



The E-9ers

COLORADO

<http://www.e9ers.org/>
<http://www.e9ers.com/>

**Army
Navy
Air Force
Marine Corps
Coast Guard**

March 2011

Volume 14 Number 3

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Fellow E-9ers:

I would like to bring to your attention the fact that a number of companies lend support to our troops and Vets. I do not hesitate to ask at the checkout if they offer discounts to active duty and retirees. For the most part, a lot of companies give free meals on Veterans day—Golden Corral is one—but the Cracker Barrel does not. When questioned on Veterans day, Ann was told that they didn't have a program like that. Ann, then called the corporate headquarters for Cracker Barrel, and was informed that they donate a portion of all gift shop sales to the Wounded Warriors program, a very good organization. I am sure most are aware of the companies that give discounts, but it doesn't hurt to ask. A penny saved--you know the rest.

Your Prez'
Bill

NEW VA GENETIC DATABASE PROJECT

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Research and Development is launching an unprecedented partnership between the VA and the million veterans expected to volunteer to help build one of the largest databases of genetic, military exposure, and health information through the "Million Veteran Program (MVP)". By providing a blood sample and health information to help researchers uncover the connections between genetic variations and a wide range of health issues, veterans who volunteer in MVP are making a crucial contribution to genomics research and to an improved understanding of new ways disease might be prevented and treated. For more information about MVP, visit the VA's Million Veteran Program (MVP) webpage at <http://www.research.va.gov/MP>.

Military.com News Article, Dated January 31, 2011

18 SENATORS PRESS VA FOR CAREGIVERS

Chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), along with 17 Senators from both sides of the aisle, have written to Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Eric Shinseki, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Jack Lew, to urge the Administration to carry out the law and begin providing supportive services to caregivers of wounded veterans. It has been reported that some family members of seriously injured veterans have had to leave their jobs and make tremendous sacrifices without training, counseling, and financial benefits.

Military.com News Article, Dated February 14, 2011

The E-9ers OFFICERS

The following officers of the E-9ers Association are interested in hearing from you and what suggestions that you may have to improve our group. If you have any thoughts that you would like to share, please give one or more of them a call. They would love to hear from you.

President: Bill Kelm

303-955-2514

kelmwoods@comcast.net

Vice President: Bob Gerle

303-288-7442 (Home)

303-263-1109

bobgerle@comcast.net

Secretary: Sharon Melcher

303-341-9170

E-mail: kcmelcher@comcast.net

Treasurer: Ken Melcher

303-341-9170

E-mail: kcmelcher@Comcast.net

Director: Jack Hunter

303-797-3136

jackhunter@e9ers.org

Director: Mike Phelps

720-304-2156

E-mail: masser86@comcast.net

Director: Tom Smola

303-683-5160

E-mail: masmola@msn.com

Sergeant At Arms: Cal Keil

303-755-8532

Email: calkeil@aol.com

Newsletter Editor: Hank Kordek

303-366-4028

The E-9ers Association Next Monthly Meeting

March 23, 2011

11:00 a.m.

at

Mr. Panda Restaurant
2852 S. Havana Street
Aurora, CO

NAVY: NEW SUBS TO BE DESIGNED FOR WOMEN

The Navy says it's about to start spending money to design women's accommodations for Virginia-class and future ballistic-missile submarines. The Navy officially lifted the ban on women serving aboard submarines in the spring. Twenty-four women have already begun training to serve as early as the end of this year as officers on ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines. The Navy's initial plans did not include enlisted women, or the smaller fast-attack submarines because of the perceived lack of privacy.

Now the Defense Department has notified Congress that the Navy will design the next generation of ballistic-missile submarines with the flexibility to accommodate female crewmembers. Beginning this fiscal year, the Navy will also study how to reconfigure Virginia-class submarines to bring women on board. The Navy plans to buy 12 ballistic-missile submarines to replace the 14 current Ohio-class, or Trident, boats that are nearing the end of their service lives. The lead ship in this new class will not be purchased until 2019.

"Design of the Ohio replacement is the next anticipated expenditure of funds in the Navy's approach to assign women within the Submarine Force," the Defense Department stated in its letter to Congress. The design change is needed should the Navy allow enlisted women to serve on submarines. Female officers can serve on the current ballistic-missile submarines without any modifications to the subs. "There will be flexibility if our policy changes," Lt. Cmdr. Mark C. Jones, spokesman for the commander of the Submarine Force, said February 10, adding that "women officers are going to lead the way for the study of the integration of enlisted females."

