew up with an idea to become a military professional, and heard ample stories about the army, he never realized what it really is to be in the active service. Over the years of services, he and his family moved around a lot. They were stationed in half a dozen military bases like Fort Stewart in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, Fort Lee in Virginia, Little Rock Air Base in Arkansas, and Fort Jackson in South Carolina. When he joined the army, Mr. Smith probably never thought that he would also spend a lot of time outside the country being deployed in several operations and conflicts. Things that other Americans would normally watch on TV became a hard reality for Mr. Smith. Seven times he was sent to Iraq to perform his duties in Operation Iraqi Freedom and had to go there again for Operation New Dawn. This means days, weeks, or months away from the family; it also means not seeing how his two children were growing, how his little son Nate took his first step, or said his first word.

### Country Appreciation of the Service

Officer Smith’s service and his outstanding performance in active duty has not been left unnoticeable by the country. The list of his awards is very impressive. His bravery and military service were rewarded with various medals such as Defense Meritorious Service Medals, Meritorious Service Medals, Army Commendation Medals, Bronze Star Medals, Army Achievement Medals, Korean Defense Service Medals, Global War on Terrorism Medals, as well as Operation Iraqi



Freedom Ribbons and Army Recruiter Badge. Besides, his professionalism and honorable duty performance were more than once recognized by his commanders, and he received the two time General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award. Twice he was named as Company Commander of the year, and was rated several times as the Best Field Grade Officer in his Brigade.

Officer Smith retired from US army active military duty on February 1st, 2015 in the rank of Major. He has done great service to this country and now can finally unite with his family and spend more time with his children and wife. Who knows, maybe, his stories about the military service, about life lasting friendships, about the courage and sacrifices of our soldiers abroad would inspire one of his children or somebody else to follow his steps and choose a military service for a career.



### Feature Story: Family Support and Connections

One of the hardest things that any military professional experiences in their service is being away from their home and families. In his interview, Major Michael James Smith emphasized the great importance of family in his multiple deployments abroad. He shared with us how his family supported and helped him in times of hardships and distress, and how they were always there for him when he needed it. He admitted that he couldn't have been away for so long without them, mentioning that it was very difficult for the family because there were times when he would leave his wife and small children for several months. Major Michael Smith had support from his family, but we also understand that that having your close relatives abroad, especially in the war or conflict zones, might require support and help. Therefore, we decided to research organizations that help military families here in the states. We believe that former and retired soldiers should have a way back to a comfortable lifestyle.

#### Blue Star Families (<https://bluestarfam.org>)

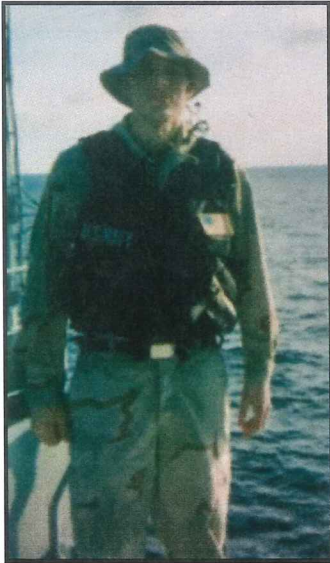
Frequent moves, deployments, and transitions can make it hard for military families to establish strong, trusted networks. They bridge the gap between military family communities and the general public. Through their partnerships, Blue Star Families provides free resources, services, and opportunities to more than 1.5 million military family members—making military life more sustainable.

#### FOCUS (Families OverComing Under Stress) ([www.focusproject.org](http://www.focusproject.org))

FOCUS provides resiliency training to military children and families. It teaches practical skills to meet the challenges of deployment and reintegration, to communicate and solve problems effectively, and to successfully set goals together and create a shared family story.

