September 22nd should have passed. On that day we get approximately the same amount of daylight as darkness. So with the departure of the dreaded love bugs and the onset of fall, heading towards shorter sunlit days, our calendars begin to fill with activities. On September 13-14 a Homeless Veterans Stand Down was conducted at the Martin Luther King Center on Waldo Road. I believe it was a success in that a number of veterans were served and agencies from the federal, state, county and private concerns and non-profits came together to ensure that the elimination of homelessness in Alachua County can become a reality for our veterans. I want to especially thank Theresa Lowe who coordinated this year’s event and the many, many volunteers for their tireless dedication to looking after the needs of these veterans. With the assistance of our Veterans Services Advisory Board Chairman, Don Sherry, we are printing a more updated activities calendar in this edition. Thank you Don.

As you can see from the many activities, we are truly a busy veteran’s community. There is absolutely no excuse for any veteran to sit at home and be bored with nothing to do with this much going on. I encourage you to get out and visit at least one organization and see where you can lend a hand. It is said that many hands make light work. So the more we have to help, the easier the tasks. So let’s get out there and help each other because no one knows a veteran like another veteran.

Have you helped a veteran today?
Trivia Questions– WWII Worst Aircraft

1. One of the worst fighters to fly in RAF service was the Defiant. Who designed this unique aircraft?
   A. Boulton Paul     B. Hawker     C. Vickers     D. Supermarine

2. One of Germany's most unusual aircraft was the BV-141, designed by Blohm und Voss. What was unusual about this aircraft?
   A. It’s completely glazed centerline nacelle
   B. It’s unusual coupled engines
   C. It’s asymmetric layout
   D. It’s odd armament

3. One of the worst US aircraft to enter squadron service was the P-39 designed by Bell. What country actually used the aircraft to much success?
   A. United Kingdom    B. France     C. China        D. Russia

4. Me-323 was one of the largest, slowest, and most vulnerable aircraft of World War II. How many aircraft survived in service past 1944?
   A. None     B. 3    C. 10     D. 1

5. Definitely the oddest transport prototype was the Antonov A-40. What was this aircraft?
   A. A tank with wings attached
   B. A huge flying wing that could carry light tanks
   C. A flying submarine type aircraft with a large hold
   D. A prototype human powered aircraft.

6. One of the worst Italian aircraft of the war was the Breda Ba.88. What was this plane's proposed role?
   A. Bomber     B. Ground attack     C. Fighter     D. Recon

7. As the war progressed in Japan, the aircraft engineers become more and more creative (or desperate). One of their final designs was the MXY-7 Ohka piloted missile. What did the Americans call this plane?
   A. Fire Blossom     B. Rita     C. Baka     D. Toa

8. Another piloted missile was attempted by Germany. The Fi-103R was a piloted version of the V-1. What was the pilot expected to do once locked on target?
   A. Bail out and be picked up by experimental helicopters
   B. Commit suicide using a small pistol
   C. Stay in the plane
   D. Bail out and make his way back to German lines

9. The Fairey Battle was the primary light attack aircraft of the RAF at the beginning of World War II. What battle was the combat debut for this aircraft?
   A. Battle of Dunkirk     B. Battle of France     C. Battle of Malta     D. Battle of the Meuse

(Continued on page 3)
10. The A-24 was a dive bomber for the USAAC. What enemy type directly influenced the design of this aircraft?
A. B6M   B. Ju-87 Stuka   C. Blackburn Skua   D. Aichi D3A

VA Disability Compensation Update

Disabled veterans — many already beset by bungled health-care benefits or by a lack of health insurance — are facing still another bureaucratic log jam: a year-plus lag in simply calculating how much each vet is losing in wages specifically due to their long-term wounds. According to a report issued 10 SEP by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, an initiative by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to revise its disability-ratings schedule has become alarmingly bogged down. The GAO put Congress on alert that lawmakers may need to step in to jump start the effort. In 2009, VA recognized a critical need to overhaul how it rates the disabilities of former service members, including an entirely fresh analysis into the amount of earnings that non-working, disabled veterans are losing in today’s economy. That ratings schedule hasn’t been fully rewritten since 1945.

