



JEWISH WAR VETERANS

of the United States of America

Valley of the Sun -- Post 194

Phoenix, Arizona

January 2018

COMMANDER

Michael Halperin
602-973-7682

SR. VICE COMMANDER

David Wacknov
602-274-5959

JR. VICE COMMANDER

Lenore Katz
602-957-9311

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Jerry Beck
602-264-2325

ADJUTANT

Howard Farkash
602-909-8433

QUARTERMASTER

Nelson Magedman
623-556-1217

CHAPLAIN

David Wacknov
602-274-5959

OFFICER OF THE DAY

Vacant

POST SURGEON

Lenore Katz
602-957-9311

EDITOR NEWSLETTER

Nelson Magedman
623-556-1217

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480-391-9724
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Michael Halperin

Well, another year has gone by for us. We lost a few good members and we gained a couple of new members. This year we must increase our membership by 10%. This is to maintain a functional membership. I know we are all getting older and getting tired to do things. However, it is my contention that eventhough we add on a few good year, we should remain active in order to keep are strength up there with all the others who are also growing older. The post needs that spark to function.

Instead of sitting in front of your television on the first Sunday morning of the month, come out, enjoy a bagel and lox breakfast, and meet other members of the post. We attempt to get speakers for the meetings so that we can have some education on various topics.

The post can also use your assistance in carry out its function serving other veterans and members of the Jewish community. The few members who are working hard, need to have your experience and training to maintain a viable organization.

Tu B'Shevat

Also known as the "New Year of the Trees", Tu B'Shevat is literally the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shvat. It is one of the four 'New Years' of the Jewish calendar, mentioned in the Talmud, along with the first day of Tishrei (the month in which we celebrate Rosh Hashana, the most well-known new year); the first day of Nissan (during which month we celebrate Passover), the first day of Elul (the month before the High Holy Days), and the fifteenth day of Shvat. This New Year of the Trees on the fifteenth day of Shvat generally occurs around the end of January or beginning of February, making it (at least in the northern hemisphere) an ironic time of year for the celebration of plants and new life.

B'Shevat has significance in Jewish law because it is the cutoff date by which the age of a tree is calculated for the sake of orlah, a Biblical prohibition against eating the fruit of a tree in its first three years. (Most authorities say that this prohibition is only in effect within the Land of Israel.) After Tu B'Shevat of the tree's third year, the fruit is permitted for consumption, provided that the relevant tithing has occurred. Starting in the Middle Ages, in keeping with the Talmud's description of this

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Nelson S. Magedman, PDC
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New donations must be received by the 10th of the month to be included in the next issue.

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of this day as a holiday, Tu B'Shevat was celebrated with a feast; however, it is a minor holiday, instituted by the Rabbis, and unlike the major holidays mentioned in the Torah, there is no restriction of work on this day. Also unlike other holidays, the feast is not the usual Jewish feast of meat and fish and wine, but rather a feast of fruits such as dates, figs, pomegranates, grapes (all four of which have special significance in Israel and thus have special blessings), and any other available fruit. Chassidim will also eat the etrog from the previous Sukkot, and some will pray that they merit a good-quality etrog in the coming Sukkot. Rabbi Yitzchak Luria, known as the Arizal, a 16th century kabbalist and predecessor of Chassidim, instituted a certain order of the fruits to be eaten and commented upon their various symbolic meanings and significance.

In Israel, Tu B'Shevat is a day of ecological awareness – the Israeli version of America's Arbor Day, so to speak. The Tu B'Shevat Seder is increasingly celebrated in one form or another by both secular and religious in both Israel and the Diaspora, generally with the above-mentioned feasts of fruit.

Tu B'Shevat is observed on the 10th day of Shevat, the eleventh month of the Jewish Calendar. It is only a floating holiday in respect to the Gregorian Calendar.

THE EDITOR AND STAFF OF THIS NEWSLETTER WISHES ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP A VERY HEALTHY, HAPPY, AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

WE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE READ ALL OUR EDITIONS OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND HAVE ENJOYED DOING SO. WE HAVE TWICE RECEIVED BEST ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

JANUARY

Birthdays



9 Dennis Benjamin
11 Bruce S. Herman
11 Phyllis Jacobs
12 Eli Kaminsky
14 Eugene Cox
18 Donald B. Finstein
21 Ruth Kelter

Anniversaries December



26 Nelson & Kathryn
Magedman

DISCLAIMER

The editor makes attempt to avoid errors in articles, punctuation, spelling, birthdates and anniversaries. Errors due creep into our work. I apologize for any errors that they were not done maliciously. Anniversary dates have been difficult to obtain and birthdates have been omitted.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give objective newsworthy articles concerning military, veterans administration, Israel and other newsworthy articles which the editor deems appropriate.

