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Representing Las Vegas Metro Police Department Officers and Deputy City and Municipal Court Marshals

VOLUME 7 | ISSUE 4

November/December 2012



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# Executive Director's Message

**DETECTIVE CHRIS COLLINS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

## A Salute to Our Veterans

You should be receiving this issue of the *Vegas Beat* in early November. As we all know November is the month we enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday. What seems to be overlooked sometimes is that this is also the month we celebrate Veterans Day. I believe that by serving our country as a member of our military or serving our community as a law enforcement officer, you have answered a calling. Yes, a calling; neither of these professions is a job — it is a calling that not everyone can do. Many of you have answered the calling twice by being members of both professions. Whether you are a police officer or both an officer and have also served in the military, you should stand proud, and our community and country should say thank you. In my mind there can be no greater calling than these two professions. No matter if it is our country or our community that calls, you always respond. You always stand guard between good and bad; you defend those who cannot defend themselves and that is a noble cause. During my 29 years here at Metro, I have had the opportunity to work with several of you who answered both callings. I would like to name all of you, but I would surely leave someone out, so I will only name the people I work with today who have answered both callings: Mark Chaparian, Air Force; Paul Bigham, Air Force; Darryl Clodt, Air Force; and Tom Reid, Marines.

This year when Veterans Day comes around, I hope all of us will take a minute if we see a veteran to offer a friendly thank you for their service and dedication to our country. And let's not forget the men and women who are stationed away from their families, some in the United States and some in foreign countries where many of them are putting their lives on the line every day defending freedom. There is nothing we could possibly do to thank these men and women, much less the families of those heroes who gave their lives for this noble cause. Let us at least offer a silent tribute to all the military men and women of this agency — to all of you, I salute you and thank you.

As always, stay safe and fight the good fight. **VB**

## INSIGHT

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me 85 dollars. That is why in the Navy the Captain goes down with the ship.

— Dick Gregory

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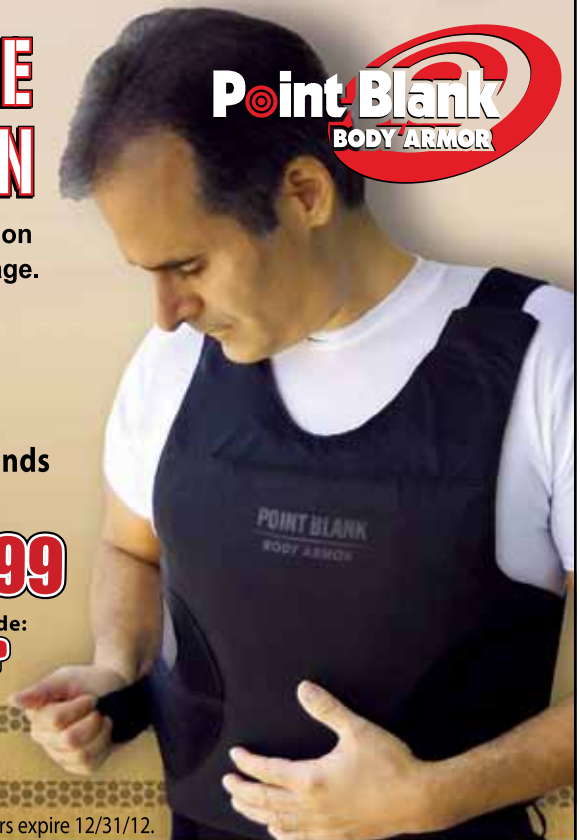
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# A Thank You Letter to My Sergeant

## POLICE OFFICER MARK CHAPARIAN

Assistant Executive Director

It's not often enough that I thank you and offer you my sincere gratitude for all the things you do for me day in and day out. I thought I'd take some time out of my day to say "thank you" for all you do, have done and will continue to do for me on a consistent basis.

**Thank you** for respecting me, my thoughts and my beliefs and never belittling me behind my back to other members of our Department.

**Thank you** for understanding that because I have children, I may need to take some time off to care for them when they are sick or have a school function. Allowing me to be the best parent I can be for my kids makes me a better officer or detective.

**Thank you** for not questioning my integrity each time I inform you that I am too ill to come to work or that I have a doctor's appointment during my shift. It's nice that you realize my sick leave is time that I have earned and is actually meant to be used when I am sick or need to see a doctor.

**Thank you** for providing me a clear and logical method for using my vacation hours. It's always refreshing to be able to plan a vacation with my family and not get hassled at work or made to feel guilty because I'm gone using time that I have earned.

**Thank you** for encouraging me to take in-service training classes so as to improve my knowledge and skill level. I know how much you value an educated and informed work force as this makes our whole unit perform at a higher level.

**Thank you** for recognizing that my lunch break is important to me. I understand that I'm not guaranteed a lunch break each day, but your efforts to ensure me that you are doing everything possible so that I get a break are so appreciated.

**Thank you** for monitoring my calls for service, my case load or my ITAG logs so I never get in over my head or end up working in an unsafe condition or one that puts me in front of an IA investigator.

**Thank you** for not treating me like an eight-year-old child when I tell you I need to work past my shift in order to resolve a situation or a call or finish chasing a lead on a case. It's so nice that you take care of me without making me feel like I'm trying to "game the system" or somehow "pull one over" on you or the Department.

**Thank you** for realizing that the LVMPD policy manual is not a "know all, save all, end all" document. Your experience and maturity allows you to let us navigate the policy and procedure manual more often as a guide rather than an absolute, iron-fisted, do-or-die document.

**Thank you** for understanding the LVPPA Collective Bargaining Agreement and respecting it and what it stands for. Your knowledge of my contract helps you understand what I'm entitled to and what you are required to provide for me so that I can continue to be the best I can be.

**Thank you** for never judging me on what you may have done in a similar situation or how you believe something should have been handled. It really shows how professional you are when you only judge my performance or conduct based on policy, procedure and training the Department has provided me.

**Thank you** so much for always towing the line and making sure you set an example of the Department's ICARE values. Acting as a mentor to me and my fellow co-workers has always been appreciated.

**Thank you** for taking the time to know who I am, what I'm about, where I came from and where I'm headed. Each time you take me under your wing and fight for me, defend me or guide me in the proper direction proves that you care about me and this organization.

**Thank you** for taking accountability for decisions and direction you give me and my fellow co-workers. Even if you don't agree with decisions made above your level, you take responsibility for your position and foster a positive working environment.

**Thank you** for completing my annual performance evaluations on time and ensuring they are full of relevant information about me, instead of a "cut-and-paste" generic model.

**Thank you** for always having my back and watching P# 8558 out for me, sergeant! Your professionalism, dedication, loyalty and integrity toward me and this organization make this a great place to work and inspire me to reach for the stars. **VB**

## INSIGHT

Over the years, the United States has sent many of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in return is enough to bury those that did not return.

— General Colin Powell, Dec. 20, 2003.

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# Remembering My Uncle: Combat Veteran, POW Survivor

## CORRECTIONS OFFICER THOMAS REID

Assistant Executive Director

At the time of this publication, our country will be remembering our war heroes past and present, at home and forward deployed in distant lands, by the observance of Veterans day. Being born in London to my British mother, I have been fortunate enough to know and talk with my uncle George about his military service and his memory of being part of the largest airborne invasion in WWII: Operation Market Garden. This epic battle was depicted in the 1977 movie "A Bridge Too Far."

Uncle George Durant was born in 1922 and joined the British Army in early 1942. By the summer of 1944 he was serving with the Signals Party at No.1 Battery Headquarters, 1st Air landing Light Regiment.

He flew to Arnhem, Netherlands, on Sunday September 17, 1944, his wood glider landing safely on LZ-N near the village of Wolfheze. After nine days of continuous action, he was captured by the Germans, issued POW No. 91884 and first sent to Stalag XIIA, then IVB and IVC. He was liberated by Russian Allied Forces in May 1945.

