



John A Barnes III (MOH) New England Chapter 9 173rd Airborne Brigade Association



November 2010

[Mission Statement](#)

We welcome you to our Newsletter in hopes that you and yours are well. We wish you all a happy Veteran's Day, and our thanks to you for serving our great Country!

The Chapter continues its trials and tribulations of updating the membership records at national level. There has been a lot of headway made, with more to do. We suspect that there will be some writings by national confirming this. The most accurate updates are available on our website. [Membership 11-8-2010](#) If your data is wrong or missing, let Dennis Hill know, dhill173@verizon.net or call 781-769-6062 so that we can correct these errors.

Next Membership Meeting will be 20 November, 12:00 hrs @ VFW Post 2125, 40 Orange St. Bridgewater, Ma, everyone is invited. [Map](#).

We will never forget [Nov 8th, 1965](#)

173rd Memorial Dedication slide presentation [Memorial](#)

2011 Reunion [Texas](#)

International Picture of the Year: [# 1](#)

Here is a link to some insight of the happenings aboard Air Force 1 on 9/11 [Air Force One](#)

John Barnes (MOH) has a corner named in his honor in Dedham, Ma. [Barnes](#)

Arlington National Cemetery changes [Arlington](#)

Another American hero dies [Pamela Murphy](#)

The newsletter belongs to us all, if you have something that you want to share with us, submit your article to Dennis Dhill173@verizon.net or give him a call 781-769-6062. We will include it in our next newsletter.

To show how wide spread our website and the internet really is, here is an email received by our webmaster of a picture on our website.

"A friend sent me a link to your site, the "Aircraft" page.
<http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Aircraft.html>

The jumpmaster photo that is posted on each side is me. We were (Obviously) just a few minutes from jumping into Honduras.

I'm sure you wanted the most handsome jumpmaster you could find for your website :-). Not sure where you got it but a couple of points you should be aware of:

I never served in the 173rd. That photo was taken circa 1986. You can judge by the kevlar helmet and the OG107 uniform that the jumpmaster is clearly in one of the Ranger Battalions as they were the only units in the Army at the time issued the old style OG107s. Also the Seiko Sport 200 wrist watch indicates E6 or above. I was an E6 at the time.

I wound up leaving the 1st Ranger Bn and going to 1st SF. Later I went to OCS and retired a few years ago as a Major.

I never spent a day in a conventional Airborne unit; it was all with SOCOM or JSOC. My son however has completed three combat tours with the 1-325 Airborne and is currently on his fourth tour in Afghanistan with the 101st.

To correctly attribute the photo, here's the data:

SSG Danny Strickland
1st Ranger Battalion
Circa 1986
Honduras

Very Respectfully
Danny Strickland"

President:

Greetings to all. The Holiday season is fast approaching. We hope that our warriors down range can make it home in time to celebrate this with their families. There is still no official time as to when the Brigade will return other than soon.

We have been writing about the problems with membership record keeping. There are changes happening at the National level to correct these problems. Chapter 9 has been asked to do the membership job for the entire Association. We have accepted this task. What does this mean to you the members, nothing other than we can now see, and correct any problems that we inherit. This is scheduled to transpire + or - Jan 2011. We have already corrected many of these errors. It is important that if you have paid your dues, and have not received a membership card, and not receiving the Sky Soldier Magazine to let Dennis know 781-769-6062. Keep in mind that you can also correct your own records by logging on to Nations website, User name is your email address, and your password is the first letter of your last name and the last 6 numbers of your SSN. Problems contact Dennis and he can walk you through it. [National](#)

Happy Veteran's day. You have earned the right and the honor to hold your head up high for serving our Country.

I hope to see you at a future membership meeting as we continue to move around New England. We have enjoyed meeting our members and look forward to meeting you.
Be well.

Peter Klausner
President, Chapter 9

Secretary:

Well Halloween is over and now we wait to celebrate Thanksgiving. This time of the year makes me remember many things I must do before the end of the year. (Change batteries in the smoke detectors, finish up around the yard and house for winter, and send all of my dues for the coming year to the many veterans groups I belong to) Believe me when I say I belong to many. So take my advice and do the same while thinking about it. Send your dues of \$24.00 into the Chapter Secretary to remain current. There are quite a few members I need to speak to about dues for the year 2011, so will be making some phone calls. If your not sure if your current or not, give me a call at (781)-769-6062 and I can let you know.

Hope to see many of you at the next chapter meetings; it is always nice to see new faces.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families

All the Way
Dennis P. Hill, (Chapter Secretary)

Service Officer:

VA Extends Routine Future Examinations Schedule by Three Years

VA will now schedule routine future examinations at five-year intervals instead of two-year intervals hoping to cut claims backlog.

SUBJ: Procedural Change Regarding Routine Future Examinations

Revision

This fast letter is revised to comport with 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 3.344. We changed the information on handling the results of a routine future examination on page 2.

Purpose

At the recent VBA Leadership Workshop, a recommendation was made to modify compensation claims processing procedures to schedule routine future examinations at 5-year intervals instead of 2-year intervals. This fast letter implements this procedural change to aid in the reduction of the rating-related claims inventory.

Procedure

This procedural change applies to reexaminations under 38 CFR §3.327 and is effective immediately. Claims should be thoroughly analyzed to determine if a routine future examination is necessary. Once it is determined that a routine future examination is needed, schedule the examination 5 years from the date of the rating decision, with the following exceptions:

Prestabilization rating decisions under 38 CFR §3.327(b)(1).

Discharge from military service due to a mental disorder caused by traumatic stress under 38 CFR §4.129.

Malignancies that require reevaluation 6 months following cessation of treatment for active disease.

Any other future examination required under other sections of 38 CFR Part 3 and Part 4.

38 CFR §3.327 states that reexaminations, including periods of hospital observation, will be requested whenever VA determines there is a need to verify either the continued existence or the current severity of a disability. Reexaminations will be required if it is likely that a disability has improved, or if evidence indicates there has been a material change in a disability or the current rating may be incorrect.

Routine future examinations established prior to the date of this fast letter (excluding the exceptions listed above) will be automatically rescheduled for 5 years from the date of the rating decision through a software program. Regional offices will be notified when this has been completed. Until notified, all routine future examinations that mature should be advanced to a date 5 years from the date of the rating decision that established the need for the routine future examination.

Per 38 CFR §3.344(a), when the results of a routine future examination (set at 5 years out) show improvement of a disability that is subject to temporary or episodic improvement, a reduction in evaluation cannot be made based on only one examination, unless all the evidence of record clearly warrants the conclusion that sustained improvement has been demonstrated. The second examination should be scheduled for 18, 24, or 30 months from the date of the new rating decision per 38 CFR §3.344(b). Note that the provisions of 38 CFR §3.344(a) and (b) do not apply to disabilities which have not become stabilized and are likely to improve. Reexaminations showing improvement in these disabilities will warrant reduction in rating.

Joe Armstrong
Veteran Service Officer

Chaplain's corner:

Age is not a liability, but a provider of time to give you scope and understanding. In 10 years you will be able to do some things in 15 minutes that takes you four hours to do now.

Temper gets you into trouble, and pride keeps you there. The time to correct error is at its first occurrence and as quickly as possible.

YOU are the sum total of the decisions you've made.

Rev. Guy Hodgkins

“We the people are the rightful masters of both
the Congress and the Courts - not to overthrow the Constitution but to overthrow men who pervert the
Constitution”.

Abraham Lincoln

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.