The articles are not to be deemed policy of JWV or subordinate levels unless specifically stated to be such policy.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Signs on Synagogue Bulletin Boards

Under the same management for over 5,774 years.

Don't give up. Moses was once a basket case.

What part of "Thou shalt not" don't you understand?

Shul committees should be made up of three members, two of whom should be absent at every meeting.

Sign over the urinal in a bathroom at Hebrew University :

"The future of the Jewish people is in your hands."

Things we Learned in Hebrew School worth repeating

1. The High Holidays have absolutely nothing to do with marijuana.

2. Where there's smoke, there may be salmon.

3. No meal is complete without leftovers.

4. According to Jewish dietary law, pork and shellfish may be eaten only in Chinese restaurants.

5. A shmata is a dress that your husband's ex is wearing.

6. You need ten men for a minion, but only four in polyester pants and white shoes for gin rummy.

7. One mitzvah can change the world; two will just make you tired.

8. After the destruction of the Second temple, God created Nordstrom's.

9. Anything worth saying is worth repeating a thousand times.

10. Never take a front row seat at a Brit.

11. Next year in Jerusalem . The year after that, how about a nice cruise?

12. Never leave a restaurant empty handed.

13. Spring ahead; fall back; winters in Boca.

14. Gentiles leave and never say good-bye; Jews say good-bye and never leave.

15. Always whisper the names of diseases.

16. If it tastes good, it's probably not Kosher.

17. The important Jewish holidays are the ones on which alternate side of the street parking is suspended.

18. Without Jewish mothers, who would need therapy?

19. If you have to ask the price, you can't afford it. If you can afford it, make sure to tell everybody what you paid.

20. Laugh now, but one day you'll be driving a Lexus and eating dinner at 4:00 PM in Florida

More Jewish Groners

1. My mother is a typical Jewish mother. Once she was on jury duty. They sent her home. She insisted SHE was guilty.

2. Any time a person goes into a delicatessen and orders pas-trami on white bread, somewhere a Jew dies.

3. It was mealtime during a flight on El Al. "Would you like dinner?" the flight attendant asked Moshe, seated in front. "What are my choices?" Moshe asked. "Yes or no," she replied.

4. An elderly Jewish man is knocked down by a car and is brought to the local hospital. A pretty nurse tucks him into bed and says, "Mr. Gevarter, are you comfortable?" Gevarter replies, "I make a living...."

5. A rabbi was opening his mail one morning. Taking a single sheet of paper from an envelope he found written on it only one word: "shmuck." At the next Friday night service, the Rabbi announced, "I have known many people who have written letters and forgot to sign their names, but this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name...and forgot to write a letter."

6. Three Jewish women get together for lunch. As they are being seated in the restaurant, one takes a deep breath and gives a long, slow "oy." The second takes a deep breath as well and lets out a long, slow "oy." The third takes a deep breath and says impatiently, "Girls, I thought we agreed that we weren't going to talk about our children."

7. And one final favorite: A waiter comes over to a table full of Jewish women and asks, "Is anything alright?"

JEWISH CONVERT

Pincus was a very religious man, but after nearly 60 years strict observance to Jewish law, he was fed up. "Esther," he tells his wife, "I've had it! No more getting up early every morning, putting on my tfillin and reciting the same prayers. I'm converting to Catholicism."

"Are you crazy?" asks Esther, but Pincus is determined. He goes to a local church, discusses his intentions with the priest, and begins taking instruction and is baptized into the Catholic faith.

The next morning, as always, he gets up early, and without thinking, puts on his tfillin and automatically

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starts to recite his morning prayers. "What are you doing?" asks Esther. "I thought the whole point of becoming Catholic was so you wouldn't have to do that any more."

Oy!" cried Pincus, smacking himself in the forehead. "Goyishe kopp!"

Military Deployment

WASHINGTON -- Soldiers with the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, recently returned home after a rotational deployment in Europe that was focused on building readiness and improving interoperability between U.S. and allied forces in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve 2017.

The 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, replaced two units in the European area of responsibility -- continuing the commitment by the United States to the collective security of its NATO allies and maintaining the enduring peace and stability of the region.

Brigade commanders from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team spoke Dec. 13 about their time in the region as part of an Army Current Operations Engagement Tour media roundtable at the Pentagon.

10TH COMBAT AVIATION BRIGADE

In March, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade deployed 60 aircraft and 200 support vehicles to Europe from Fort Drum, New York.

"Aviation is my No. 1 critical capability requirement. Without it, our adversaries know we're not serious," said Col. Clair Gill, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade commander, relaying the words of Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges, commander of United States Army Europe.