Electric Boat (EB) in Groton, the prime contractor for the Virginia-class program, has been working on the design of the ballistic-missile submarine. A spokesman referred all questions to the Navy. EB has not yet been asked to make any changes to the Virginia-class design, Jones said. "We're just going to evaluate the possibility," he said. "As we bring women into the Submarine Force, we're looking at different accommodations on different platforms." Jones could not give a timeline or say how much money would be spent on the endeavors. The letter to Congress stated that the desired flexibility would be "achieved in a fiscally responsible manner."

Military.com News Article, Dated February 13, 2011

TRICARE DEBUNKS MYTHS ABOUT THE FLU VACCINE

Many have heard the stories, "I got the flu shot and the next day I got the flu. The flu shot won't protect you against the flu." Despite the stories, rumors, and myths, getting the vaccine is the best way to guard against the flu and protect public health. Seasonal influenza is a contagious respiratory virus that affects millions of Americans every year. "The flu vaccine is the best method of protection," said Lt. Col. Susan Lahr, deputy director for scientific affairs, Military Vaccine Agency (MILVAX). "Although some people who are vaccinated may still get the flu, getting a flu shot dramatically improves your chances of staying healthy."

One common myth is that the flu vaccine causes the flu. Like other vaccines, flu shots contain killed viruses. "Dead viruses cannot cause infection, but they do help the body's natural defenses recognize living viruses and kill them before you get sick," said Lahr. "The most common side effect from the flu shot is temporary soreness at the site of injection, which is a sign the body is actually producing the antibodies needed to fight the real virus in case of exposure." Because the influenza virus mutates so quickly, there are several different strains of the flu. Each year, researchers at the World Health Organization (WHO) select three strains of influenza, based on which strains are circulating and how they are spreading, to include in the vaccine. The 2010-2011 flu vaccine protects against three different flu viruses: H3N2, influenza B, and the H1N1 virus that made many people sick last winter.

"It is possible for a person to be exposed to an influenza strain that was not in the vaccine," said Lahr. "That is why the flu vaccine does not have the same perfect record as some other vaccines. It is due to the nature of the virus, not a drawback of the vaccine." There is also an intranasal vaccine, which contains live, weakened flu viruses that replicate in the nasal passage in order to stimulate a robust immune response. This vaccine is licensed for healthy people ages 2 to 49. It may cause brief flu-like symptoms, but it gives recipients an active immunity to the strains of influenza it contains. Pregnant women should not receive the nasal spray version of the vaccine.

Tricare beneficiaries can get the flu vaccine (and a vaccine for pneumonia) at no cost to them at military treatment facilities, and through Tricare-authorized providers and participating network retail pharmacies. Call 1-877-363-1303 to find a participating pharmacy. In 2010 over 265,000 Tricare beneficiaries got their flu shot at retail pharmacies.

Tricare Media Center Article, Dated February 10, 2011

MORE VETERANS APPROVED FOR AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS

Veterans who served in Korea from 1968 through 1971 were probably exposed to Agent Orange, which makes them eligible for treatment at VA medical centers, according to a ruling from the Department of Veterans Affairs. VA's primary mission is to be an advocate for veterans," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said in a statement. "With this new regulation VA has cleared a path for more veterans who served in the demilitarized zone in Korea to receive access to our quality healthcare and disability benefits for exposure to Agent Orange."

Agent Orange, a defoliant used to minimize concealment for enemy combatants in wooded areas, was used in the Vietnam War from 1965 to 1970. In total, it has affected an estimated 2.6 million U.S. military personnel, according to the VA. In the past, the VA stipulated that Agent Orange exposure could only be assumed for veterans who served in particular units along the Korean demilitarized zone (DMZ) between April 1968 and July 1969. Under the new final rule, which was published in late January in the Federal Register, the VA will presume herbicide exposure for any veteran who served between April 1, 1968, and August 31, 1971, "in a unit determined by VA and the Department of Defense to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were applied," according to the statement.

In reality, veterans who have specific illnesses presumed to be caused by Agent Orange don't have to prove it happened during their military service, the department noted. "This 'presumption' simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits and ensures that veterans receive the benefits they deserve." The statement urges affected veterans to submit claims for access to care and compensation as soon as possible.

