



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



August 2010

Good day from the members and officers of Chapter 9. Summer is fast departing us and soon we will be complaining about the cold weather.

Sadly we report that another member and friend of our chapter died. Dave Dolby (MOH) recipient, died on 6 Aug. Dave was 64. Dave received his medal while assigned to the 1st Cav, he did a tour *after* his award with the 173rd. [Dave Dolby](#). We wish him peace. Dave had wished for a private service at Arlington so at this time the paying of respects by the Chapter is unclear. However, there will be a public memorial service in Phoenixville, Pa. on Saturday, September 18th, at a VFW post. The Chapter is considering a van for the services at Phoenixville, more detailed info as we evolve will be posted to the website: Contact Dennis Hill if interested dhill173@verizon.net. [Dave Dolby an American Hero](#)

Troop Support down range: After our sending our "goodies" down range we still have some monies remaining. We have made contact with the Rear Area POC's and they stated that they are in the process of providing homecoming gifts and bedding for the troops. It was discussed that we should split the remaining monies in half and send it to them to purchase what is needed. We feel that this will help in their readjusting period and remind them that we care about their well being.

Again we want to thank everyone for their help in this. Without the generosity of you, the members we would not have been able to accomplish our mission.

If you are a paid member of the Association, you should have received a membership card and be receiving the Sky Soldier Magazine. If you are lacking either of these, kindly contact Dennis Hill and make him aware so that we can locate the error and ensure that your records are correct. dhill173@verizon.net.

Upcoming events: [Chapter Calendar](#)

The Rhode Island Leap Fest was a great event. A beautiful day, and the sky was filled with parachutes. We had the opportunity to meet members from the area, all in all a great event. Congratulations go to the organizers of the event. A special thanks to the Chapter members that donated their time an effort on a long day on the DZ.

For those of us that do not get a copy of the Sky Soldier Magazine we have included a copy on our website. [Sky Soldier](#)

The Movie trailer [Restrepo](#)

Spread the word! This year VA BHS will be hosting a Returning Veterans' Employment and Education Expo at the Jamaica Plain campus on September 25 from 10am - 2pm. The JP campus is located at 150 S. Huntington VA and the Green Line's E line-Heath Street/VA Medical Center stops right at our parking lot.

This event will be a great opportunity for all veterans to meet representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies to learn about employment opportunities. Learn skills and strategies to improve your chance of being hired into a rewarding position. We have over 25 agencies (and more being added) that will be on hand that day to talk with you. Local colleges and universities will also be represented.

We will have 4 seminars beginning at 11:30am and repeated again at 12:30pm on:
How to search USA Jobs and navigating the federal application process;
The "ins and outs" of federal employment and vocational rehabilitation;
Brush up your resume writing and interviewing skills; and Watch your spending, hints from American Credit Counseling.

If you know a veteran who would benefit by attending, pass the word. Bring your DD214 or current Military ID to be eligible to enter a raffle!

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President:

Greetings to all, I often prowl the internet researching meaningless things. But I did stumble across something that I would like to share with everyone.

Definition of Paratrooper. *-noun*

a member of a military infantry unit trained to attack or land in combat areas by parachuting from airplanes

Definition of exparatrooper,

No results found for exparatrooper

This only reinforces what I already knew; there may be old paratroopers, but no such thing as an exparatrooper.

I encourage your continued support of our Chapter and attending one of our regular gatherings. We have moved our meeting locations to be easier for you to make a meeting. We will continue this idea for another year in hopes that attendance will increase. **Our next general membership meeting will be on 18 Sept, 63 Veterans Way, Springfield MA at 12:00 hrs. All are invited.**

Peter Klausner
President

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Secretary:

Hello Troopers,

First off I would like to let you who don't know that I finally made the move to have my knees corrected. On July 02, 2010 I had my left knee totally replaced and was in the hospital at the West Roxbury VA Hospital for 17 days. I now have a titanium knee and am so glad I did it./ The care I received from operation, physical training, to coming home was nothing short of the best. I received such wonderful care at the VA that I cannot say enough, it's all about the Veterans comfort and rehab. For those of you who sent cards, made a visit or called me I want to thank you all. It is so nice to know there are those of you who care (Thank You All).