During their time in Europe, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade partnered with 20 nations and more than 25,000 NATO military personnel during Operation Saber Guardian 17, the region's largest multinational exercise.

Correspondingly, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade executed Operation Falcon's Talon, which focused on the Army's aviation ability to survive and fight in the early phases of an attack on a NATO partner from a peer, or near-peer threat.

"This unique exercise tested the ... planning [ability], the creativity, and mettle of our leaders," Gill said. "It forced them to manage risk and make decisions at their levels, without higher headquarters oversight -- much the way that our Army chief of staff describes the future of battle."

During Operation Falcon's Talon, junior leaders from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade received alert notifications, scattered aircraft from large airfields, hid in remote areas, integrated with local partisans, and executed non-traditional aviation operations in a replicated denied or harsh environment.

Overall, "these exercises presented unique and challenging training while supporting real-world operations," Gill said. "[It's] a type of experience not available to our Soldiers and leaders at home station or at some of the combat training centers."

Currently, the geographical end state for the rotational combat aviation brigades participating in Atlantic Resolve is to position all forces "forward" in Latvia, Poland, and Romania.

"The men and women of the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade showed great poise to learn and grow as we set the bar for future rotational units to deploy in this heel-to-toe fashion," Gill added.

"We know how to deploy our formation from end-to-end. We know how to operate with partners and allies," he said. "And we know the key to logistical support forward. The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade is ready to step into the area again to answer the call of our nation and allies."

3RD ARMORED BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

The 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team deployed to Europe to deter near-peer adversaries while continuing to focus on internal training and fleet readiness, said Col. Michael Simmering, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team commander. In turn, the unit participated in Saber Guardian and 13 other multinational exercises.

More than 3,500 Soldiers, 250 tracked-weapons platforms, and other associated equipment deployed out of Fort Carson, Colorado.

"From the beginning of January to October of this year, our brigade was the first armored brigade to begin a continuous presence of deployed armored brigades to Europe," Simmering said.

During their time in the region, the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat

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Team conducted live-fire training and situational training exercises on a nearly daily basis. Moreover, the unit fired more than a million rounds ranging from tank and artillery rounds to individual small arms weapons, Simmering added.

"Throughout that time, it was clear that our allies are absolutely capable and committed to the defense of the alliance," Simmering said. "Together, we demonstrated how the lethality of a U.S. armor brigade combat team is magnified when we train as part of a greater NATO force."

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, LOGISTICAL CHALLENGES AND INTEROPERABILITY

Freedom of movement throughout the region continues to be a significant challenge for all U.S. forces, according to both commanders.

"Coordinating movements across multiple borders involves weeks of planning and clearances, and any one error can jeopardize an entire large operation," Gill said. "European coordination can be difficult, given that 29 sovereign nations all have legitimate reasons to develop their own policies."

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade experienced their share of logistical problems while preparing for exercise Saber Guardian. In their steadfast commitment to demonstrating the expeditionary capability of an aviation brigade, the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade loaded up all their equipment and drove 1,300 miles over the course of five days and nights to the exer-

cise location.

"That was an once-in-a-lifetime experience for those Soldiers," Gill said. "It was amazing to listen to the creative way leaders would solve problems. How would they relay [information] from the front of a convoy to the back of a convoy ... when you're not allowed to pull over on the Autobahn or a dirt road?"

As the U.S. forces in Europe continue to participate in peacetime operations, the Army will continue to have issues moving freely throughout the region, Gill added. However, the time spent exercising with allies and partners helps to create policies and procedures that will aid U.S. forces in the future.

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade and 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team also had to deal with several issues stemming from transporting hazardous cargo across the continent.

According to Gill, to comply with European standards, vehicles designed to haul hazardous materials will need to be modified at a significant cost to the U.S. government. The Army is in the process of addressing those issues.

In addition to the logistical challenges, both brigades had to find a standard way to communicate and work with their NATO allies and partners.

"When you have forces that are combined at the battalion level and below, from different nations, it presents unique challenges," Simmering said.

In the future, Simmering believes that interoperability will involve more than just a new piece of military equipment. Success-

fully integrating all forces starts with a common understanding of doctrine and processes and a dedicated effort from the NATO alliance.

Overall, the U.S. Army is getting a comprehensive review of the challenges that Soldiers might have to face in the future, Simmering said, as well as the logistical capabilities available to help the U.S. and its allies maintain security in the region.