The announcement is the second recent effort by the VA to broaden the number of veterans eligible for care and compensation as a result of Agent Orange exposure. In November 2010, the department began distributing disability benefits to veterans suffering from three additional illnesses -- B cell leukemias (such as hairy cell leukemia), Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart diseases -- thought to stem from Agent Orange exposure. The VA had already been paying out benefits in the case of 15 other illnesses, including acute and subacute transient peripheral neuropathy; chloracne; chronic lymphocytic leukemia; multiple myeloma; porphyria cutanea tarda; respiratory cancers; soft tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma); Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, prostate cancer, and type 2 diabetes.

Stars and Stripes News Article, Dated January 29, 2011

WEBB VOWS TO BLOCK ANY TRICARE FEE INCREASES

The battle over the Pentagon's proposal to raise health care fees for military retirees began February 15 as Sen. Jim Webb, a Democrat from Virginia, said he would try to block any increase. "As someone who grew up in the military and served in the military, I start from the presumption that lifetime health care for career military personnel is part of a moral contract between our government and those who have stepped forward to serve," said Webb, who heads the personnel subcommittee for the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Webb's comments came one day after Defense Secretary Robert Gates proposed raising annual enrollment fees for the military's Tricare health coverage by about 13 percent for working-age military retirees. Fees would remain unchanged for the active-duty force and retirees over age 65, according to the proposal.

Tricare's annual fees have not changed in 15 years. Under the proposal, annual enrollment fees for individual retirees would rise next year from \$230 to \$260, and from \$460 to \$520 for families. In 2013 and beyond, the rates would be adjusted annually at the rate of medical inflation, which is often more than 3 percent, according to Gates' plan. Any fee increases for Tricare beneficiaries will require approval from Congress.

The proposed fee increases are part of Gates' broader effort to cut \$7 billion from the military health system, which has seen costs double during the past decade. Some Pentagon officials fear rising personnel and health care costs will jeopardize future weapons modernization programs. Webb made his comments during a confirmation hearing for Jo Ann Rooney, the nominee for principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Military Times Article, Dated February 15, 2011

BACHMANN PLAN WOULD CUT VETERANS' BENEFITS

Tea party favorite Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-MN, has unveiled a plan for cutting \$400 billion in federal spending that includes freezing Veterans Affairs Department health care spending and cutting veterans' disability benefits. Her proposed VA budget cuts would account for \$4.5 billion of the savings included in the plan, posted on her official House of Representatives website.

Paul Sullivan, executive director of Veterans for Common Sense, said cutting veterans' health care spending is an ill-advised move at a time when the number of veterans continues to grow as troops return from Iraq and Afghanistan. Sullivan said he finds it difficult to see how VA could freeze health care costs without hurting veterans. "It is really astonishing to see this," he said.

In a statement, Bachmann said her plan is intended for discussion purposes as an example of ways to cut federal spending to make it unnecessary to increase the current \$14.3 trillion limit on the amount the U.S. government can borrow. The debt ceiling will be reached sometime in March, according to economic forecasts, but many lawmakers — especially members of the tea party movement — have been talking about cutting federal spending either instead of, or as part of, a move to increase the debt limit.

Bachmann is one of those opposed to allowing the U.S. to borrow more than \$14.3 trillion. "I'm against another increase of the government's debt ceiling," she said. "Instead of making it easier for Washington to spend more of your tax dollars, I'm calling for Congress to do the hard work of making real and necessary cuts in federal spending."

Her list of cuts doesn't explain the impact of freezing veterans' health care funding, but the Congressional Budget Office said in a report issued in October that health care costs have been quickly increasing. VA's health care budget was \$44 billion in 2009, \$48 billion in 2010 and is at \$52 billion this year. The report forecasts a health care budget of \$69 billion or higher by 2020 if trends continue, the report estimates.

Bachmann's idea of cutting costs by reducing veterans' disability compensation by the amount received in Social Security Disability Income is not new. The proposal, which would affect more than 150,000 veterans, has long been on a list of possible budget options prepared by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), which describes the option as a way to "eliminate duplicate payment of public compensation for a single disability." The average SSDI benefit is \$12,800 a year, according to CBO.

In their annual budget options report, CBO analysts predicted strong opposition from veterans if the two benefits were offset. The report suggests the cost-cutting option would draw less opposition if veterans already receiving both payments were exempt from the change. Having it apply only to future benefits awards would mean about 3,000 veterans a year would be affected. The two veterans' program cuts now advocated by Bachman were included in an October 28 report from the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, about ways to cut \$343 billion in federal spending. The think tank's report projects that a freeze in VA health care costs would save \$2.5 billion.