Now, I have been out of operation for quite a few months and have not attended the last few meetings, so it is now time to pick up the ball and run with it. It is time to get back to basics. Do you know there are still about 30 members who did not renew their membership for 2010, are you one of them? We have about four months left in this year and we are now accepting your dues for 2011. Before it slips your mind, please consider sending in your dues for 2011. The chapter is in the process of attempting to work with National, but there are many hurdles that have been put in place by them making it harder to just do our jobs. You can rest assured that this chapter, your chapter always puts the members well being first and foremost. We will continue to make sure that the member's interests come first.

Every year the chapter has set a goal to reach out and recruit new members, and this year is no different. As of this writing the chapter has located 25 new members for the year and our goal of 30 is fast approaching. Do what you can to recruit new members, wear your colors on a tee shirt, and wear your chapter hat. Don't have a tee or chapter hat? The chapter has all kinds of products on the web site for purchase. Need something, go to <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/PX.html> and look at the products for sale by the chapter.

In closing I would like you all to know that the New England Chapter 9 is over 400 strong and getting stronger all of the time. This is your chapter and your support keeps the chapter going. Enjoy the rest of the summer and the cookouts before old man winter comes knocking on our door.

My best to you and your families, Airborne All The Way

Dennis P. Hill, (Chapter Secretary)

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Service Officer:

March 25, 2010

WASHINGTON – Well over 100,000 Veterans exposed to herbicides while serving in Vietnam and other areas will have an easier path to qualify for disability pay under a proposed regulation published by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that adds three new illnesses to the list of health problems found to be related to Agent Orange and other herbicide exposures.

“This is an important step forward for Vietnam Veterans suffering from these three illnesses,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “These warriors deserve medical care and compensation for health problems they have incurred.”

The regulation follows Shinseki’s October 2009 decision to add the three illnesses to the current list of diseases for which service connection for Vietnam Veterans is presumed. The illnesses are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson’s disease; and ischemic heart disease.

The Secretary’s decision is based on the latest evidence of an association with widely used herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War, as determined in an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM).

Even though this is a proposed rule, VA encourages Vietnam Veterans with these three diseases to submit their applications for compensation now so the Agency can begin development of their claims and so they can receive benefits from the date of their applications once the rule becomes final.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 30 days. The final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

“We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will,” Shinseki added. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence.”

Over 80,000 of the Veterans will have their past claims reviewed and may be eligible for retroactive payment, and all who are not currently eligible for enrollment into the VA healthcare system will become eligible.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. military used more than 19 million gallons of herbicides for defoliation and crop destruction in the Republic of Vietnam. Veterans who served in Vietnam anytime during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending on May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange and other herbicides left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present.

The new rule will bring the number of illnesses presumed to be associated with herbicide exposure to 14 and significantly expand the current leukemia definition to include a much broader range of leukemias beyond chronic lymphocytic leukemia previously recognized by VA.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a “presumed” illness don’t have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA’s “presumption” rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- AL Amyloidosis,
- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy,
- Chloracne or other Acneform Disease consistent with Chloracne,
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, (now being expanded)
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2),
- Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma,
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda,
- Prostate Cancer,
- Respiratory Cancers (Cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea), and
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi’s sarcoma, or Mesothelioma).

Joseph Armstrong
Service Officer

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Chaplain’s Corner:

The gospels of the Bible guide us into right thinking. For example, *John 10:10* states: *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

This is a very simple statement. The thief (the devil) comes to steal our joy, kill relationships and people, and to destroy our families. But, Jesus says He has come to bring into our lives healing and deliverance, and to protect us from what the devil wants to do to us.

There is a great spiritual battle raging around us everyday, and we all know about battles! Of this spiritual battle, God tells us in *Ephesians 6:12*: *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

As the devil does things against you and your family, he is trying to accomplish a number of things. First, he is trying to get you to question the goodness and love of God. Second, he is trying to get you to turn your back on God and Jesus Christ. Another thing he'll try is to get you to hate God and not trust Him. And lastly, he will try to get you to turn to a false religion.

In *1 Peter 5:7*, we are told to *"cast all your cares upon God, for He cares for you."* God loves you and He would never do anything to hurt you. It's important to always recognize the enemy. You must trust God, and not fall into the tricks and traps of the devil.

God Bless You
Guy Hodgkins

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"War is eternity jammed into frantic minutes that will fill a lifetime with dreams and nightmares"

John Cory

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.