Uncle George wrote:

*I was a Driver/Wireless Operator — I suppose there were approximately 8-10 to a battery/troop — whose function was to link communication by radio and even hand-laid line telephone (a legacy from WWI) between our observation posts (OPs) and the artillery guns command post. Thus providing information and supporting fire to the forward infantry when needed.*

*We were mobile, and this long-established and well-trained drill was practiced by the Royal Artillery (R.A.) Field Regiments — though particularly difficult at Arnhem, there being no real "front" and the first lift of 1st Airborne Division stretched all over the place.*

*I landed by glider in the first lift on Sunday, 17 September, 1944, at about 1:40 p.m. — a very "nose-in" heavy landing. Up front was my Troop Sergeant Major [TSM] Reed and two or three others, my jeep, radio, trailer with spare gun-ammo, compo rations, TSM's motorcycle and riding in the tail with myself were "Archie" Pitt and "Bob" Dixon.*

*We were at such a steep angle on landing that us three had to jettison the trailer and drop off with it. We then had to hack enough wood fuselage away to extract the personnel, jeep, etc., but this we accomplished whilst other gliders were homing-in and paratroopers [were] literally dropping on top of us.*

*TSM Reed had damaged both his ankles badly (we thought he'd broken them), so we lashed him onto the jeep and I took his motorcycle, and we eventually made good progress to our first position on some sloping ground, dug in a command post and remained there that night to await the arrival of the second lift (which of course was badly delayed). [The] next day was not too active, except around noon, we got strafed by German fighter aircraft ME 109s, which at first we had thought to be our own British Spitfires! After two or three passes, they disappeared with no serious damage in our position.*

*That night we moved into a new position nearer Arnhem on the edge of some woodland and from then on it got "hairy" indeed. We made several forays and patrols into the outskirts of Arnhem and many to Divisional HQ to try and find some sort of pattern of the front lines, but after mid-week the battle had degenerated into scores of disjointed sectors, finally squeezed into the famous perimeter around Oosterbeek, Netherlands.*

*Against and into this zone, the Germans poured troops, shells and mortars — the latter [was] particularly nasty as their six-barrelled mortar rounds emitted a gut-wrenching low increasing moan as they were coming in!*

*It was on the rim of this area, at dusk, an officer ordered about 18 of us — mixed units — to hold three slit trenches at all costs and to stay there alive or dead until further orders. He told us that there had been a breakthrough and relief forces were coming over the Rhine that night and [after] repeating his order, he took off into the gloom. We never saw him again, but complied. We'd heard this so many times before, but it might be correct this time! As you well know, you just don't question an order.*

*As darkness fell, an almighty barrage developed and went on for hours and eventually faded into a weird silence before dawn. The five others I was with, which I seem to recall included a sergeant in the Recce Squadron, and myself were elated that we were still in action, but this drained away as it got light and we broke cover to see what the score was. We were totally surrounded by German troops, who had just walked over us.*

*We were marched some way down to a road where there were 30 or so other airborne comrades and I met "Wally" Bowtell, another signaller from my section, who had just been taken POW. Then we learned that some of the remnants of the 1st Airborne Division had managed to get back over the Rhine, but at least we carried out our last order to the end.*

*Wally and I remained together via various POW camps right through to the end of the war. We met two or three times after the war until he emigrated to Australia, but the greatest reunion was when we raised our glasses in The Centrum Café by Arnhem railway station on 17 September, 1994, exactly 50 years to the day we first landed there.*

*It was near here, in some railway sidings, that the Germans herded the British prisoners, who were locked in covered cattle wagons (70 in a truck) to begin a grim nine-day journey to Limburg, Germany (Stalag) (12A), which was situated in a sea of constant liquid mud.*

*I was selected, together with a mixed bag of "airbornes," for what transpired to be "special interrogation" and taken to an unknown camp. En route, via Cologne, we were almost lynched by civilians reacting to a recent Royal Air Force (RAF) raid.*

*[There were] a few days in and out of "solitary" and sick bay and then back to Limburg, then to Mulburg, Stalag IVB. Eager for escape opportunities, I joined a working party, which unfortunately proved to be a coal mine (Bettyschacht IVC) sited in a high-security zone. It entailed a 12-hour shift, six days a week, half a mile underground and on a starvation diet with weather at sub-zero.*

*Early in 1945 we were moved to an open-cast mine near Brux, Czechoslovakia, surviving several determined RAF night raids that pulverized the nearby benzene plant. Sadly, it was during one such raid that we lost three airborne lads, killed by an exploding ack-ack shell in the roof of the hut.*

*This camp was overrun by the Russians, who liberated us on 7 May, 1945. We foraged around Brux, but the situation became increasingly hazardous; the Russians took increasingly large numbers of civilians for summary target practice in retaliation for the actions of young SS-styled fanatics who, armed to the teeth, were dedicated to taking pot shots at anything that moved after nightfall.*

(continued on page 20)



# Contract Negotiations

## **CORRECTIONS OFFICER SCOTT NICHOLAS**

Secretary

I remember a couple of years ago while on a flight to Reno with a group of PPA board members, Kirk Hooten and I began to talk about the upcoming contract negotiation process. Kirk was excited; he believed Chris Collins had selected a good team to represent the officers of LVMPD.

Kirk wanted to know how everything worked. I didn't want to be the bearer of bad news, but someone had to tell him what to really expect and I decided it may as well be me. I started with the definition of "Negotiation" which to me is discussion and compromise. (I'm laughing as I write this.) The words "contract" and "negotiation" seem so powerful by themselves but having to explain that entering the room to negotiate a contract on behalf of the 3,000 officers of Metro is very similar to being kicked in the groin!

I know Kirk was shocked when I broke the news that the only negotiation would be coming from our side of the table. Yes, we would be negotiating against ourselves. It would be the same question from the Department as always: "What will you do for me this year?" The Department presented the same argument as the one from years before. "The County is broke, the City is broke, the Department is broke."

I don't want to mislead anyone and sound like I don't want to participate in the process, because I do. I volunteer to participate. I enjoy reading the budget request and funding formulas. I like numbers, and for the most part my math skills help in the overall process for our team. Understanding the numbers helps me understand what we are being asked to give up, and then I can try to put a dollar value on it for our members.

I remember telling Kirk about a time when we presented an offer to the Department that almost made them laugh out loud when they read it. I told him of yet another time that we presented an offer that was received with the same emotion as if they were looking at a blank piece of paper. The Department's team seemed in disbelief that we would even ask for a raise.

So that you all understand the process, here is how it works in general. The first meeting usually just involves P# 8564 going over the ground rules and includes an introduction of the parties. The PPA will typically have around eight officers and one attorney participate in the process. The Department will also have several representatives on its team, including an Assistant Sheriff, a member from Labor Relations, a member from the Office of Finance, a representative from Clark County and a representative from the City of Las Vegas. A few other chiefs usually sit in the negotiation process as well.

Once the negotiations start, the Department will have a list of items (non-monetary) to present in negotiations. The LVPPA will also present a list of items we would like changed or clarified in the contract. Those items will then be discussed and negotiated. The big items, like money, are generally discussed after the Department gives us the annual speech about why we should be the lowest paid organization in the valley. This is the part where faces turn red, blood boils and we ask for a recess.

I get the fact that everyone has a job to do. We don't sit at the table and get pissed off at any of the individuals sitting across from us. We understand that each person in the room has someone to answer to. The assistant sheriff is given direction from the sheriff, county and city. The representative from the county is given direction from the county commissioners. The representative from the city is given marching orders from city council. And we are given direction from Chris Collins, our full board of directors and our

membership. The point is no one ever wants to hear the term "pay cut." I will be the first to admit if I was running a business, I would want Doug Gillespie on my team. I can easily see where he has helped save the taxpayers \$250 million or more in his last several years in office.

The problem is we are not running a business. We should all be on the same team, yet we are on opposite sides of the table and at times seem to be arguing polar extremes. Each one of the Metro officers that tested and participated in the tedious process to get hired here has given up far more than just money in the last few years. Many of the officers have given up family and friends for a lifetime to have a career with Metro. Some of us, my wife and I included, moved across the country and left loved ones far behind in search of a better future for ourselves and our children. That is something we can never get back. Some of us sold our homes (and some at a loss) to come here. And some of us spent thousands of dollars of our own money to move here.