There’s good and the bad here, according to the GAO. The positive: “The current revision effort takes a more comprehensive and empirical approach than VA’s past efforts,” the GOA reported. “VA has hired full-time staff to revise the rating schedule’s medical information and plans to conduct studies to evaluate veterans’ average loss of earnings in today’s economy.” The not so positive: “This change, in part, has resulted in VA falling behind schedule. As of July 2012, VA is over 12 months behind in revising criteria for the first categories of impairments.” After digging deeper into the red-tape tangle, GAO experts found that VA hasn’t figured out how to churn out more timely research “on the impact of impairments on earnings,” and that the agency doesn’t have a solid plan (specific benchmarks or updated deadlines) as to how to finish the project. And given the massive work overload already afflicting VA, the agency urgently needs a written strategy to plot out the potential effects any disability-schedule changes will have on operations, “including impacts on an already strained claims workload,” the report said.

Modernizing the disability-compensation schedules would ultimately make VA leaner, the GAO said, just as costs are mounting to financially care for thousands of disabled U.S. troops. “It is important that VA update and maintain its rating schedule to reflect current medical and labor market information to avoid overcompensating some veterans with service-connected disabilities while under-compensating others,” the report said. Last year, VA spent roughly $40 billion on disability compensation for 3.4 million veterans, MilitaryTimes reported. This sentence in the report may (or may not) provide solace to those veterans who are unable to hold down jobs: “VA agreed with the recommendations and noted plans to address them,” according to the report’s authors. In the meantime, however, the GAO suggested that Congress may want “to consider various options to modernize VA’s disability benefits program ... and, if necessary, propose relevant legislation for congressional consideration.” For example, the report said, a new bill might impel the creation of “explicit quality of life payments” to veterans who have service-connected disabilities. [Source: U.S. News, Bill Briggs, 11 Sep 2012]
CRDP Benefit

Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) allows military retirees to receive both military retired pay and Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation. This was prohibited until the CRDP program began on January 1, 2004. CRDP is a "phase in" of benefits that gradually restores a retiree's VA disability offset. This means that an eligible retiree's retired pay will gradually increase each year until the phase in is complete in 2014. You do not need to apply for CRDP. If qualified, you will be enrolled automatically. You must be eligible for retired pay to qualify for CRDP. If you were placed on a disability retirement, but would be eligible for military retired pay in the absence of the disability, you may be entitled to receive CRDP. Under these rules, you may be entitled to CRDP if...

You are a regular retiree with a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

You are a reserve retiree with 20 qualifying years of service, who has a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater and who has reached retirement age. (In most cases the retirement age for reservists is 60, but certain reserve retirees may be eligible before they turn 60. If you are a member of the Ready Reserve, your retirement age can be reduced below age 60 by three months for each 90 days of active service you have performed during a fiscal year.)

You are retired under Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) and have a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.

You are a disability retiree who earned entitlement to retired pay under any provision of law other than solely by disability, and you have a VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater. You might become eligible for CRDP at the time you would have become eligible for retired pay.

In addition to monthly CRDP payments, you may be eligible for a retroactive payment. An audit of your account requires researching pay information from both DFAS and VA. If you are due any money from DFAS, you will receive it within 30-60 days of receipt of your first CRDP monthly payment. If DFAS finds that you are also due a retroactive payment from the VA, they will forward an audit to the VA. They are responsible for paying any money they may owe you.

Your retroactive payment date may go as far back as January 1, 2004, but can be limited based on your retirement date or when you first increased to at least 50 percent disability rating No CRDP is payable for any month before January 2004.

You are eligible for full concurrent receipt of both your VA disability compensation and your retired pay, if you are a military retiree who meets all of the above eligibility requirements in addition to both being rated by the VA as unemployable, generally referred to as Individual Unemployability (IU) and you are in receipt of VA disability compensation as a result of IU. This was effective October 1, 2008 and is retroactive to January 1, 2005. If you have any questions regarding your CRDP payment from DFAS, call 800-321-1080. For questions concerning disability ratings or disability compensation, contact the VA at 800-827-1000. [Source: http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html Sep 2012]
Space “A” Travel Update

Space-available flights are likely to decrease as a result of budget constraints and a falling load of worldwide air missions, Defense Department officials said in a recent report studying the feasibility of expanding the free-flight program. Defense officials told the General Accountability Office that efficiency efforts and force structure changes would mean fewer seats for service-members and other authorized Space-A fliers, who are able to board flights when seats are available on military aircraft flying scheduled missions. “DOD officials also stated that 90-95 percent of space-available travel is on commercially contracted aircraft, and DOD is planning to reduce its use of contracted aircraft as a result of mission reductions and budgetary constraints,” James R. McTigue Jr., the GAO’s acting director of defense capabilities and management, wrote in a Sept. 10 letter to the chairman of the House and Senate armed service committees. The GAO study concluded that opening international Space-A travel to “gray-area retirees” would adversely affect uniformed service-members, for whom Space-A was first established. Gray-area retirees include reservists entitled to retirement pay. The study also examined extending benefits to the dependents of gray-area retirees, as well as widows and families of deceased service-members. Congress has recently considered expanding Space-A to those groups, which prompted the GAO study.