# A Veteran In Action

## Mr. Stockwell



Imagine yourself on a large ship in the middle of the ocean and you are in the US Navy. This was the life of Matthew Stockwell, age 38. He joined the Navy when he was only 18 years old. He claimed he wanted to see the world and “get out of [his] little American pocket.” He enlisted in the Navy for many reasons and was accepted after a year of training.

Mr. Stockwell was assigned to a ship called the *Ramage*. The ship was approximately 500 feet long. Although there were many jobs to do on the ship, his first choice was to be a sonar specialist. He quickly realized that there wasn't much to do so he found a job he loved as a weapons specialist.

On September 11, 2001, Mr. Stockwell was called into action. He said it was just a normal morning, waking up to a



crew member's call, telling him that an airplane had hit the Twin Towers in New York. As he turned on the TV and learned that a second plane had hit, he began to advise others of what happened, knowing he would soon be deployed. He quickly called his family to inform them that he would soon be deployed to New York and prepared for action.

Other than defending the country during this terrible event. Mr. Stockwell explored many new and beautiful countries. Although he enjoyed some experiences more than others, he thoroughly took pleasure in learning about new cultures. His favorite country to visit was Israel. He claimed





the people, sights, and food were all amazing. His least favorite place to visit was Tanisha, Zambia due to its weak structure and his overall experience.

## Did You Know?

- ✦ The other soldiers that Mr. Stockwell was with used to play pranks on each other for entertainment.
- ✦ Mr. Stockwell was a major fan of Michael Jordan when he was younger.
- ✦ Mr. Stockwell said that if you got a good meal for dinner, you would know something was wrong.
- ✦ It took Mr. Stockwell about a year to adjust to being out of the military.

"I grew up wanting to do something"  
- Mr. Stockwell

## Timeline of 9/11

	<b>8:45</b> The first World Trade Center was attacked.
<b>9:03</b> Another plane crashed into the South Tower	
	<b>9:37</b> Third plane crashed into the western side of Pentagon
<b>10:07</b> Fourth hijacked plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania	

To wrap it all up, Matthew Stockwell is a very brave and special man. He not only defended our country but looked on the bright side of things the entire time. We appreciate that he shared his experiences with us and thank him for his service.



Mr. Stockwell's navy jacket



Multiple magazines and articles published on 9/11

## A Day of Terror

On September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda operatives attacked the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon using hijacked aircrafts. Back in Afghanistan, US armed forces were deployed to locate and eliminate the Al Qaeda threat. Why did they attack us? The Al Qaeda wanted to get US armed forces out of their country. They wanted to use force at any means to do so. In an article from *Inside the Terrorist Network*, it stated, "Bin Laden declared a jihad, or holy war, against the United States, which he has carried out through Al Qaeda and its affiliated organizations." He wanted to use fear and violence to force the US to withdraw their influence from Middle Eastern countries. Al Qaeda gave the command to attack the World Trade Center and other high profile US sites. This single day of violence took 2,997 lives and led us into an ongoing battle against terrorism.

"One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in America's history. We'll always honor the heroes of 9/11. And here at this hallowed place, we pledge that we will never forget their sacrifice.  
- George W. Bush

### Citations:

History.com Staff. "9/11 Attacks." History.com. A&E Television Networks, 2010. Web. 26 Apr.  
"Inside the Terrorist Network." PBS. Public Broadcasting Service, 2014. Web. 19 May 2017.

# Gary Olin Varn

In the beginning, Gary Olin Varn, our veteran, graduated from Lexington High School. Afterwards, he wanted to go to college, so he decided to join the military as a way to pay for it. Eventually this motivation turned into something more, which explains why he served for over 20 years. Once he joined, he started training at Fort Jackson. There, he trained to move as one with his peers, marching everyday until no step was out of sync. He also gained many other skills he would need later on.



These are the patches that Mr. Varn earned and created in his years of service. The Viper Team was the name of their group, in the military it was kind of like a mascot, so each team was based on an animal.



This is one of the many maps they had to learn while doing service. It shows paths and roads they can walk on and places such as buildings and monuments.