How Separation Status May Affect Homelessness in Women Veterans

Ask enough women veterans about their own experiences with homelessness and you hear a consistent refrain — that they were “unprepared” for life after the military, that homelessness “surprised” them, and that they were consequently unable to plan for it. In an effort to better understand the topic overall, we surveyed almost 3,000 women veterans — from every service era from World War II to the present — about housing issues and homelessness after military service.

Military Satisfaction

WASHINGTON -- Results of the Joint Outpatient Experience Survey, or JOES, are in for 2017 and Soldiers, retirees and family members reported very high overall satisfaction, 93 percent, for their experience at Army medical treatment facilities, also known as MTFs, said Dr. Melissa Gliner.

Gliner, senior health policy

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analyst, with the Office of the Army Surgeon General, said the other two big metrics are: ease of access to Army providers, 83 percent positive (highest in the military health services); and, overall experience with Army pharmacies, 78 percent positive.

The results of the survey show an overall increase in satisfaction of about 2 percent for those three questions over 2016, the year the Army first participated in the survey, she said.

Navy statistics

Navy Personnel
Active Duty: 323,856
◆ Officers: 54,303
◆ Enlisted: 265,118
◆ Midshipmen: 4,435

Ready Reserve: 103,779 (As of Nov 2017)
◆ Selected Reserves: 57,800
◆ Individual Ready Reserve: 45,979
Reserves Currently Mobilized:

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 267,271
Ships and Submarines
Deployable Battle Force Ships: 280

◆ Deployed Battle Force Across the Fleet Including Forward Deployed Submarines: 95
◆ Deployed Ships Underway: 37 (13%)
◆ Ships Underway for Local Ops / Training: 7 (3%)
◆ Aircraft Carriers Underway:
• USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) - 5th Fleet
◆ Amphibious Assault Ships Underway:
• USS America (LHA 6) -

7th Fleet

• USS Wasp (LHD 1) - Pacific
◆ Aircraft (operational): 3700+

Department of Veterans Affairs worker says she was fired for complaining about state

MITCHELL, S.D. – A former Davison County veterans service officer is alleging the state Department of Veterans Affairs got her fired because she raised concerns about errors in veterans' files and what she felt was improper use of military insignia on souvenir coins....

Jerusalem Is or Isnot the capital of Israel

According to the Bible, the first siege of Jerusalem occurred in the year 587 BC, when the city and its temple were destroyed by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II.

In the 2,605 intervening years, virtually every empire and every great leader has desired to have Jerusalem, or, at least, to leave his mark upon the city.

Consider this: In August of the year 70, the Roman army under Titus' command devastated the Judean rebel soldiers holding the city, leading to the Roman sack of Jerusalem and the ruin of the second temple.

Almost 2,000 years later, one can enjoy a gelato in the shade of Rome's Arch of Titus, still standing in commemoration of his triumph.

President Trump's Dec. 7 announcement, that the United States would recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and move its embassy here, broke a

70-year diplomatic precedent, kept a campaign promise and provoked worldwide outrage.

In a video, an exultant Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly thanked Trump for his "historic decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital." And on Monday, the Knesset, Israel's parliament, emboldened by Trump's move, passed a bill requiring that a two-thirds majority of Knesset members vote before any part of the city can be relinquished in any possible peace agreement.

The legislation prompted a harsh and immediate response from senior Palestinian official Hanan Ashrawi, who referred to Israel as a "belligerent occupier" and said the law "severely changes the status of Jerusalem and creates and illegal and extrajudicial Israeli and Jewish exclusivity over all of Jerusalem."

In a final twist, Trump on Tuesday implied that he had done the parties a favor with his declaration on Israel's capital. "We have taken Jerusalem, the toughest part of the negotiation, off the table," he tweeted.

He also complained that the U.S. gets "no appreciation or respect" for the "hundred[s] of millions of dollars a year" it allocates to the Palestinians, and concluded with a question: "With the Palestinians no longer willing to talk peace, why should we make any of these massive future payments to them?"

Well, was is the status of Jerusalem?

It depends who you ask. Historically, whoever controls the territory, determines the status of the territory. Since Israel controls the land, Israel determines the status.

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WILL BE SERVED
PRIOR TO THE MEETING
BEGINNING AT 9:00 A.M.

JANUARY 7, 2018
10:00 A.M.
THE MEETING WILL BE HELD
IN THE ARIZONA VETERANS
HOME CONFERENCE ROOM
4141 N.S. HERRERA WAY
3RD STREET NORTH OF INDIAN
SCHOOL ROAD

The Jewish War Veterans invites any qualified veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States of America to become a member in the oldest veterans organization in the Nation!
If you are not a qualified veteran, you may join as a Patron Member and support the organization. If you are on active duty, there is no requirement to pay dues. You have all the benefits of membership.