Expanding Space-A eligibility “could lead to around 20,000 travelers not being able to obtain space-available seats,” McTigue wrote. McTigue added that the 20,000 figure might be low, since it is based on the number of people who boarded Space-A flights in 2011 and not those who tried to do so. According to DOD data, more than 500,000 passengers used the space-available travel program for fiscal years 2009 through 2011. Although 56,725 Space-A slots went unused in 2011, most of those flights traveled to undesirable locations, according to the report. Popular flights normally ran at capacity, the report stated. In 2011, 35 percent of space-A travel flew between the U.S. and overseas locations. The five busiest Space-A locations were Baltimore Washington International Airport, Md.; Dover Air Force Base, Del.; Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii; Ramstein Air Base, Germany; and Travis Air Force Base, Calif. [Source: Stars & Stripes, Erik Slavin, 12 Sep 2012]


Senate leaders now say they won't bring the FY2013 Defense Authorization bill up for action until after the November 6th election. This adds one more massive task to the "lame duck" session of Congress squeezed between the November election and inauguration in January. So far, those backed-up tasks include:

- Agreeing on an alternate debt reduction plan to avoid sequestration and the "fiscal cliff" scheduled to take effect on January 1
- Avoiding a scheduled 27% cut in Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors that would devastate access to care
- Passing a defense authorization bill to sustain important pay needs and avoid massive TRICARE Pharmacy copay increases
- MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) is very concerned that Congress is cramming far too much work into a short and chaotic time. These are issues that have major implications for the military community and every other segment of America. Congress has had all year to work on them without success. Expecting legislators to come up with reasonable solutions and necessary compromises in a couple of weeks at the end of the year after a particularly partisan election is an extraordinarily high-risk proposition. [Source: MOAA Leg Up 7 Sep 2012]
From the Senior Counselor’s Desk

As I work through my 29th year of service at the Alachua County Veteran’s Service Office, I reflect back on the hundreds of incredible individuals I have met and been able to assist in their pursuit of earned veteran’s benefits. I come from a family of veterans, grandfathers, uncles, brother and brother’s in law, and nephew’s currently serving. My mother and mother –in-law served in a civilian capacity working for the federal government during WW II. My hero is my father who served in the Pacific Theater during WW II participating in 5 major campaigns with the Army Air Corps. He contracted polio in the Philippines and returned home as a survivor/quadriplegic. Since I was a small child he had our family involved with veteran’s issues and volunteer work. In 1986 he was named as Disabled Veteran of the Year by the Florida State Department of Disabled American Veterans and placed into nomination at the National Level. He and my mother spent countless hours serving disabled veterans, their dependents and survivors primarily at the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center and nursing home unit here in Gainesville.

I received my college education through eligibility of Chapter 35 education benefits and the State of Florida Scholarship for dependents of veterans rated 100% totally and permanently disabled by the Department of Veterans Affairs. I still have the psychedelic-colored paisley mini dress I wore to my high school award ceremony hanging in my closet. It brings a smile to my face. The VA provided financial support to my family and I still appreciate the assistance that was given to me to further my education.

I carry on my father’s passion to assist those who have answered the call to serve our country and their families. I am a life-time member of the DAV Auxiliary. I have first-hand knowledge of the tireless care-giving and sacrifice by active duty personnel and veteran’s spouse’s and family members and am adamant in my resolve to provide the assistance to them that they so well deserve.

My years of service have only deepened my resolve; I consider it my duty as well as an honor to stand ready at the Alachua County Veterans Service Office.