After 25 years he left the military and was awarded with a bronze star. He reflects on his experiences daily and was more than happy to share them with our CREW.

Afterwards, he was deployed to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. This was a plan to stop Iraq's dictator's tyranny. Mr. Varn worked as a communications officer. During this operation, he worked on the Viper Team, which would complete small missions together. They had a viper mascot that represented Mr. Varn's team. He used his creativity and intelligence to create a patch that had the Viper mascot. The Viper Team went around to the different buildings in Baghdad and checked to see if the telephones were working, or if there even was one. Then, they made a color-coded map to show their findings. When he was working in Baghdad, temperatures sometimes reached over 120 degrees Fahrenheit. In turn, the soldiers had to take frequent breaks and drink lots of water everyday. Mr. Varn had many life changing experiences and loved his job even when problems arose.



# Operation Iraqi Freedom



George W. Bush announces the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is a plan that was announced by President Bush in 2003 to, “...rid Iraq of tyrannical dictator Saddam Hussein and eliminate Hussein’s ability to develop weapons of mass destruction.” (Bush Announces the Launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom). It is also meant to rid the world of possible terrorists without completely destroying Iraq. In the interview, our veteran mentioned how he had participated in this operation. It was made clear that Hussein had violated a United Nations policy by creating biological and chemical weapons and tried to avoid punishment. Bush’s primary goal was to help “Iraqis achieve a united, stable and free country”. He knew that this would "require our sustained commitment.” (Bush Announces the Launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom)

President Bush declares the final ultimatum on Iraq. March 7, 2003	Operation Iraqi freedom was announced by George W. Bush. March 20, 2003	American troops prepare attack. March 28-29, 2003
Baghdad comes under American control. April 9, 2003	Saddam Hussein gets arrested. December 13, 2003	Fifteen months after Saddam Hussein’s removal the American authorities go to hold a surprise for the new leaders. June 28, 2004
Saddam Hussein is executed after trial. December 30, 2006	Iraqis celebrate the American troops leaving their cities. June 30, 2009	Obama declares the end of the seven year American mission in Iraq. August 31, 2010

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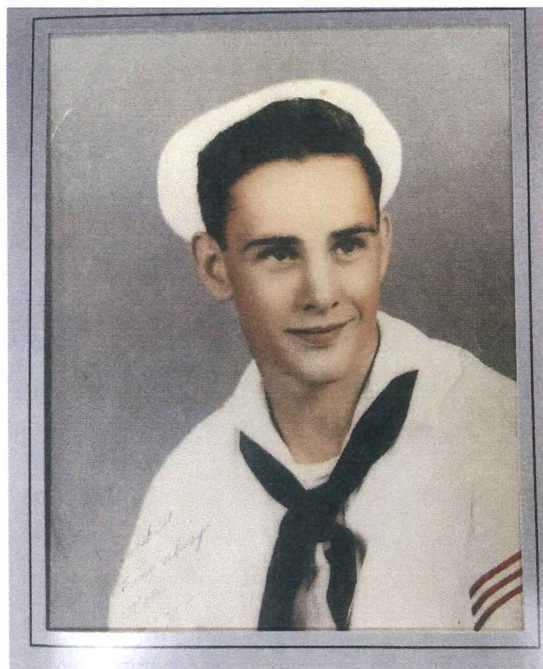
Crichton, Kyle, Gina Lamb, and Rogene F. Jacquette. "Timeline of Major Events in the Iraq War." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 30 Aug. 2010. Web. 05 May 2017.

Bush Announces the Launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom. [History.com](http://History.com). A&E Television Networks, 2009. Web. 27 Apr. 2017

# MIKE WEST'S LIFE IN THE MILITARY



Felder "Mike" West was born in 1941. At the age of sixteen, he wanted to join the military, preferably the Coastguard. Unfortunately for him, a lack of soldiers forced him to be drafted into the Navy.