No one from the Department, county or city has ever offered to pay me back for my expenses or fly me home to see my family or friends. No one ever asked me how I would be paying for the move. We joined the Department knowing that was the price for starting a career with Metro. But we also had an expectation that we would be compensated for those sacrifices over time. We had an expectation that merit raises would be automatic and would not be "frozen" when it was time to collect. It is not up to the individual officers of LVMPD to either fund the Department or find ways to fund the Department — that is not our job.

Our officers are expected to be "the best of the best." They understand that are held to a higher standard. They understand that they are expected to know and follow a 700-page policy manual, and if you work at CCDC, another 200 pages of SOPs. We accept that we have a restriction on our First Amendment right to freedom of speech based on a social media policy. All that said, still we are asked to be the lowest paid officers in the valley. Taxpayers in Clark County need to understand there is a price to having quality officers and a quality police department. Our men and women were the first to step up and do the right thing when the economy was crashing in Las Vegas. We hoped that would mean something to the taxpayers and fiscal affairs. It's time to find out! **VB**

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# Choices

## POLICE OFFICER PAUL BIGHAM

Treasurer

When I reflect back on my career here at Metro, as well as before I became a police officer, I appreciate how much my career is the result of many different choices I made along the way. I am sure the same can be said for all of you as well. Sometimes we make choices in life that send us on to great things and unfortunately, sometimes we make choices that we later have to pay for, either monetarily or in some other punitive way.

Quite a few of us early on chose a path that included the military while others chose college. This was one of my first big choices. I was one of those who started my adulthood in the service. It was during my time in the Air Force that I grew up in many ways (although I have to admit I made some mistakes along the way too). And it was the Air Force that ultimately "landed" me here in this valley as I was stationed at Nellis AFB. I know that many of you also came into this area the same way.

It was during the time that I was stationed here at Nellis that I first learned about LVMPD. I heard great things about this agency and knew that I wanted to be part of it. Seeing the officers working the streets and hearing the stories of the military police on base had me hooked early on.

Back then everyone understood that you don't mess with Metro. This was another one of my big choices that really impacted who I am. I can still remember when I began testing for LVMPD. In particular, I remember sitting in the waiting area one day to take my polygraph test along with a few other recruits. While we were sitting there, one of the "salty" old detectives walked over and said, "Police work is not what it used to be kid — I would just shoot myself now if I had to work as long as you will." Stunned, we just looked at each other and went on with our polygraphs.

I was fortunate to be hired and started my police career with hardly any break between the Air Force and LVMPD. Again this is just one of those choices I made in life. It turns out to have been one of the best choices I have ever made for myself. I hope for those of you actually reading this that you feel the same way about your decision to come to Metro as well.

I didn't hire on to this agency for the money, benefits or retirement plan, although I knew that they were all there. The thought of retirement was so far off that honestly, I never paid any attention to it. All I knew was I was going to be wearing the tan uniform, driving around in a black and white and having a great time hooking and booking as many bad guys as we could catch in a single night!

After several years of working in patrol and having a blast, another one of those career choices came up. I was eligible to become an FTO and chose to try it out. This began a new phase in my career. After that more choices came my way. I took the chance to test for the Detective Bureau and was lucky enough to make it. Over the years I got the chance to work in several different places in the Bureau, learning a great deal from those who had made many of the same choices I did in my career in law enforcement. After about 10 years in the Detective Bureau doing several different jobs, I made yet another choice: I elected to move to the Traffic Bureau, where I got to do police work plus ride a motorcycle! And look — now here I am at the PPA. Who would have thought?!

Some of you may be wondering what I am rambling on about. I am simply saying don't get stuck in one area of the Department where you get bored and your job feels dull (or worse yet you become a bitter person). Police work is too fun and exciting to let that happen. The only thing consistent around this place is the change. Make a choice to change up your job every now and then within the Department. Don't let people tell you that a job already belongs to someone else and not to bother testing or trying. Change can be exciting and makes you a better, more well-rounded cop.

By making choices, we only enrich ourselves and allow ourselves to do our jobs better, while making more money and providing better for our families and retirement. Something you learn about after several choices and changes in the Department is how to make retirement better for you and your family. By making choices and changing jobs every so often, time flies by. If you don't like what you are doing, then make a choice and try something new. There are so many varied options within this agency, ranging from a desk job to flying a helicopter and everything in between. This is a great job and good place to work. We may all encounter some bumps along the path of our careers but overall this is a good place. I know it has been good to me. **VB**




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# Troop to Cop: Why do Military Veterans Make Good Officers?

## KIRK HOOTEN

Director of Governmental Affairs

In keeping with the spirit of this month's magazine honoring our military veterans, I have chosen to write about why military veterans make good police and corrections officers. I am not a veteran myself, having chosen to attend college out of high school, so I would ask for some leniency if any of my observations are off base. My perspective is that of a 19-year officer looking back through many years of great partners and co-workers who were military veterans. I have used my own observations, generally held beliefs and input from some of my current veteran co-workers to form most of the content of this article.

I think one of the easiest ways to highlight one of the more obvious assets of military service, firearm familiarity, is to tell a few funny stories from my academy. Having grown up on the beaches of both coasts, I had a lot of experience with water and waves. Firearms, not so much! I arrived at the academy a few years removed from college and working in the private sector without ever having fired a handgun, shotgun or rifle. I had the standard pellet gun most kids had but that was about it. I remember sitting in the orientation getting our equipment and looking at my Smith & Wesson 659 like it was a nuclear bomb. Fortunately for me, I had a few great academy mates with military experience who were more than willing to help me out when it came to dismantling, cleaning and especially learning to shoot the damn thing. They all had years of experience and firearm training from their military days.

Before I get on to the significant assets the military provides and a more serious analysis, I have a few more lighthearted examples from the academy. These are the ability to shine shoes and basic facing movements. I was the guy who got the classic line from TAC Officer Rich Davis, "Good grief Hooten, did you rub a chocolate bar on those boots before this inspection?" This was an easy one to figure out as I was surrounded by the men and women in my platoon with military service whose boots looked like mirrors. Now potentially the funniest part of all this is from first inspection, where I had absolutely no knowledge or experience with facing movements. When it came time to do an about face, I did a quick bunny hop from front to back hoping no one would see. I was wrong, and once again, I got a classic TAC Officer Davis response, "Hooten, what the hell was that? What do you think this is, an aerobics class?" Needless to say, none of my academy mates with prior military service had that problem! Many thanks to Dano Giersdorf, a military veteran, for teaching and monitoring my next 100 about faces as our class sergeant!

Having highlighted my own inequities in lacking some very basic skills inherent in military service, I would like to highlight some very significant advantages military veterans bring to our profession. Most people associate military service with a high level of discipline, integrity, respect for authority and adherence to a structure and chain of command. This is an easy transfer to civilian police agencies because most are pseudo-military in organization, structure and command/control. Additionally, our military veterans have already lived a portion of their lives under similarly strict codes of conduct that most police agencies apply to their officers. This is sometimes a major problem for non-military police employees to understand and accept. I can personally vouch for that!


I have seen that those coming out of the service have a higher level of confidence in themselves in many situations and seem to be less inclined to act as an individual. The teamwork concept is ingrained in them and reli-

ance on each other is paramount. There is an understanding that the success or failure overall is dependent on everyone doing their part. This success or failure in combat or police work is often a life or death situation so the dedication and commitment to success has the highest level of responsibility. Our military veterans come into our profession with significant experience in this area and immediately recognize the similarity and importance of success and consequences of failure. Someone without military experience might only discover this after a tragic event has already occurred.