Mary Jane Deedrick
Senior Veteran Counselor

War might be making young bodies old

There "is emerging evidence that" American’s newest combat veterans "appear to be growing old before their time," with former troops in their 20s and 30s showing "early signs of heart disease and diabetes, slowed metabolisms and obesity - maladies more common to middle age or later." If this is early aging, scientists say it won’t be proven "until they can study these veterans over the next few years." Still, "scientists with the Department of Veterans Affairs are rushing to understand" the research, which suggests the condition, is "most common to those with both blast-related concussion and PTSD." Scientists suggest that "early aging might stem from the nature of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, where troops served long and repeated deployments at an unprecedented rate." (Synopsis of article by Gregg Zoroya, USA TODAY, Updated 9/5/2012)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Meeting Information</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/1/12</td>
<td>40 &amp; 8 Voiture 1388</td>
<td>First Monday of Month at American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Gene Collister</td>
<td>352-367-4630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/12</td>
<td>American Legion Post #149</td>
<td>Post home on Newberry Road in Newberry</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Ed Jarvis</td>
<td>352-472-6125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/12</td>
<td>IWO TRIO</td>
<td>1st Tuesday of the month. Jason’s Deli Oaks Mall Annex on the hill</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>Bob Gasche</td>
<td>376-0402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2/12</td>
<td>Sons of the American Legion</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Kevin Porterfield</td>
<td>352-494-2281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/12</td>
<td>Gen. James A. Van Fleet Chapter 267-Korean War Veterans</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Dick Davis</td>
<td>378-5560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/3/12</td>
<td>Veterans for Peace</td>
<td>First Wednesday of the Month Call for directions</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Scott Carlin</td>
<td>375-2563</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6/12</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>First Saturday of the Month $5.00 breakfast</td>
<td>9-11AM</td>
<td>Scott Campbell</td>
<td>386-853-0194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/6/12</td>
<td>Military Support Group of Alachua County</td>
<td>1st United Methodist Church in Alachua</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Jim Yakubsin</td>
<td>222-8837</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/7/12</td>
<td>Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Branch 179</td>
<td>First Sunday of the month. Call for Directions</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
<td>Dennis Nickerson</td>
<td>386-454-5444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/8/12</td>
<td>Alachua County Veterans Advisory Board</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday of the month. Freedom Community Center, Kanapaha Park</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Major Stroupe</td>
<td>264-6740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/8/12</td>
<td>Sons of Confederate Veterans</td>
<td>Brown’s Family Restaurant in Alachua</td>
<td>6:00 PM for dinner 6:30 PM for meeting</td>
<td>Shellie Downs</td>
<td>352-486-3753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/10/12</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16 and Auxiliary</td>
<td>Complimentary dinner at 6:30</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Betsy Gabbard</td>
<td>352-481-2743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/12</td>
<td>D-Day Normandy Veterans Group</td>
<td>Conestoga’s Restaurant in Alachua</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Bryan Walker</td>
<td>372-9685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11/12</td>
<td>VFW Post 2811</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday of the month. General meeting and auxiliary will meet at the Post at 1100 NE Waldo Road</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Commander Dick Lester</td>
<td>386-462-1192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/12</td>
<td>American Legion Post 230 and Auxiliary</td>
<td>Post home in Hawthorne at (20370 SE Hawthorne Road)</td>
<td>12 Noon</td>
<td>Frank Womack</td>
<td>352-450-6376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/12</td>
<td>American Legion Post 232 North Hawthorne/Waldo</td>
<td>3rd Monday at post home (9302 Holden Park Road in Hawthorne)</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Cmdr/Service Officer William Sohl</td>
<td>246-7645</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/15/12</td>
<td>Legion Riders</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Steve Gabbard</td>
<td>352-481-2743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16/12</td>
<td>Sons of the American Revolution</td>
<td>Brown’s Country Buffet in Alachua</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>David Cromer</td>
<td>352-375-1257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/17/12</td>
<td>Rolling Thunder Chapter 3</td>
<td>American Legion Post 16</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Randy West</td>
<td>386-684-1002 or 386-538-1930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/12</td>
<td>DAV Chapter 90</td>
<td>DAV HQ - 2015 SW 75th Street</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Commander Pete Sabo</td>
<td>352-332-4068</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27/12</td>
<td>Marine Corps League Gator Detachment</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday of the month at VFW Post 2811, Waldo Rd</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Commandant Dick Lester</td>
<td>386-462-1192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/27/12</td>
<td>Milton Lewis Young Marines</td>
<td>4th Saturday of the month. Full Breakfast $5 at the VFW Post 2811</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td>Cary Hill</td>
<td>352-495-2710 or 352-514-3915</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Upcoming Events
Alachua County Veterans Community

October 6, 2012, Saturday – Chili Cook off, Hampton Veterans Memorial, Thunder Park, Hampton. Call (904)966-1386 for info.