The report said cutting veterans' disability compensation for those receiving veterans' disability income would save \$1.9 billion, which is roughly the same savings now claimed by Bachmann. According to CBO's estimates, saving \$1.9 billion in one year would require applying the change to all veterans receiving both payments. Applying it only to those who become eligible in the future would save only about \$40 million in the first year, according to CBO.

Military Times News Article, Dated January 28, 2011

VIETNAM WAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Department of Defense Department has begun a project to pay tribute to the nation's Vietnam War veterans. At the center of the project is the "50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration" website at <http://www.vietnam50th.com>, which will serve as a clearinghouse for information on the war once it is fully functional this spring. The new website will chronicle facts, provide educational materials, and offer resources for a commemorative partners program, which will offer guidance and materials for organizations to conduct their own Vietnam War commemoration activities.

Military.com News Article, Dated January 31, 2011

TRICARE BENEFICIARIES ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW NEW DIETARY GUIDELINES

New dietary guidelines released by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Agriculture urge Americans to increase physical activity, reduce sodium intake, choose foods that provide more potassium, and opt for water, instead of soft drinks. The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which are issued every five years, come at a time when the majority of adults and one in three children are overweight or obese. The military and uniformed service communities are not immune to this obesity epidemic. Recognizing obesity is a major health hazard in the United States, the seventh edition of the Guidelines place stronger emphasis on reducing calorie consumption and increasing physical activity.

Eating and physical activity patterns that are focused on consuming fewer calories, making informed food choices, and being physically active can help people attain and maintain a healthy weight, reduce their risk of chronic disease, and promote overall health, according to the Guidelines. Tricare leaders agree, and encourage their 9.6 million beneficiaries to review the Guidelines and incorporate good eating habits, as well as physical activity into their lifestyle.

"The importance of balancing calories cannot be stressed enough," said Cmdr. Aileen Buckler (USPHS), Tricare population health physician. "Controlling your total calorie intake while increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviors can help you maintain a healthy weight or lose weight if needed."

The Guidelines include 23 key recommendations for the general population and six additional key recommendations for specific population groups, including pregnant women and minorities. New in this report is an emphasis on reduction of sodium intake to less than 2,300 mg, with a further reduction to less than 1,500 mg for everyone 51 and older, African Americans of any age, and everyone with high blood pressure, diabetes, or chronic kidney disease. Additional recommendations include:

- Increase vegetable and fruit intake, especially those that are dark green, red, or orange
- Avoid oversized portions
- Increase intake of fat-free or low-fat (1 percent) milk and milk products
- Follow food safety recommendations when preparing and eating foods to reduce the risk of food borne illnesses (clean, separate, cook, and chill)

The 2010 Dietary Guidelines are available at www.dietaryguidelines.gov. To learn more about healthy diets, exercise, and ways to help prevent obesity, visit Tricare's Get Fit website at www.tricare.mil/getfit.

Tricare Media Center Article, Dated February 3, 2011

PROGRAM SPEEDS UP HEARING LOSS CLAIMS AT VA

A new, innovative VA employee-developed software program is speeding up claims and eliminating errors and will soon be used by the VA nationwide. Renford Patch, a veterans service representative at the VBA's regional office in Phoenix, AZ, has developed a program that automates the steps for determining compensation for varying degrees of hearing loss. The calculator analyzes audio metric data from a hearing test and then determines whether a veteran has a hearing loss, the extent of the loss in terms of decibels, and the level of disability. To date, the program has proven to be 100 percent accurate in its calculations.

Military.com News Article, Dated February 14, 2011

NEW VA CAREGIVER SUPPORT LINE

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has opened a new, toll-free telephone line for the caregivers of veterans of all eras. The National Caregiver Support Line at 855-260-3274 will assist caregivers, Veterans, and others seeking caregiver information. The telephone line will be available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., eastern time; and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., eastern time. Licensed VA social workers and health technicians will staff the support line. For more information on caring for veterans, visit the VA's Caregiver webpage at <http://www.caregiver.va.gov>.