Military experience in our current time has given many officers combat experience. This is possibly one of the most important factors for police agencies to consider because it means they have already been tested in high pressure, time-sensitive, life-and-death scenarios. Decision making in high-stress situations is an unknown for many officers. Many of our military veterans have already made decisions under duress and know how they will react in similar situations. They have made split-second decisions based on evaluating a dynamic event as it is unfolding. Doesn't that sound like a skill set you would want in your police officers? Many of them have already gone through the psychological and emotional roller coaster of having to take a life in the discharge of their duties and they might be better prepared for this type of situation in civilian law enforcement. Many of our veterans have been in leadership positions and positions with tremendous responsibility at an early age through their military experience and can carry that into their law enforcement careers.

There are many other attributes that our military veterans bring to civilian law enforcement to include life experiences, exposure to other cultures through travel and deployment and language skills. Also, many of our specialized units benefit from military experience like Air Support, SWAT, ARMOR, K-9 and Search and Rescue. Many of the operators in these units gained knowledge, skills, abilities and experience while serving in our armed forces in highly technical disciplines.

In closing, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of our veterans. It is because of my exposure to all of you that I was proud to support my own son in his choice to serve in the U.S. Army. You all have made a tremendously positive impact on me, our Department, our community, our country and our world. For that, I salute you! **VB**



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# Military Leave

## DETECTIVE DARRYL CLODT

Sergeant-At-Arms

As we near the end of the year, I always like to say thank you to all of you for all you do and all your hard work. This appreciation should come from the administration as well. A "thank you" costs nothing but it means a whole lot! As we write the last issue of *Vegas Beat* for 2012, I have to say that this one is kind of special for me. This article is not all that special unless you are one of the men and women who have worn another uniform. The uniform I am referring to is the one for your country. I would like to extend a special thank you to the men and women who are or have been part of the United States Air Force, United States Army, United States Navy, United States Coast Guard, and last but not least, The United States Marine Corps.

I was a proud member of the United States Air Force for 25 years. I served along with a lot of other Metro officers right here in Las Vegas at Nellis Air Force Base. This is also the namesake of one of our very own Metro officers, who is a good friend of mine. See if you can figure it out and go and talk with this fine officer and find out how "Nellis" got his name.

I wanted to touch briefly on our military leave provision in the contract. Every officer with Metro who is in the armed forces now gets 30 days of paid

leave to go and serve his country. This is for all military leave. In addition, if you are activated involuntarily and not by choice, the Department will pay any offset to your military salary so your paycheck stays the same as if you were still being paid by Metro, and most importantly, you will lose no benefits/pension time. It is also important to understand that when a member takes time off for military leave, this should not be counted as time off on the squad, thus preventing someone else from being off for vacation. Keep in mind that generally, you must notify the chain of command in your unit of assignment and your commanding officers information for contact.

Again I thank all of you who make Las Vegas a place worth staying, and I thank those of you who serve our county. Till next year, stay alert and stay alive. **VB**

## INSIGHT

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— Elmer Davis

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# Thanks or Thankless

## RORY NESLUND

Director of Communications

Officers begin their careers in law enforcement out on the streets protecting the innocent people of the community from the most violent scum walking the earth. Young officers quickly learn that they rarely hear “thanks” from the community for doing the job. Officers eventually accept this as part of the job and continue to press forward on the oath they swore to protect.

But the problem that really troubles officers today is the lack of thanks that they receive from the administration or chain of command within the Department. Officers call our office on numerous occasions to speak about a variety of issues regarding events that they were involved in. More often than not at some point it is brought up how disappointed they were about the lack of care from the Department for them as a person. Regardless of when we all went through the Metro Academy, it was ingrained into us that this is a family, the “Mighty Metro Family.” No matter what the issues are in a family, the value is that you stick together and support one another through whatever the situation is. Lately that does not seem to be the common consensus among members of this organization. The feeling among the officers here is that there is an “us against them” mentality. I could not believe the things I was hearing in regard to this happening as widely as it was with the Department.

There are a lot of new processes that have been put into place over the last several years on this agency. Whether it is CIRT, FIT, Animal Review Board or Office of Internal Oversight, these additional “eyes” into major incidents have created a feeling of distrust among officers from the administration. This very well may not be the intent of these areas of the Department, but it has become the unintended result in the eyes of many.

There was one specific incident that I was pretty close to where I know this is just how the officers involved felt. The incident began late in the evening when a team was called out from their home and away from their families to do what they “signed up” to do: Go catch the worst of the worst offender. This suspect was the “one” everyone talks about in police work. He was the dedicated and motivated individual that was ultimately not going to be taken alive! The “Reader’s Digest” of the story is that the team located the suspect, who had committed a violent murder earlier in the day, and attempted to safely arrest him. I won’t go into all the specialized techniques used by this section to safely apprehend these types of violent suspects, but they have arrested hundreds of suspects without incident. Ultimately, despite tried-and-true tactics, the suspect evaded all the attempts to safely capture him. He was dedicated. The suspect who was pinned under the tire of a pickup truck that was used to incapacitate him still managed to shoot one of our officers. At the end of the day, the suspect was ultimately shot and killed by return fire from officers.

The incident was a tragic and traumatic experience for everyone involved. But what followed in the days and months to come is the real tragedy. The process began with the CIRT and FIT process, which everyone understands happens. While this process is long and drawn out, most officers understand that and can accept it. The problem lies in all the indirect things that happen. During this investigation, the officers involved were separated from their squad and asked to work at a place in HQ that was segregated from their “team.” There was plenty of “desk” work that they could have done while still being part of their team and squad. To say the least the entire process was less than positive for many of the officers involved.

To make matters worse, in this particular case you have a cop shot in the line of duty and I would hope there would be no question as to the fact that injuries were sustained as a result of it. There should be no question about the care and rehabilitation of the officer. Unfortunately, that is not what occurred. Rather, this incident resulted in denials by workman’s compensation of many of the medical requests and treatments sought. WOW! We should be doing everything we can to get this officer back to 100% and not force him to have to fight and litigate simply to get the medical care necessary to make him whole again.

The incidents above and the lack of an actual “thanks for doing a good job!” from the Department in the days and months that followed is something that should never happen. We deal with enough from the uneducated or uncaring citizens of the community, but we are a family and should always be there for each other! This is not to be directed at anyone in particular, but as a whole I believe we can do better. I would like to thank the people who did reach out and support these officers in this particular incident, especially D/C McMahill and A/S Moody.

I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you out there doing a great job — thank you! **VB**

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# Sheriff's Message

SHERIFF DOUGLAS C. GILLESPIE

## Making the Decision to Promote: What You Should Consider

Deciding to promote is, or should be, a major decision in a Department member's career. Different people decide to promote for many different reasons. Regardless of the specific reason for choosing to promote, there are a multitude of factors to consider that are important, such as the added responsibility and increased expectations that come along with that promotion.

In recent articles, I spoke a great deal about leadership and the value of strong leaders, which are critical to the success of our organization. I believe that the development of a supervisor begins with the personal choice each individual makes to step forward and become a leader. The decision to promote should include a great deal of self-inspection and evaluation.

Before the testing process, an individual should consider what the added responsibility of promotion will mean to him/her, how it will affect their life and what he/she would bring to the position. This decision process should include a true self-evaluation of weaknesses and strengths, and personal expectations, as well as the expectations of others that come along with the added responsibility.

The next step is to prepare oneself to take on that role. That doesn't happen overnight. It's been said often that success requires preparation. Preparation is the essential element, not only for success throughout any promotional process, but for continued success after promotion. Those individuals who truly are not "ready" and have not prepared themselves adequately for a leadership position do a disservice to the Department and themselves. An individual must prepare for the position they desire and begin to build on the skills required for that position. A Department member should seek to enhance both their knowledge of the position, as well as their knowledge of the organization and their role within the organization. You can't expect to achieve a great deal of success if you have not invested an adequate amount of time studying and preparing.


