Wishing One And All
A Merry Christmas
It's time again to inform you of what has been accomplished and inform you of the State of the Department.

On 11 November this year I along with VCAL Brown attended the Veteran's Day service in St. Avold at the Lorrain American Cemetery. There were a lot of people on hand, a lot more than I expected. The service went well and eight Wreaths were laid. I want to thank the following people for attending the ceremony: The Warrant officers Association, Sons of the American Legion(SAL), HOGs from Ramstein, Forty and Eight Grande du Germany, Forty and Eight Locale 1467, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The Legion Riders, The Wounded Warriors and the many family and friends of veterans and the veterans themselves who attended. After the Ceremony we met at Kaiserslautern Post GR01 for lunch. Thank you GR01 for a job well done.

Thank you John Wayne Post GR79 for the wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner you pulled off on the 21st of November. The meal was delicious. Only have one complaint. No Mince Meat Pie, no Fruit Cake or Egg Nog. Love it. Buy a jar and eat it right out of the bottle

I have an appointment on Saturday 16 January 2016 to attend the GMM at GR13 in Augsburg accompanied by their DVC Hudson. I will be there. I'll make more appointments in due course.

Membership, membership, membership. I want to welcome two new posts to the Department. American Legion post Thailand 01, Commanded by Comrade Larry D. Edmonds and American Legion Post Ireland 01 Commanded by DVC John Shanahan Jr. Congratulation and welcome to the department. Hopefully the VCAL and I can visit TH01.

We had trouble getting IR01s Charter approved. At the Fall National Committee Meeting in October the Charter was disapproved. Not willing to sit back and allow that to happen, I along with the JA and VCAL started a campaign to get the charter reinstated. There were calls to National and we were successful in getting the charter approved.

Every post should get signed up on Mylegion.org. You can review your post membership online, see who renewed and who hasn't. The department Membership Chairman can explain this to you all. Contact the Department Adjutant to get set up on Mylegion.org. Each post is authorized to go online, however, only the Commander and Adjutant may go to

We have less the 4 weeks to Christmas. I'm taking this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please be safe over the Holidays. No drinking and driving. That doesn't mean pull over and have a snort and then continue driving. A lot of posts are having Christmas parties on 12 December. If you plan on drinking use a Designated Driver. Remember the life you save could be yours

A reminder, In January the $5.00 dues increase will go into effect. I know that we said that Department would suck up the increase but if you get your people renewed that's less Department will have to pay. Another way to beat the increase next year is to become a PUFL. No more renewal.

Keith Abernathy / Commander /
keithabernathy1942@yahoo.de
Dear Legion Family Members and Friends,

This time of the year can be very special with festive holidays, fresh memories with families and delicious food. But amid all these festivities, we are more likely to catch the flu.

According to the Center for Disease Control, approximately 200,000 people are hospitalized due to flu-related complications each year. These exposures can happen during travel, a trip to the grocery store, or during family or office gatherings.

This year, it is easier than ever to protect yourself by receiving a no-cost flu shot at Walgreens.

The American Legion is pleased that Walgreens has joined forces with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide enrolled VA patients flu shots at no cost. These flu shots are available through March 31, 2016, while supplies last. However, doctors advise that the sooner you get the flu shot, the better your chances are of protecting yourself throughout the season.

The vaccines, of course, are subject to availability and there may be state, age or health restrictions. Only veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system are eligible – neither family members nor TRICARE members are eligible.

This program makes it easier and more convenient for veterans to avoid the flu, especially those who may live a long distance from the nearest VA facility. Visit your neighborhood Walgreens or go to Walgreens.com/FindAStore to find the nearest location. Walgreens will even send the record of your flu shot to VA as part of the eHealth exchange to ensure that your VA health records are up to date.

Once you find a nearby Walgreens, simply click here to download the form. Then bring it, along with a photo ID and your VA ID card, to Walgreens.

You can learn more about protecting yourself and your family from the flu this year by visiting www.Walgreens.com/Flu. Visit www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp for more information regarding this program.

From my family to yours, have a happy and healthy holiday season.


Dale Barnett
National Commander
Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my email address at the latest three days prior to the end of the month. If possible. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with YOUR Department you can also visit the following sites, [www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org](http://www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org) / [www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance](http://www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance) / [www.legion.org/fodpal](http://www.legion.org/fodpal)

Thank You.

David N. Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de

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**From the Editor**
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT  Maxwell Rice

SUBJECT: 2016 Oratorical Finals

This is notice for The Department of France Oratorical. It will be held on the 20th of February 2016. Hosted by BE02 in Belgium, the location and times will be posted at a later date.

Post are reminder that they should get an early start so that there candidates will be prepared and have had time to train.

Should you have any questions please contact the Dept. Oratorical Chairman Douglas Clemence or Dept. Adjutant Maxwell Rice.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN  Joe D. Brown

My fellow Legionnaires, Auxiliary and S.A.L. Members, I would like to address the lack of communication within the Department. I challenge all of us to do better job in this arena, so that we can better support and guide the Posts and accomplish the Department missions. In addition, we need to support each other, if you need help ask, I am sure with the wealth of knowledge we have within this Department someone is capable and willing to help. If you need help or want to do a membership drive, just let me know and I will be glad to assist.