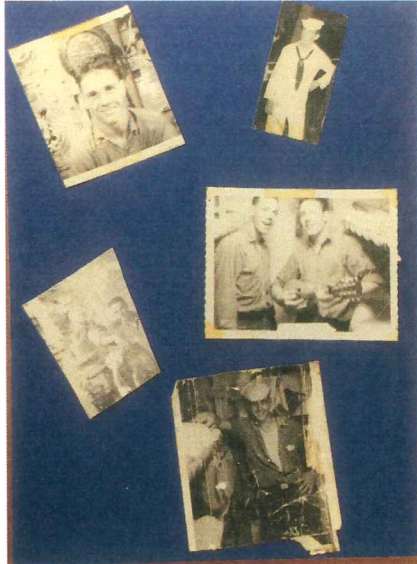
Mr. West travelled all across the world. In the Mediterranean sea, near Egypt, he witnessed a massive swarm of locusts descend upon the ship. For days, they pulled locusts out of every hole in the ship. In Spain, at an arena, he watched a bullfight and learned a lesson: never cheer for the bull.

## USS Henley



After Mr. West finished boot camp in Chicago, he was assigned to a destroyer class ship, the USS Henley. Within days of the ship leaving its home base of Norfolk, Virginia, he hated being on the ship. It was a great way to travel and see the world, but he got both homesick and seasick.

In the North Atlantic, Mr. West's ship struck something too dense and too fast to be a whale. It didn't identify itself when asked, so they followed it for days, barely keeping up. The Henley chased it almost into the Arctic, battling 50 foot waves, until it finally surfaced, and they realized that it was actually the first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus.



Finally, as Mr. West was on his way back to Norfolk, discharge papers in hand, the ship was called into action. Their instructions were to participate in the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba, but just before the ship was scheduled to arrive, the battle was called off.

After 9 years of traveling across the world, through the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, Mr. West retired from the military in 1963. Afterwards, he worked at Allied Chemical as a manager. He has three kids and is married to his wife, Judy West.

## THE BAY OF PIGS INVASION

The Bay of Pigs Invasion was a full scale attack using US trained Cuban exiles who were tasked with overthrowing the communist Cuban government. The attack, spearheaded by the CIA, failed, resulting in 114 American casualties and 1100 POWs. The invasion lasted 5 days, but American forces were badly outnumbered and surrendered within the first 24 hours of actual fighting. Though Soviet Russia saw this as an act of war, the United States was able to avoid a legitimate conflict.



1

A full scale invasion of Cuba by American trained Cuban's, who fled Cuba.

2

Fidel Castro took over the Cuban government, he died last year still ruling

3

The goal of the Bay of Pigs invasion was to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist

Flickr. Yahoo!, n.d. Web. 19 May 2017. <<https://www.flickr.com/commons>>.

M. M. M. West, live interview, march 29, 2017

(History.comstaff. "Bay of Pigs Invasion." A+ E Networks, 2009. Web. 20 Apr. 2017. <History.com>.)

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# Christopher Wooten

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**Christopher Wooten greets President Ronald Reagan on his ranch in 1987.**

**Christopher Wooten** enlisted in the Marine Corps on November 4, 1987. He was a young man looking for a sense of direction in his life and an opportunity to serve his country. Before he could become a Marine, he had to endure weeks of grueling training, where the only goal of the drill sergeant is to break soldiers down before building them back up. Despite all of the challenges of boot camp, he graduated Honor Man of 280 recruits.

Due to his success in training, he was chosen to serve as a part of the Marine One Helicopter Squadron, a special branch of the Marines that is in charge of protecting the President of the United

States during travel. That was that only the top ten percent of his class received. He served President Ronald Reagan and President George W. Bush. He accompanied Presidents Reagan and Bush to 48 states and 14 countries. He served during the Gulf War, and one of his major campaigns was Operation Desert Storm.