One of the things I have mentioned previously that I feel holds tremendous importance are mentorships from those in supervisory and management positions. Individuals already in leadership roles on the Department possess a great deal of working knowledge and experience that would be invaluable to someone seeking to obtain a position of higher rank and greater responsibility. There simply is no substitute for the sharing of knowledge gained through years of practical experience. Mentors can fill many roles, from providing advice with career decisions to coaching and assisting an individual in their promotional

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preparations. I have benefitted a great deal from mentors in my career, and I have served as a coach and mentor for many years, because I see the value of knowledge sharing.

There are also a number of training opportunities available that will help in the preparation for the promotional process, regardless of the level or rank you hope to achieve. Leadership enhancement classes are available for both commissioned and civilian supervisors, which provide beneficial information and guidance to aid in professional growth. Although there is a great deal of training available within the Department, there are also courses and seminars that are provided by outside agencies. Department sponsored opportunities are posted on UMLV for easy access so interested personnel can see at any time what is available.

One of the leadership development programs that I am especially proud of is relatively new and has, so far, yielded positive feedback from those that have attended. The Leadership Development Series I am speaking of is facilitated by Dr. Rick Culley, and mentored by Assistant Sheriff Joseph Lombardo and Deputy Chief Gary Schofield. The series, which is 10 months in duration, was designed to provide an extensive and in-depth learning experience to help current and future leaders of this department to grow and be more effective. This type of training benefits the Department and the individuals who attend. Although this leadership program is still relatively new and evolving, it promises to go a long way in making our organization better by developing our leaders.

One last thing I would like to mention is that anyone seeking or holding the position of supervisor or manager needs to understand that they are "the Department. By that, I mean that every member of this Department needs to possess and live by the core values that are aligned with the organization. It is our core values that impact and influence our everyday decisions and priorities. Members should exemplify, through their body of work, that the Department's values are important to them, and their drive should always be geared toward making this Department the very best it can be. In doing so, those that aspire to become future supervisors will have a roadmap and a strong foundation to build upon. **VB**

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# PPA Members' Perspectives on Overseas Deployment

## JOHN DEAN HARPER

General Counsel

As Veterans Day approaches, I thought it would be interesting to hear from some of our members their perspective on being deployed overseas. It appears to me that our military's actions in Iraq and Afghanistan are unlike wars of the 20th Century. Those wars were personal, to every citizen, whether it was from rationing, working for a military contractor, losing a loved one or being drafted. As a citizen, you were directly affected by our nation's military engagement in another country.

On the contrary, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the ordinary citizen, seem distant and unobtrusive. They seem like a reality television show being played out on some far away, foreign stage. If a citizen is not directly involved in the military or has a close family member in the military, those wars are not on the day-to-day radar.

Therefore, we asked some of our current and formerly deployed members about their experiences. Below are some of their responses.

## Major John Woosnam (Retired), Nevada Army National Guard

### What months/years were you deployed overseas and where?

I was deployed to Paktia Province, Afghanistan, from October 2008 to July 2009. I spent most of my time in the district of Chamkani, but spent a few weeks in Jalalabad at the regional police academy, a bit of time at our headquarters in Gardez, some transit time in Kabul and two months in Khost as a liaison with 4/25 Infantry headquarters.

### What was your rank and job title while deployed?

I was a major and assigned as an embedded combat advisor to the Afghan National Police.

### What did you really do?

I was commander of Police Mentor Team (District) — Chamkani (PMT-D Chamkani), a team of advisors (between 12-14 guys depending on replacements) to two Afghan National Police districts; we were assigned to them through their basic police academy and back in their districts, where we advised, conducted joint patrols and operations and provided them with support; our focus was developing their logistics and personnel systems and improving "rule of law" in day-to-day police operations. We regularly attended shuras (meetings of community leaders) and worked closely with the local politicians to gain their support and confidence.



Major John Woosnam (Retired)

### Were you in combat or exposed to live fire, land mines, etc.? If so, describe if you felt comfortable, uncomfortable, scared, etc.

We were rocketed and mortared a couple nights a month, but this was little more than a nuisance. One of our team's trucks was IED'd on a mountain pass in February 2009. Two of the crew were injured (we initially thought only minor injuries, but two years later one guy was medically retired because of the injuries, including a broken back and crushed discs) and we were stuck on the pass overnight. The initial IED and small-arms attack was a blur; I thought it only lasted a few seconds but I later reviewed video from my helmet camera and it lasted about seven minutes. During the attack and what we thought was going to be a subsequent attack (in actuality, the Afghan National Police were signaling us with RPGs!), I was confident and calm, and as the afternoon progressed, we were unable to pull the damaged truck from the edge of the cliff on which it was lodged and I realized we would have to spend the night on the mountain with no U.S. reinforcements (bad weather prevented our other teams from reaching us and kept aircraft grounded). I was apprehensive. I expected a follow-up attack under cover of the night. Because of our particularly vulnerable position, I knew there was a likelihood that some or all of us could be killed. As commander I was responsible for the safety of my team and accomplishment of our mission. There really is no more serious burden than that, but my



team sergeant and I made a plan, coordinated the Afghans with us and prepared for a fight. Fortunately it snowed severely (about a foot in 8 hours) and the weather deterred the enemy from attacking. The next morning we were able to recover our truck and tow it back to our base, and the snow built up under the HMMWV as we towed it causing it to slide easier.

#### **Describe your living conditions.**

We were in a very remote part of Afghanistan, approximately 10km from the Pakistan border. Although our base was small and austere, it was still comfortable. The soldiers were constantly building and improving our buildings. We also had satellite internet, although it was a slow connection, we at least had internet. We had a very good working relationship with the two other teams on the base, another PMT for the Border Police and the host unit, a Special Forces team; we had a gym, a dining facility, helipad, firing ranges and a small store operated by a local Afghan. The latrine and laundry room were about 75 yards away from our team building, in which our room and command post were located. There was a large soccer field of hard-packed dirt and scattered rocks where we played football and soccer, sometimes with the Afghans; they beat us at soccer and preferred to watch and laugh at us as we played football. Local villagers would sit on their roofs and watch our games.

#### **Describe the food or drink.**

Our food was mostly standard bulk rations but still pretty good, augmented by locally purchased produce and sometimes meats. The cooks were Afghan locals supervised by U.S. troops. Although the food was good, it was repetitious; for example, you knew it was Monday when we had Italian food and Tuesday by the Mexican food. My favorite was local night for which we were served authentic Afghan food such as kabobs, rice, naan (flat bread) and chai tea; I drank a lot of chai tea, at shuras and meetings with our police. Unlike the U.S., personal and business are rarely separated in Afghanistan. It is generally considered rude not to offer guests chai and snacks and likewise impolite to refuse a host's offer.

#### **Describe the weather, terrain, pests, etc.**

The weather and terrain were very similar to northern Nevada, very mountainous. Our base was at 7,700 feet. Winters were cold and snowy and summers hot. Foul weather in the mountains and passes would often preclude U.S. aircraft from flying.

#### **Describe your uniform.**

Our uniforms were Fire Resistant Army Combat Uniforms (FRACUs), and we were authorized commercial hiking boots instead of combat boots because of the mountainous terrain. On missions we wore kevlar helmets and vests with hard plates; I let my troops wear plate carriers if they chose to do so. We also carried M4 rifles with Aimpoint optics, infrared laser target designators, 6-10 rifle magazines, grenades, Beretta M9 pistols, eye protection and Nomex fire resistant gloves and carried AN/PVS-14 night vision monoculars. When we were not on missions I let my soldiers wear civilian clothing on our small base when there were no "guests," like visitors from headquarters or other units in transit stopping temporarily at our base. We drove in a combination of M1151 Up-Armored HMMWV or UAH and huge Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) trucks called Cougars. They were huge, tall and wide, heavy and ill-suited for the narrow winding unpaved mountain roads of Afghanistan but built to protect us from anything the enemy could muster.

#### **Describe what food you missed the most.**

Pizza, I couldn't get good pizza anywhere. And beer, although I did get to drink one can of Heineken, I can only admit this now because I'm retired!