Military.com News Article, Dated February 14 2011

VETERANS OF THE FIRST GULF WAR CAN'T GET TREATMENT; ARMY ADMITS MEDICAL RECORDS WERE DESTROYED

Operation Desert Storm, which pushed Iraqi troops out of Kuwait but kept Saddam Hussein in power, took a huge toll on American servicemen and women. 159,705 veterans were injured or became ill, and 10,617 veterans have died of combat related injuries or illnesses since the initiation of the Gulf War during August 1990. Since the second Gulf War began, there have been another 5,884 casualties. Most of the veterans talked to for this story say they are aware when they sign their name on the dotted line, they might not come home or could be wounded. However, they say that is part of the job. The Gulf War veterans who were talked to also asked not to be identified. As one stated, it's the government and he knows what the government is capable of doing and he doesn't want his name out there.

One soldier trying to get help from the Veterans Administration (VA) for combat-related injuries says he has been turned down, because his records are missing. He says he has all the medical records for the time he was in the states, but the records for everything that happened outside of the country are gone. The VA has heard similar complaints before, but a letter from Department of the Army that has never been made public before says after Desert Storm ended, units were told to destroy their records since there was no room to ship the paperwork back to the states. The letter goes on to say it was in direct contradiction to existing Army Regulations.

The letter was shown to Andrew Marshal -- the regional director of the Disabled American Veterans -- and he said he was surprised they were told to do that and that the Army put it in writing. Marshal says, "This could have been one, five, six, a couple of hundred or this could be thousands of soldiers. You don't know." Marshal says there should have been backups to the records destroyed in the Persian Gulf. But in the Army's letter, it says several years after soldiers began putting in medical claims, it was discovered all records below the brigade level no longer existed. When this was shown to Marshal, he agreed some of the records could have been destroyed. It's not just the after-action reports that have been destroyed or are missing. Files show when some veterans come to the Veterans Administration to get help for service-related disabilities, there are records to show they served, but their medical records are nowhere to be found. That means when the vets make the claims, they have to be turned down.

Another Gulf War vet stated there is no recourse and that disturbs him the most. This Gulf War veteran served 20 years in the Army. The Veterans Administration has documentation he served in the 82nd Airborne division as an Army ranger and made 125 parachute jumps. All of his claims, including hearing loss, ankle, and back injury, have been denied because efforts to obtain service medical records for all potential sources were unsuccessful. He says all his medical records are gone.

The Department of Defense does have records and sent a letter telling this same soldier that he and others in his unit were in an area where exposure to nerve agents sarin and cyclosporin was possible, but they should not worry about any bad affects. The vet is skeptical about the claim that the nerve agent won't harm him. "So we all got exposed to nerve agent as well, and according to the military, that is never going to affect us. They just wanted to advise us that we've been exposed." He says when he put on the uniform, he and his fellow soldiers put their lives on the line. But they feel as if the nation has turned its back on them now that they are home and have injuries incurred while trying to keep the country safe.

Congressman Bill Young has never seen the Army letter until now. His office is asking the Defense Department to look into the matter and see how many this affects. He wants to hear from you. If your records were destroyed, contact him at Bill.Young@mail.house.gov.

Stars & Stripes Article, Dated February 11, 2011

PLAN TO TRIM VA BUDGET GETS DUMPED

Rep. Michelle Bachmann (R-MN) recently announced plans to rein in federal spending, in part by cutting \$4.5 billion from the Department of Veterans Affairs -- specifically disabled veteran compensation. This sent shock waves through the veteran community. In response, veteran's service organizations, including the VFW and AMVETS, issued statements condemning her plan for stripping away the support disabled veterans count on, especially during a time of war. On February 4, Bachmann released a statement backing off her plan to cut any portion of the Department of Veterans Affairs budget.

Military.com News Article, Dated February 7, 2011

REPORT: VA OVERPAID DISABLED VETERANS BY \$1B

Poor oversight and missing medical follow-ups led to nearly \$1 billion in overpayments in veterans disability benefits over the last 18 years, and could lead to another \$1 billion in improper payouts in the near future if left unchecked, according to a new investigation. The report, from the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the Inspector General, found mistakes in the processing of an estimated 27,500 cases before the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), resulting in individuals receiving a 100 percent disabled rating for years longer than they should have. "Despite numerous audit and inspection reports since FY 2004 stating that the staff was not consistently processing temporary 100 percent disability evaluations correctly, VBA has not fully corrected the problem," the report stated. "If VBA does not take timely corrective action, they will overpay veterans a projected \$1.1 billion over the next 5 years."

At issue are temporary 100 percent disability ratings given to veterans with service-connected disabilities requiring surgery, convalescence, or specific treatment. In some cases, those payouts may be reduced or ended after veterans recover and are able to return to work. IG officials found that in nearly half of the problem cases, officials simply forgot to schedule follow-up medical visits or update related paperwork, allowing veterans to continue their full payout even after recovery.