November was a busy month, on Veterans day, I visited St. Avold in France and laid wreath at Lorraine cemetery. We had over 40 bike riders and legion riders and we want to thank them for their support. The director for the cemetery said this was the first time that they had so many people attend the ceremony.

On the way back from the Veterans day ceremony, we stopped at Kaiserslautern GR01 for dinner, Michael Young and his staff organized the dinner.

Vice Commander Foster and I traveled to GR05 post home to discuss having a S.A.L. Dec in Mörfelden in March 2016. Afterwards I called GR14’s adjutant Hackworth and he told me they were having a meeting tonight and I decided to drive to Büdingen to attend their meeting. I presented some awards from the post for Veteran Day.

The following week Vice Commander Hudson, Vice Commander Foster and I visited IR63 meeting. We put a packet together to help them with the day to day operations of their post. IR63 held elections, Liam Kane was elected again as Post Commander, congratulations Commander Kane.

The following week Vice Commander Foster and I traveled to FR01 Paris for their elections, but due to the terrorist attack, the elections got canceled, so we hung around Pension hall for 14 hours till our bus returned back to Germany.

The end of the month I visited John Wayne for their thanksgiving dinner.

The Department of France has 2 new posts, Ireland IR01 and Thailand TH01 and I know these 2 new posts will do great things moving forward. TH01 had a nice Veterans Day ceremony, look at the pictures in the newsletter from TH01.

We still have posts that have not transmitted any members this year. The Department reached the 65% cutoff date and I hope we can make the 75% cutoff date. I want thank all the posts that will make 100% by 31 of December.
We must remember the ideals of what the American Legion stand for, justice freedom and democracy. We are here to support our veterans, their families, our communities, and the care of our veterans through the programs set out at the National Level. Many of our Posts need to be more involved with those programs. I would strive for everyone to make that happen. Post Commanders, when you have your General Membership Meeting you need to display the POW/MIA table, the American Flag and your Post Legion Flag, we have posts out there do not do this.

If you have a Legionnaire in your post that is ill, in the hospital or deceased, please inform the Department Adjutant and the Department Chaplain.

Remember, the Dept Oratorical contest will be held in Belgium on 20 February 2016. Each Post needs to hold their prospective contest at least a month before the Dept.

There will be an electronic vote on whether to hold the 2016 convention in Belgium. BE02 is due to present a convention package to Dept soon.

As always, remember if you need to contact me, I am just an E-mail away vcalbrown50@gmail.com or my mobile 01701888034. In closing, please keep those in harm’s way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

France Membership by Post

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The Department has been notified that the Green Bar (Green Sheets) that come with the yearly membership cards will most likely be discontinued for the membership Year 2017.

This means if your post hasn’t registered for MYLEGION you will not be able to receive the vital information on your post members. Now is the time to request for the use of MYLEGION, do not put it off any longer, it will only make matters worse for you in the future. With MYLEGION you can check on the status of your members, fill out your post CPR’s online, and see who has renewed online and other pertinent information.

To apply for a MYLEGION account contact the Department Adjutant Comrade Max Rice at Max.Rice@lavatec-laundry.com or colwichboy@yahoo.com he will be able to assist you in obtaining an account. Once again it’s up to you to apply for this, this is not an automatic service, the only thing that MYLEGION cost is your time to apply for an account, and the benefits of having an account is more than worth your time.

Charlie" Brown/Membership Chairman
VCAL Brown Recruited a New Member for GR 01, James Christian

VCAL Brown — Vice Commander Foster at The Preshing Hall for FR01 Election

GR14 General Membership Meeting

GR79 Thanksgiving Day
On 8 November 2015 I attended the annual Service of Remembrance in St Patrick’s Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland with Vice Commander John Shanahan. Dignitaries in attendance for this service were the President of Ireland, President Michael D. Higgins, the Ambassador of France, Jean-Pierre Thebault and the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, H.E. Dominick Chilcott.

Afterwards we spent a very nice evening with members of the French Foreign Legion and the Royal British Legion. I have every intention of going back next year.

On 11 November 2015 I attended a Veterans Day Ceremony at Washington Square on Patch Barracks. The ceremony was very nice with the Patch High School ROTC Color Guard doing a very nice job. In attendance were many members of Stuttgart’s Post 06. Below is a link to an AFN news report documenting the occasion:

https://www.facebook.com/afnstuttgart/videos/vb.265680573542200/786415048135414/?type=2&theater

On 21 November I attended John Wayne Post 79’s Thanksgiving Dinner Party. If you weren’t there you missed out on some outstanding door prizes and food! Post 79 did a wonderful job. The food, drink and company were superb.