#### **Describe if you received any leave and if you did anything interesting.**

I got two weeks leave and went to San Diego with my family. On the way back to Afghanistan I went TDY to Ft. Riley to speak to other troops en route to Afghanistan as advisors.

#### **Describe what you missed the most from the states besides your family?**

Nothing but my family.

#### **Describe the method of contacting your family and how often you were able to.**

I emailed my family almost daily and got to call on our team's satellite phone once every two weeks or so. I had a cell phone but it didn't work on our base because we were so remote. When we went to our HQ once every month or so I could use the cell.

#### **Describe an experience you will never forget.**

There are so many experiences I will never forget, including the above IED attack and spending five days in a small village called Wurgar helping another unit recover a truck they had rolled. The last night we were there we intercepted radio communications from the Taliban indicating they were going to attack under cloak of darkness. We established fighting positions in the mountains around the village. It was close to 10 degrees Fahrenheit that night, and a pair of F15E attack aircraft flew a show of force over the village at about 0400 hours, flying 500 feet above the ground at full military power and shaking the whole place like an earthquake. It was so intense I literally got goosebumps typing that right now. They flew top-cover for us until dawn. That show of force likely deterred the Taliban from attacking. If I ever meet the lead pilot I'll buy her (yes, her) a beer.

#### **Describe what you learned from your experience.**

I learned a lot about my ability to act under pressure. The deployment was a tremendous boost to my self-confidence. My training and effort during our three months of pre-deployment, as well as my entire law enforcement and military careers, prepared me to deal with the physical, mental and emotional demands of a combat deployment. Most importantly, it reinforced how important my family was to me and me to them. Prior to my deployment, my squad was working a major case that kept us traveling two-to-three weekends a month, and the National Guard took another weekend. My responsibilities with the Army and Metro kept increasing and I couldn't spend the time at home I needed. I promised myself after the case was over I'd cut back. My wife supported my decision to volunteer to go to Afghanistan even though we knew it would be rough. A week or so after I returned from leave I was talking to my then 5-year-old son on the phone, his voice cracked and he said, "Dad, I thought you said you were coming home." A 5-year old doesn't understand "just a couple more months" or "I have to do it because the next best guy might not be good enough." He just understands Dad hasn't been home for a very long time. At that moment, wrapped in the blanket of a starless Afghan night, I knew I was going to retire when I got home. Six months after I completed my deployment I retired. I left the Army at a high point, proud I had done my duty, fond of my experiences, grateful for the friends I had made and fortunate to have my family's support.

#### **Describe what, if anything you miss from your deployment.**

I miss the camaraderie of my team from Afghanistan. In 21.5 years in the Army and 18 years as a cop in two PDs, I never felt camaraderie like we developed Team Business Time (which was our nickname among ourselves). A few of the guys I only knew for a couple of months on the deployment but we remain tight friends two-and-a-half years later.

(continued on page 16)



## PPA MEMBERS' PERSPECTIVES ON OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT

(continued from page 15)

### Describe what, if anything, you did to cope with the deployment and keep you going.

The team camaraderie kept me doing my best every day, I did not want to disappoint any of my guys and I did everything I possibly could to take care of them, I also told myself continuously I volunteered to go to Afghanistan in hopes my sons would never have to go. My methods of coping with the stress were exercising and writing. I kept a daily journal, detailing what we did and what I thought. I credit my wife with that technique; I don't know where she got it but she knows I am not the kind of guy to go to a counselor or therapist to talk about my problems, so she suggested I write things down. Keeping a journal got me to think analytically and in detail about what happened, and address any unresolved stress, frustration, anger or other emotions attached to the events.

### Describe how your overseas deployment has affected or changed your approach as an officer?

I became much more aware of Afghan and Muslim cultures, which prompted me to be a TLO.

## Master Sergeant, Christopher E. Crawford, Nevada Air National Guard

### What branch of the service?

United States Marine Corps Reserve; New York Air National Guard; Nevada Air National Guard currently on active duty with the 379 AEW U.S. Air Force Southwest Asia.

### What months/years deployed overseas and where?

I arrived here in Southwest Asia in August 2012 and will return in February 2013.

### What is your rank and job title while deployed?

I'm a master sergeant and my job title is the wing staff first sergeant.

### What do you really do?

In my current job, my role is to keep the commander aware of the health, welfare and morale of our unit. Some of the things I've done in my short time here are to help two members get home for emergency leave due to deaths in the family. I've had to resolve numerous lodging issues such as helping folks get a place to stay when they fall through the cracks. I ensure I pick up my folks keys and take them to their rooms myself or that the person they are replacing is there with me to greet them and ensure they are taken care of. As I type this, I just finished helping a young man that had no clue where to go because his people let him slip through the cracks.

### Are you in combat or exposed to live fire, land mines, etc.?

We are not exposed to live fire, though we have had intelligence of terror operatives in the area. By that I mean that is to be expected here in Southwest Asia. I feel pretty comfortable with the government here being an ally of the U.S.

### Describe your living conditions.

I live in a concrete building with senior enlisted and officers, so I'm pretty comfortable. I have my own room but I share a bathroom. We have air conditioning and heat so it's OK inside.

### Describe the food or drink.

The food is American but we have TCN or third country nationals cooking it. It's not too bad, but it's the same food every week, so it gets old real fast. We do have fast food on base that the franchise sells out of trailers, but it still tastes a little bit different from food in the states.

### Describe the weather, terrain, pests, etc.

Temperature here is a little warmer than Southern Nevada and Arizona and it is very humid. The terrain is pretty flat, but huge sand dunes near the coast line. I haven't seen much wildlife outside of this little desert fox type of animal and birds.

### Describe your uniform.

I'm in the summer weight Airmen Battle Uniforms (ABUs). The summer weight is much better than the standard issue. They are worth the over \$400 — I paid for the four sets I bought, money well spent.

### Describe what food you miss the most.

Nothing really because we get to go into town here on occasion so I'm trying new foods like Turkish, Moroccan, Nepalese and Lebanese. The country I'm in has had strong ties with the U.K. and has some European influence, so there is some pretty good European food downtown.

### Describe if you receive any leave and if you do anything interesting.

I will take my leave once I get back to the states. The plan is to take my son to Tokyo, Japan, for a week and a half to two weeks.

### Describe how often and the method of contacting your family.

I contact everyone differently, for example I have to call my mom because she doesn't use a computer. I have the magic jack app on my iPhone 4S. People I know with iPhones, I can text them through Wi-Fi. It's a neat thing I can do, but for some reason it only works between iPhones and no other cell phones. Everyone else I email, Facebook or call if I can. In other words, communication is pretty good.

### Describe an experience you will never forget.

I haven't had a real profound experience here yet. I'm taking everything in and trying to keep it for future reference. I did meet Secretary of State Ross Miller. He flew in for a few hours with some other secretaries of states. We had lunch and he coined those who lived in or were from Nevada. I thought that was pretty cool. We discussed how easy or not it was to be able to vote from overseas. As of the writing of this email I have not received my absentee ballot. I emailed the county at the email address on their website twice without word, so I think I may have to just send in a written ballot. I will address that issue when I get back. I don't think the county is that busy that they can't acknowledge an email, especially when it involves people's right to vote.

### Describe what you are learning from your experience.

Working for a general and two full-bird colonels is teaching me to look at things in a big picture all the while knowing that I have to help these visions become reality. I've always respected those in authority and knew they had a lot of demands, but seeing that up close every day is eye opening. What I try to do in my way is to help alleviate some of the stress by just taking a moment of their time and bringing them back from the mission. Another way of helping them is by ensuring that the enlisted folks on base are taken care of so there are less issues being up channeled.

### Describe what, if anything, you will miss from your deployment.

I can tell you what I'm going to miss the most — the people who have affected me in a positive way. I mean, being here you build strong ties to people especially in a foreign country whose culture is so different from ours.