In about 6,500 cases, those medical exams were delayed or canceled, causing the payouts to continue. Researchers said the average overpayment for veterans receiving extra benefits for less than a year was about \$10,500, but rises to about \$66,000 for veterans receiving overpayments for one to five years. "For each year the overpayment continues, the cumulative financial effect becomes increasingly more significant," the report said.

Benefits officials disputed the findings, calling the cost estimates and total number of problem cases exaggerated. "VBA makes every effort to ensure that veterans are paid correctly and disability evaluations are assigned appropriately at all levels," Michael Walcoff, acting VA Under Secretary for Benefits, said in a statement to the IG office. "VBA is actively working to resolve these types of errors through system modifications. These system safeguards will ensure correct future review of temporary 100 percent evaluations."

In a statement to Stars and Stripes, Tom Murphy, director of the Compensation and Pension Service, said the VBA is committed to making sure veterans receive the proper disability benefits. "VBA modified training for claims processors to ensure timely oversight responsibilities are completed," he said. "Further training on evaluating evidence to determine permanency for a total evaluation is also being created."

The report does not recommend the VBA attempt to recoup any of the overpayments, but does urge a review of all 100 percent disability claims to ensure that proper payouts are being awarded. In cases where the mistakes have lingered for more than 20 years, the VA by law cannot change the disability ratings. Murphy said the department will follow that recommendation "to ensure the appropriate evaluations are assigned and oversight controls are properly established."

Veterans groups said they'll keep a close eye on the issue. "While there may be some veterans receiving an overpayment, our biggest concern is the 325,000 veterans who have waited more than 125 days to get their foot in the door," AMVETS spokesman Ryan Gallucci said, referencing the current VA benefits backlog. "That said, this may be an indication of a system that's flawed, and is not treating all veterans equally."

Stars & Stripes News Article, Dated January 26, 2011

U.S. FINALLY DECLASSIFYING PENTAGON PAPERS

The Pentagon Papers were splashed over U.S. newspapers 40 years ago for the whole world to read. Not much of a secret after that. Except to the U.S. government.

The National Declassification Center of the National Archives is now working to declassify the full text of the papers, which lay out the government's history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The archives says the center also is declassifying documents on which the Pentagon Papers were based and investigative material about the 1971 leak of the papers by Daniel Ellsberg. The leak led to a major legal victory for press freedom when the Supreme Court upheld the right of newspapers to publish the leaked papers.

National Archives spokeswoman Susan Cooper confirmed February 15 that the center is working on declassifying the material.

Military Times News Article, Dated February 15, 2011

2011 CALENDAR



MARCH

- 1 Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day
- 9 UVC Meeting
- 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 23 Membership Meeting

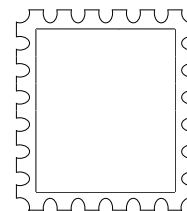
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- Mar 1, 1974 (37th) James & Mary Boyle
- Mar 3, 1956 (55th) Thaddeus & Cathy Gembczynski
- Mar 8, 1968 (43rd) David & Lynne Wagner
- Mar 9, 1973, (38th) Bennie & Ann Ellington
- Mar 13, 2003 (8th) Gene & Cathy Tomczak
- Mar 14, 1970 (41st) Tom & Sandra Keller
- Mar 15, 1952 (59th) Wally & Delores Reid
- Mar 21, 1979 (32nd) Stanley & Christine Galloway
- Mar 22, 1946 (65th) Jones & Lillian Pierce
- Mar 24, 2001 (10th) John & Ruth Spaar
- Mar 27, 1967 (44th) Bill & Sue Wells
- Mar 28, 1954 (57th) Donald & Arvilla Cole

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Kenneth Giese
- 1 Lewis Winningham
- 4 Robert Abshire
- 5 Larry Mitchell
- 7 Earl Moses
- 13 Wayne Ortiz
- 16 Rosemary Samson
- 19 Cheryl Lutz
- 19 Rubylee York
- 21 Carla Gerle
- 23 Suzanne Hegwood
- 24 Wally Moll
- 25 Genaro Salazar
- 26 Walter Dick
- 28 Toshi Sherburne
- 28 Joseph Sykora
- 30 Max McIlrath

The E-9ers Association
 Hank Kordek, Editor
 13155 E. Exposition Ave
 Aurora, CO 80012-3520



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