October 26, 2012, Friday – Military Support Group Red, White, and Blue Barbeque and Fundraiser, Tickets $50 each. Women’s Club of Alachua, Steven Cade, Chairman – Event runs from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Call 222-9738 for tickets.

November 3, 2012, Saturday – Hot Buffet Breakfast at the American Legion Post 16, from 9 to 11 AM. Tickets $5 each. Call 372-8802 for info.

November 9, 2012, Friday – University of Florida Homecoming Parade, 12:00 Noon from the O’Connell Center. Duane Dewy, MOH, will be the Grand Marshall this year. All Veterans organizations invited to march. Call 375-8355.

November 9, 2012, Friday – Shands Hospital Veterans Day Celebration in the Shands Atrium. Starts at Noon. Go to Gavork@shands.ufl.edu for info.

November 10, 2012, Saturday – VFW Post 2811 and the Young Marines will be putting Flags on Veterans Graves Starting at 7:00 AM. Volunteers Welcome. Meet at Post on Waldo Road. Transportation provided. For info Call 339-6197 for info.

November 10, 2012, Saturday – Military Support Group Sit down Hot Breakfast at Applebee’s Restaurant on NW 13th St., starting at 8:00 AM. Tickets $6.00 each. All invited.


November 11, 2012, Sunday – Annual Veterans Day Celebration at Kanapaha Park starting at 10:30 AM Public invited. For info call County Veterans Service Officer Major Stroupe 264-6740. To get your organization on Veterans Row, call 375-8355 or email dpskwva@yahoo.com

November 11, 2012, Sunday – Annual High Springs Veterans Day Celebration, starting at 1:00 PM. Call 339-6197 for info.


November 12, 2012, Monday – American Legion Post 16 Cleanup of Veterans Graves at Evergreen Cemetery, starting at 9:00 AM. For info. Call 352-372-8802.

November 20, 2012, Tuesday – The Alachua County Sheriff’s Dept., SWAG distribute turkeys and food baskets to Southwest area residents at the SWAG Resource Center at Linton Oaks Subdivision. To contribute call 375-8355 or go to dpskwva@yahoo.com.

November 22, 2012, Thursday, Thanksgiving Day – VFW Post 2811 on Waldo Road will be open to serve Thanksgiving Dinners to Veteran Members of the Post starting at 3:00 PM. For info Call Commander Dick Lester at 339-6197.

November 24, 2012, Saturday – VFW Post 2811 Serving Hot Buffet Breakfast starting at 9:00 AM. $5.00 per person. Call Commander Dick Lester at 339-6197 for info.

December 1, 2012, Saturday – American Legion Post 16 serving Hot Breakfast starting at 9:00 AM. $5.00 per person. Call 372-8802 for info.
VA Expands Women’s Health Practitioner Trainings

The Department of Veterans Affairs has trained nearly 1,500 providers through its flagship National Women’s Health Mini-Residency Program, one of many training opportunities for VA clinicians to sharpen their women’s health skills.

“We have collaborated throughout VA to develop training that keeps VA providers and staff at the forefront on women’s health issues,” said VA Secretary Eric K. Shinseki. “This training will help VA prepare for the continuing increase in women Veterans and the accompanying complexity of their health care needs.”

VA is offering an unprecedented number of creative education opportunities to its health care providers interested in women’s health care. The training ranges from traditional lectures with direct instruction to online and audio courses. Several courses target physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners; other courses have sections geared toward wider audiences, including nurses, pharmacists, social workers, and psychologists. VA’s Employee Education System and VHA’s Simulation Learning Education and Research Network partnered closely with Women’s Health Education to develop the courses.

“Health care providers throughout VA must understand that women have unique health care needs and that different approaches might be necessary to provide the highest quality care to them,” said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Robert Petzel.

For more information about VA programs and services for women Veterans, please visit: www.va.gov/womenvet and www.womenshealth.va.gov
1. The Boulton Paul Defiant was known as a turret fighter. All of the armament for the aircraft was located in a four gun turret positioned to the rear. Apparently, the designers believed that this configuration would be better for the aircraft. It could pick off fighters attacking to the rear of the aircraft. For some reason the designers counted on enemy aircraft being on their fighters’ tail.

2. Its asymmetric layout - The BV-141 was designed with the crew in a heavily glazed nacelle offset from the boom carrying a single prop engine. The aircraft was cancelled because the BMW 801 engines were needed for the FW-190. The aircraft had dismal flying capabilities, a problem which was never really addressed.