### Describe how your overseas deployment may affect or change your approach as an officer.

I think my deployment has softened me to a degree when dealing with sensitive issues and topics. Case in point: I have an airman who is divorced and her husband has been giving her a hard time while she





SSG Terrence Vaughn

is away over here. As a cop we are first looking to see if any laws have been broken and looking for the facts instead of looking at the person as a human being. So I think this deployment has shifted me somewhat more to the middle of how I handle people with their various problems, issues and feelings. Don't get me wrong; when it's time, I still insert foot in buttocks when it is called for.

### SSG Terrence Vaughn, Nevada Army National Guard

On October 2, 2004, I was just returning home from the Academy and had turned on my cell phone. The voice mail message said, "Sergeant Vaughan, we're calling to notify you that you are being deployed. Please report in on October 17." Two weeks. Just two weeks to get my entire life organized and in order. Jackie and I were married on October 9 in a small ceremony with all the family and friends we could muster up in time. By October 17, I was in Santa Rosa, California, to link up with Bravo Company, 579th Engineer Battalion of the California Army National Guard. I was one of a handful of soldiers sent to fill up the ranks of Bravo Company, which was to augment the 3rd of the 160th Infantry Company. The 3/160th IN CO was being sent off to Sinai, Egypt, for a rotation as Multinational Force and Observers (MFO-48). What was once a six-month rotation for U.S. troops was now a one-year rotation due to extended tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soon we were in Ft. Lewis, Washington, to train up for the mobilization.

Only the Army could send us to the wettest, coldest place in the United States to prepare us for a mission in the hottest, most arid place on the planet. The training was intense but filled with gaps. Every briefing included the same statement from the instructors. "I don't know how it is in Egypt, but in Iraq ..." Everyone in Bravo Company knew what it was like in Iraq. They had just rotated out a few months before the Sinai call-up. Soldiers became frustrated, by both the instructors' lack of information about Egypt and their outdated information about Iraq. After completing all the "check-the-box" training and understanding the unbelievable rules of engagement in place in Sinai (warning shots are required, empty magazines in the weapon!), we shipped out and landed in country on January 13, 2005.

The MFO mission consisted of several observation posts located at various checkpoints (CP) around the American section of Sinai. When we arrived, we were given the "this is how things really work in Sinai" briefing and then later sent out into the desert. We were to observe Egyptian troop movement within our sector and report it to higher

headquarters. Soldiers would be posted at the CPs for a 28-35 day period and then rotated back to South Camp. At South Camp, we would rotate into the base security positions and provide a Quick Reaction Force for the base. My first position was CP-3Bravo, the furthest and most western CP in the American sector. CP-3Bravo consisted of three temporary trailers, two generators with their fuel tanks, two water tanks, seven days of food, fuel and water and a flimsy defensive wall. Looking out the triple strand concertina wire, we engineers immediately concluded that the CP was put in the least defensible position with the worst fields of fire. If we were ever attacked, it would be one hell of a firefight and a very long walk back to South Camp.

Days consisted of long vehicle patrols, windy sandstorms, Bedouins and boredom. White plastic bags (jokingly referred to as the Egyptian National Flower) sprouted on the perimeter fences. Old anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were scooped out of the sand by the wind and blown rolling across the roads and desert-like lethal tumbleweeds. Nights in the winter were bone numbing cold. Due to the time zone difference, I would call Jackie in the wee hours of the morning and then hang up. She would call me back using a phone card. Jackie talked about life in Las Vegas and I just enjoyed hearing her voice. I never really had much to contribute to the conversation. "So, how're things? What are you doing?" she would ask. "Things are good. Not doing much," I would reply. Days in the summer were blistering hot. I remember one day it "rained" in Sinai. A hazy mist rolled over the mountains, left a light dusting of dew on everything and then drifted away. That was the .01 inch of annual rainfall for the area.

The Egyptians never liked us and saw the American presence as only a source of local income. It is not surprising that Al-Qaeda easily convinced the locals to support their terrorist activities. U.S. soldiers were allowed to go off post in civilian clothes without weapons and visit the local town of Sharm el-Sheik, Old Sharm and Eilat, Israel. Halfway into our tour, our "Operation Club Med" was interrupted by an IED just outside of North Camp. The two Canadian soldiers were unharmed, a little shaken up and entirely surprised. A little while later while I was in Eilat, terrorists launched missiles from Jordan into Eilat. They were trying to blow up a United States Marine Corps boat at anchor. The missile went high over our hotel and landed in the center of town. The engineers were quickly rounded up and sent back to Sinai. On July 23, 2005, they struck again, this time with two huge IEDs. One IED went off in Sharm el-Sheik and another in Old Sharm. After that, we were assigned as security for the Uruguayan soldiers transporting the diesel and water to the remote sites. I looked over at Sergeant Kirby on one of the escort missions. "Who would've thought that we would be riding in an unarmored Chevy pickup truck, providing security for a rolling bomb driven by Uruguayans to a remote site occupied by Colombian soldiers? They didn't cover this in Ft. Lewis."

I enjoyed the deployment in Sinai. Was it a combat zone? No. Was I shot at or did I encounter landmines? A few times, but it was never serious. Were the living conditions horrible? Did the bugs, the blistering heat, the separation from my family make life miserable? Sure, but it was what I signed up for and I had no illusions that I was going to be staying at the Hilton. Besides, it was Egypt, not Iraq or Afghanistan. I made good friends, came back with plenty of experiences, became a better engineer and strengthened my relationship with my wife. For my leave, we were able to meet in Madrid, Spain, for a long-delayed honeymoon that took us across Spain and into the Balearic Islands. Sinai was my second deployment and the first "deployment" for my wife. I was deployed again in 2008 for another peacekeeping mission in Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo. But, Camp Bondsteel had internet, cafes on base and a Taco Bell! I was able to Skype with my wife when I returned to the barracks. But, Sinai — standing in a guard tower on a cold winter night, the moon floating high in a sea of stars, alone with nothing but my thoughts in a desert barren as far as I could see ... my self-reliance was strengthened in that serene isolation. **VB**

# HONORING OUR MILITARY

## THIS VETERANS DAY

As this issue of *Vegas Beat* coincides with Veterans Day, the folks here at the PPA would like to take the opportunity to recognize Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department employees with military backgrounds. Know that we appreciate and honor you and thank you for your service.