Throughout Mr. Christopher Wooten's service in the military, he earned him several awards, including the Presidential Service Badge, Overseas Service Medal, and many others. After being discharged in 1991, Mr. Wooten continued to help people by serving as a South Carolina state police for seven years.

Today, he owns a health club in Lexington, SC known as Bodyshop Athletics and Topspin Racquet and Swim Club. His time in the military has shaped who he is today.

**“IF IT WERE NOT FOR JESUS CHRIST AND THE MARINE CORPS, THEN I WOULD BE IN THE PENITENTIARY OR DEAD.”**

**-Christopher Wooten**



**Mr. Chris Wooten, member of the Marine One Helicopter Squadron, is pictured above with his daughter, Carsan, for our veterans project.**

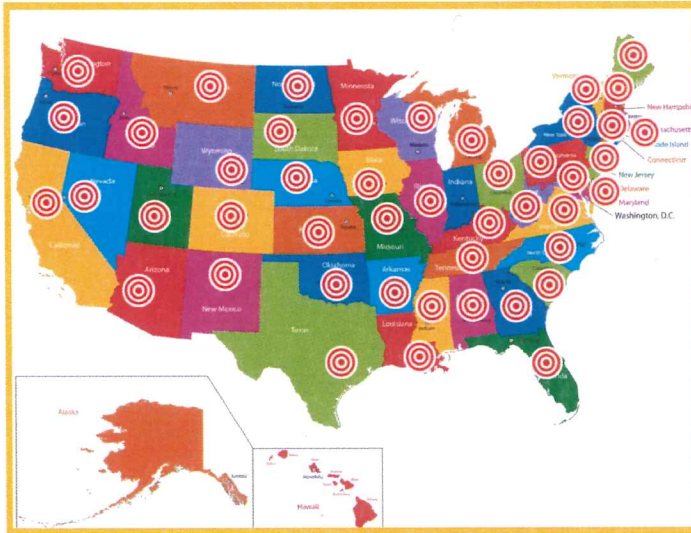


# Extreme Circumstances

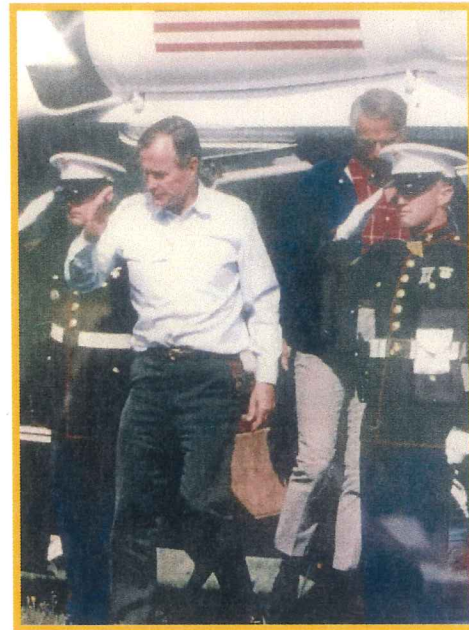
It was the summer of 1980 in Athens, Greece. The Secret Service just received intel about a bomb threat against President Bush in their chosen hotel. The decision made was to move the president to a hotel across the street. President Bush and his men took up about 3 floors changing duties, standing guard. The next day the original hotel they were going to stay in experienced a bomb explosion. Another special circumstance that the Secret Service experienced was when there was a failed hydraulic line in one of the helicopters. They ended up having to land in the biggest field they had, a man's backyard. Chris Wooten used these challenges to better himself, and they changed his point of view greatly.

"LIFE IS A SERIES OF STEPS AND THERE IS NO ESCALATOR TO THE TOP."

-Christopher Wooten



**Mr. Christopher Wooten traveled to all 48 states shown above.**



**Christopher Wooten, standing guard, as President Bush returns to the White House.**

# Acknowledgments

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