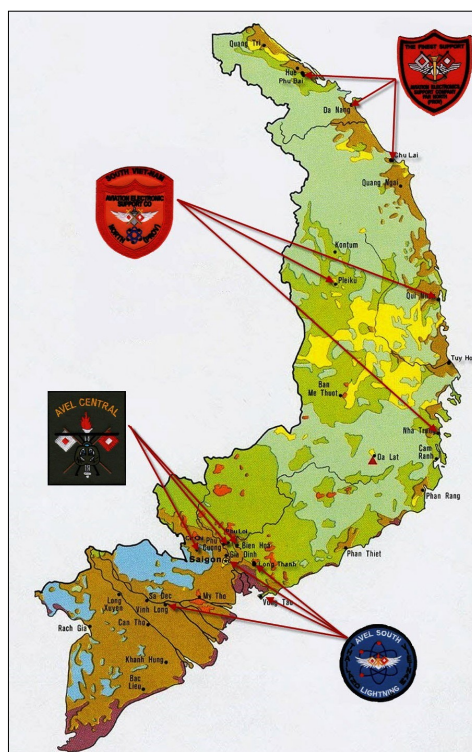
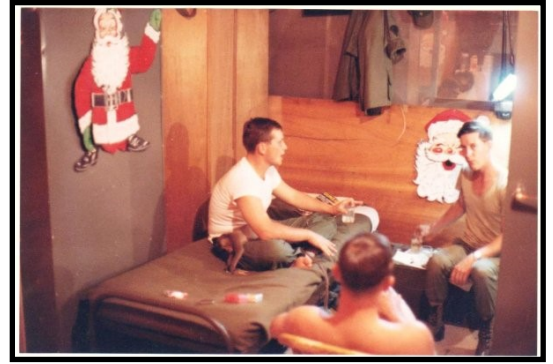


Newsletter - December 2017





Veteran Suicide

The holidays can be warm, fun and a wonderful time to get together with family and friends. But, for those suffering from PTSD, loneliness and depression it can be horrible. Remember that we lose 22 veterans a day to suicide. In actuality we lose more than that as some are categorized as automobile accidents, etc.

If you know a veteran who is suffering call them. Just be yourself and let them know someone is thinking of them. If they seem at risk of harming themselves take action. Don't let our fellow veterans become a statistic.



Confidential crisis chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net)
or text to **838255**

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF SUICIDE RISK

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.
- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention. Call us if you experience any of these warning signs.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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AVEL "Gathering" Update 2017

I finally posted the Gathering photos to the website. Go to www.avelvietnam.com to see them.

The 2018 Reunion/Gathering location has not been decided yet. Watch for updates on the web page.

VA Veteran Photo ID Cards Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs suspended applications for its new veteran identification card program due to a large number of applicants, according to a notice on its website. The new, free ID card was ordered by Congress in 2015 as a way to give veterans proof of service at businesses without carrying a copy of their DD-214 forms. The on 29 NOV rolled out the online application for the card for all honorably discharged veterans, but the system appeared to immediately face technical problems. Tests by at least two Military.com reporters accessing the site with their own VA logins and military service credentials encountered repeated errors. One was able to successfully complete the process despite multiple rejections and system timeouts. Currently, however, veterans who look to apply for the card are instead told they need to come back later.

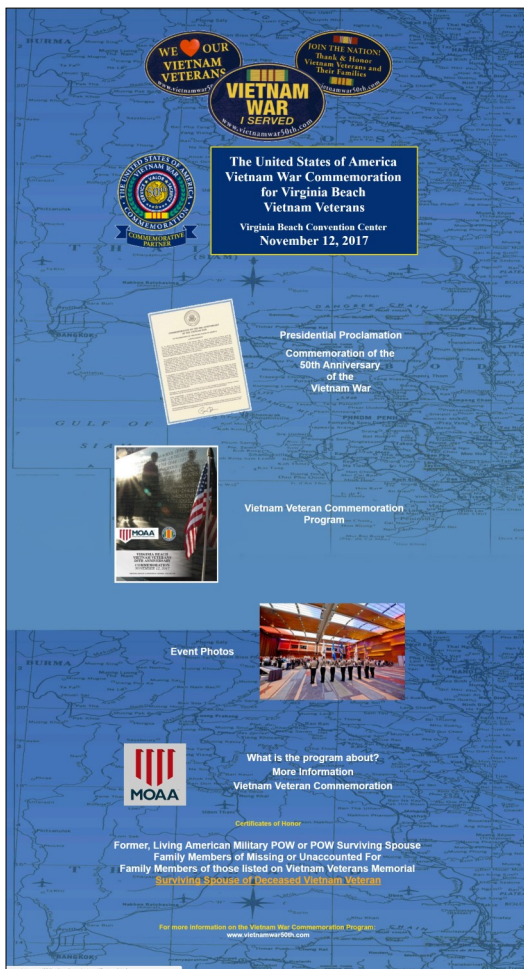
"Thank you for your interest in the Veteran Identification Card! Currently, we are experiencing a high volume of traffic. We apologize, and want you to know we're working to fix the problem," the notice states. "In the meantime, please enter your email address and we'll send an update when the Veteran Identification Card application is back online."

Vietnam Veteran Commemoration For Virginia Beach Vietnam Veterans

A commemoration ceremony was held on 12 November 2017 honoring local Vietnam veterans and surviving family members of deceased veterans.

Certificates of Honor and lapel pins were presented to former Living American Military POW or POW Surviving Spouse, Family Members of Missing or Unaccounted For, Family Members of those listed on Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Surviving Spouse of Deceased Vietnam Veterans.

AVEL's own Pete Poirier (AVEL Far North and USS Corpus Christi Bay) was in attendance with his wife Mary Lee.



IN-COUNTRY

THE (NOT SO GREAT) WALL OF INDOCHINA.

IN-COUNTRY

IN-COUNTRY

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERAN REGISTEREES

None Submitted

TAPS

None Submitted

PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL

Submit changes to Jack McCabe so you can continue receiving updates and Newsletters.

www.avelvietnam.com



AVEL VIETNAM



December 2017 Newsletter