Jim Andreas	U.S. Navy	David J. Martel	U.S. Air Force
Jeffery Bengel	U.S. Air Force	Darren A. McCray	U.S. Air Force
Paul Bigham	U.S. Air Force	Michael Mendez	U.S. Marine Corps
Robert Bradley	U.S. Marine Corp	Scott Miller	U.S. Army
Thomas "Adam" Carpenter	U.S. Army	Carlos A. Miranda	U.S. Air Force
William Carpenter	U.S. Army/U.S. Army Reserve	Gregory Munson	U.S. Air Force
Michael A. Castaneda	U.S. Air Force	Robert J. Neumuller	U.S. Air Force
Robert "Bobby" Chamberlin	U.S. Marine Corps	Christine Ostrowski	U.S. Navy
Mark Chaparian	U.S. Air Force	James H. Parker, Jr.	U.S. Marine Corps
Bill Chavera	U.S. Air Force	Kyle Pearson	U.S. Air Force
Bruce (Bruno) Choueiri	U.S. Army	Troy Radke	Michigan Air National Guard
Darryl Clodt	U.S. Air Force	Vince Ramirez	U.S. Air Force
Christopher E. Crawford	U.S. Marine Corps Reserves	Thomas J. Reid	U.S. Marine Corps
	NY Air National Guard	Jerome Reyes	U.S. Marine Corps
	NV Air National Guard	Brian Rich	U.S. Air Force
H. "Buck" Crosby	U.S. Marine Corps	Lawrence J. Rinetti	U.S. Marine Corps Reserve
Casey Dalrymple	U.S. Army	Manuel "Manny" Rivera	U.S. Army
Kai M. Degner	U.S. Marine Corps	Chad P. Shevlin	U.S. Marine Corps
Gwenevere Dentler	U.S. Navy	John P. Smaistrla	U.S. Marine Corps
Sam Diaz	U.S. Army	Mark Smith	U.S. Army
Erik Dockery	U.S. Marine Corps	Joshua Bain Stearns	U.S. Air Force
Matthew F. Donaldson	U.S. Army National Guard	Loren E. Stevens	U.S. Marine Corps
James J. Downing	U.S. Navy	Richard S. Sua	U.S. Air Force
Joseph Duffy	U.S. Marine Corps	Jeff Tabor	U.S. Air Force
Darrell Eddings	U.S. Army	Robert "Thack" Thacker	U.S. Air Force
Juan Fernandez	U.S. Air Force	TJ Ticano	U.S. Marine Corps
Randy Foreman	U.S. Army	David Tomczak	U.S. Air Force
Otto Foster	U.S. Army	E. Jason Torrey	U.S. Air Force
Frederick P. Garcia, Jr.	U.S. Air Force	David W. Truax	U.S. Air Force
Rodolfo Gil	U.S. Coast Guard	Chris Tucker	U.S. Army Reserves
Jerome J. Gretka, Jr.	U.S. Army	Terrence Vaughan	Nevada Army National Guard
Jeffery Guyer	U.S. Army	Tim Vaughan	U.S. Air Force Reserves
Roger C. Haskins	U.S. Navy	David Brian Wheatley	U.S. Air Force
Gabriella Hatfield-Cook	U.S. Army Reserves	Travis White	U.S. Marine Corps
Mark Hatten	U.S. Air Force	Richard G. Williams, Jr.	U.S. Army
Roy Hoernke	U.S. Air Force	John Woosnam	Nevada Army National Guard
Joshua Law	U.S. Army	Bryan Yant	U.S. Marine Corps
Gregory Lowell	U.S. Air Force	Walter I. Young III	U.S. Army Reserve Military
Kent Ma	U.S. Marine Corps		Police Corps
Geary Madison	U.S. Air Force		U.S. Air Force <b>VB</b>
Gary Mahoney	U.S. Marine Corps		
William Marsh	U.S. Army		







## REMEMBERING MY UNCLE

(continued from page 6)

*We were eventually evacuated by the Russians to the 3rd U.S. Army (General Patton's Army) and thence in stages [went] back to the England.*

*After returning from Germany [and] some leave and rehabilitation training, I requested to return to The Light Regiment, which I did, but it disbanded in late 1945, and 20 of us flew out to Hyderabad, India, as advance party to Eagle Troop, 6th Royal Horse Artillery, the rest of them travelling by sea. They were, by now, using Sherman tanks as OPs and armoured self-propelled 25 pounders! We could well have done with those at Arnhem! It was a good regiment and I stayed with them until de-mobbed.*

Uncle George Durant died on the September 11, 2010 at the age 88 years. His wish was to be cremated and have his ashes buried with his mates who fought and died in the battle of Arnhem. In early 2011, his ashes were taken in a casket on a tour around all the principle sites of the European Battles. In September 2011 my mom and I traveled to The Arnhem-Oosterbeek War Cemetery, more commonly known as the Airborne Cemetery, to intern his ashes. This cemetery was established in 1945 and every year since the surrounding towns people honor the self-sacrifice these brave men made to help liberate their country by holding a weekend of ceremonies that accumulate in a flower-laying memorial for the 1,750 graves at the Airborne Cemetery. The town's children file into

the manicured grounds and stand in front of the graves. The children have done this each September since 1946. On cue, they lay the flowers on top of the grave markers and then speak the name of the soldier and kiss the top of the marker. This is very emotional and touching remembrance for the fallen P# 6549 and surviving heroes to be honored. It is fitting that the entrance to the Arnhem-Oosterbeek War Cemetery lay and solid piece of granite with the words, "There Name Liveith For Evermore." VB



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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE CONTEST WINNERS  
FROM THE LAST ISSUE!

## Hidden Symbol Contest (\$250)

David Newton, P# 5278



## P# Contest (\$50)

Raul Herrera, P# 5920

Ron Wright, P# 7560

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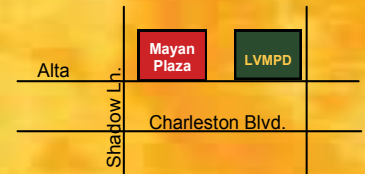
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# CALENDAR

November 11 Veterans Day  
 November 24 Thanksgiving  
 December 6 1700 hours General Membership Meeting

*\* General Membership Meetings are quarterly P# 4523 rather than monthly. If you need to present something before the Board prior to a regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting, please contact the PPA office so you can be accommodated.*

## Discount Theme Park Tickets

Tickets may be purchased in person at the LVPPA office located at 9330 W. Lake Mead Blvd, Suite 200 during normal business hours (M - F 7:30a - 5p).  
 ACCEPTABLE METHODS OF PAYMENT ARE CASH, CHECK, CREDIT/DEBIT (Visa/Mastercard only).

For questions and information, please contact the LVPPA at (702) 384-8692.

The LVPPA makes no profit from the sales of Theme Park Tickets; however, our ticket costs are rounded to the nearest dollar.

THEME PARK	TICKET	GATE PRICE	LVPPA PRICE
Knott's Berry Farm	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$57.99	\$32.00
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$29.99	\$23.00
	2 and under Free		
Legoland	Two Day Ticket - Legoland Only - Adult/Child (3-12)	Adult - \$95.00/Child - \$85.00	\$59.00
	Two Day Ticket - Legoland Hopper - Adult/Child (3-12) (Legoland, Sea Life, Water Park)	Adult - \$110.00/Child - \$100.00	\$69.00
	2 and under Free		
Magic Mountain	One Day Ticket - Adult/Child	\$64.99	\$33.00
San Diego Zoo	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$42.00	\$37.50
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$32.00	\$29.00
	2 and under Free		
Sea World	One Day Ticket - Adult/Child (3-9)	\$73.00/\$65.00 one day ticket	\$51.00
	2 and under Free		
Universal Studios	One Day w/2 Days free Ticket — Adult/Child under 48"	\$80.00 one day	\$69.00
	2 and under Free		
Wild Animal Park	One Day Ticket - Adult	\$42.00	\$37.50
	One Day Ticket - Child (3-11)	\$32.00	\$29.00
	2 and under Free		

Visit our website at [www.lvppa.com](http://www.lvppa.com).

You can also contact our webmaster at [webmaster@lvppa.com](mailto:webmaster@lvppa.com).



# THANK YOU LETTERS

PPA,

Thank you. I don't always get a chance to read the monthly magazine. I appreciate you guys making these videos available as an option. Thank you!

— Ryan Smith

Roy,

I got it figured out thanks for your assistance. Nice extra from the PPA for a new truck purchase. If you would please tell our PPA representatives that after 20 years of being a member I am very happy with the work that everyone does down there. Thanks again.

— Fred Szymanski

## RETIREMENTS

09/20/2012	George Sherwood, P# 3676	Detective
09/21/2012	Norman F. Mattimoe, P# 3438	PO II
09/28/2012	Michael Q. Albanese, P# 2876	CO II
10/18/2012	Jacquelyn Y. Denby, P# 6411	PO II
10/20/2012	Donald Petrosius, P# 4585	PO II
11/08/2012	Gerald V. McKinnon, P# 2875	CO II
11/30/2012	Cynthia J. Clark, P# 3980	PO II
12/06/2012	Gary A. Mahoney, P# 3173	PO SGT.
12/28/2012	Raymond Berni, P# 1488	PO II

## EDITORIAL POLICY

1. Opinions expressed in *LVPPA Vegas Beat* are not necessarily those of the Las Vegas Police Protective Association.
2. No responsibility is assumed for unsolicited material.
3. Letters or articles submitted shall be limited to 500 words and must be accompanied by writer's name but may be reprinted without name or address at writer's request.
4. Freedom of expression is recognized within the bounds of good taste and limits of available space.
5. The Board of Directors reserves the right to edit submissions and/or include Editor's Notes to any submitted material.
6. The deadline for submissions to *LVPPA Vegas Beat* is approximately 30 days prior to the issue date.

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