3. Russia - The P-39 was one of the most revolutionary aircraft of its time. It had a tricycle landing gear, a car door type canopy, and the engine located behind the pilot. It ended up being too revolutionary for the period and was extremely tricky to fly. However it was used with success as a tank buster on the Russian front. It has been said that the only people who loved the aircraft was the designers and the Russians. How ironic that the Russians loved one of the most hated aircraft in the West!

4. The Me-323 was a powered variant of the Me-321 combat glider. It was the biggest aircraft of the war, and as such, one of the slowest. The aircraft was a virtual sitting duck in the air and could only be used with comprehensive air superiority. Even though the aircraft was known as the "Elastoplast Bomber" it was highly resilient. Still, none of the 213 production aircraft survived past the summer of 1944. Multiple incidents of large formations of Me-323s being downed have been reported. In one incident 14 of the transports were destroyed resulting in 120 deaths. The loss of all 213 aircraft is one of the most complete destructions of one type of aircraft in history.

5. The A-40 was also known as the KT. It was a T-60 tank with biplane wings attached that would be trailed from a TB-3 and be ready to fight when dropped. The aircraft was extremely heavy and the tank had to be stripped of armament, ammunition, headlights, and fuel. The tank was still too heavy to carry. Even if it had worked, one has to wonder if the tank would have been fit for frontline action in its "reduced" form with no armament, fuel, headlights.

6. The Ba.88 was a highly advanced two seat, two engine ground attack warplane. It was extremely advanced for the time, but proved to be a disappointment when it entered service. It was a great plane in prototype form but suffered greatly when military equipment was added. It ended up being used as a decoy.

7. Baka. The MXY-7 Ohka was a small rocket plane fitted with an explosive charge and carried under a medium bomber. The pilot was expected to fly his airplane right into an enemy ship, making him a kamikaze. This was part of the Japanese "Warrior Spirit" which meant that a soldier was expected to die and not surrender. When the Ohka worked, it was devastating. On most missions, the heavily loaded bombers were easy targets for American fighters, and were easily destroyed.

8. Bail out and make his way back to German lines. The Fi-103R was an attempt to provide accurate destruction of high priority targets. About 100 pilots of KG 200 where chosen but no missions were flown. The pilot was expected to bail out of the aircraft right before collision. This would have been very hard because of the cramped cockpit and the pulse-jet engine located right above the cockpit.

9. Battle of France. The Battles were used with the BEF in France. The pilots fought gallantly, but their aircraft were drastically outclassed by the contemporary fighters. The Bf-109 flew 100 mph faster than the bomber. The Battle was destroyed by enemy fighters and suffered heavy losses. On the biggest Battle sortie of the war, 40 of the 71 attacking aircraft were destroyed. Battles were
eventually replaced by the Vickers Wellington. Although it was an inadequate bomber, a Battle gunner did score the first RAF kill of World War II, against a Bf-109.

10. Ju-87 Stuka. The A-24 was designed in response to an USAAC request for a dive-bomber after hearing reports of the Ju-87 Stuka's success in Europe. After studying the Stuka from reports, Douglas decided that the best aircraft to offer was a land-based version of the SBD Dauntless. The A-24 performed miserably in combat and was soon relegated to non-combat roles. [Source: http://]

Camp Lejeune Water Supplies

From the 1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

**New health benefits**

Under a [law signed Aug. 6, 2012](http://), Veterans and family members who served on active duty or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1987 may be eligible for medical care through VA for 15 health conditions:

- Esophageal cancer
- Breast cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Renal toxicity
- Female infertility
- Scleroderma
- Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Lung cancer
- Bladder cancer
- Leukemia
- Myelodysplastic syndromes
- Hepatic steatosis
- Miscarriage
- Neurobehavioral effects

Veterans already enrolled in VA health care, contact your [local VA health care facility](http://) to receive care under the new law. Those not already enrolled should call 1-877-222-8387 for assistance. Family members will receive care after Congress appropriates funds and VA publishes regulations.

**Compensation benefits**

*The new law applies to health care, not disability compensation.* At this time, there is insufficient scientific and clinical evidence to establish a presumptive association between service at Camp Lejeune during the period of water contamination and the development of certain diseases. VA is closely monitoring [new research](http://). VA representatives regularly attend the quarterly Community Action Panel meetings hosted by [The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry](http://) (ATSDR). Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis.
National POW-MIA Recognition Day

September 21, 2012