Regards, Lyndon Hudson, VC

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**Department of France Past Commanders Club**

**Jimmie Dale**...President “2016”

**Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?**

PAST AND PRESENT Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents...so if you were just voted into office you are eligible to join

- Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $25.00
- Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only $10.00

Our next meeting will be prior to our Department Third DEC

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... David Greaux, PCC Secretary “2016”
Department Vice Commander John Shanahan

On Thanksgiving Day and Veterans: This note is written on Thanksgiving Day and, in the spirit of thanksgiving, I’d like to reflect on how the message of this day is so important to the work that we do to support one another and all the veterans of our great nation.

To become a veteran, you first have to become a warrior. To be a warrior, you have to learn about your heritage and its values – about our great country and the values that it holds that are worth fighting for, and if needed, to die for. We have to be prepared to make the supreme sacrifice – giving up our lives to preserve, protect and defend our Constitution and our fellow Americans in the face of any enemy.

It makes no difference what job you have in the Service. As every veteran knows, you are taught in basic training from day one that this business of military service is no walk in the park. It is about being a warrior, even if you are eventually assigned to peel spuds or fuel airplanes. You have a key part to play in the bigger mission that is to “preserve, protect and defend...”

A veteran is still a warrior and he or she still bears the imprint of a warrior’s service. That imprint might be the burdens of battle, both physical and psychological. Our job as members of the American Legion is to stand up for our brother and sister veterans and do our very best to ensure that all get the help, services and support that they need.

As warriors, we learned about teamwork, about working together as a unit to accomplish a goal. As veterans, those principles still apply. Our work as members of the Legion is still focused on building and supporting the team that supports the veteran. It really is as simple as that. Our mission statement tells us that we are “a patriotic veterans’ organization devoted to mutual helpfulness” and that we carry out our mission by “mentoring youth and the sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.”

We should view our membership in the Legion as a continuation of the precept of “Duty, Honor and County” and our work as a continuing commitment to support those who have stepped forward and put on our nation’s uniform. Whether it’s national policy advocacy on behalf of improved veterans’ benefits or one-on-one advocacy on behalf of service delivery to a wounded or disabled veteran, all of what we do is important. Every day, we are presented with opportunities to be of service in some way to our veterans. I am grateful for this opportunity and grateful to work with the men and women of the American Legion who volunteer their time and talents in continuing service to America and her veterans. Thank you!

On Approval of a New Post for Ireland: Just earlier this Thanksgiving Week, we received notification that our application for a charter for a new Post in Ireland (Post IR-01, Dublin) has been approved. This is great news and a wonderful endorsement of the nine months of work that the men and women of this Post have invested to make this possible. This approval would not have been possible without the support and the team work of the leadership in the Department of France, who consistently and effectively addressed every one of the challenges that came up in the creation of this new Post. All of us in Post IR-01 are deeply grateful for the “Got Your 6” support that we received from the Department, so on this Thanksgiving Day – a warm “thank you” to all who stood with us. Now, grateful for your help, we begin the task of building a new component of “still serving America.”

With best wishes to all,
For God and Country, John
Greeting fellow comrades this month has gone and we are approaching Christmas. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving along with lots of turkey.

I started off this month by going to Dublin and ending it the same way. VCAL Commander Brown, Vice Commander Hudson and I went on the 7th to assist IR63 for the good of the Legion. I returned on the 26th to hoe the elections and attend their Thanksgiving Dinner IR63 which I must say was very good and they had a good turnout. I would like to thank them for inviting me and I am looking forward to working with them the rest of the year.

I was not able to attend the ceremony in France at The Lorraine American Ceremony on Veterans Day. Although I heard it was a bigger turnout than last year, However I was able to help GR01 and the Ramstein Military Chapter Bikers with the after celebration at the post home of GR01’s when the ceremony at St. Avoid was over. They had another great turn out and plenty of good food. I would like thank the Ramstein Military Chapter Bikers for making tis another memorable event.

VCAL Brown and I traveled to Paris France the night of the 13th of November for the Paris Post elections on the 14th which was canceled because of the terrorist attack. My prayers go out to the victims and their families. Also thank God that none of our comrades were injured. We still got to see some of the sites there even though the streets were kind of empty except for the police officers most of that day. Their election will be held at a later date. Their nxt meeting will be held 2 Dec. at 1800 hrs. and they are having their Christmas the 12th of December.

I am very happy to announce that Post Ireland 01 charter as of 23 November 2015 has been approved. My thanks and congratulation t everyone who played a part getting this post started and all of its members. I will look forward to working with you.

My family and I would like to wish you ALL a Merry Christmas and a Happy News.

May God Bless You All!

Quincy Foster, Vice Commander
Mobile: 049-(0)178398959
Email: Achange@qcfoster.com
The history of our flag in 112 pages

Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant

The American flag is the most powerful symbol in our nation – it's a symbol of freedom, pride and hope. When the men and women of this country who’ve made the decision to put on a uniform and serve their country through the armed forces make the ultimate sacrifice, that same flag drapes their caskets before they’re laid to rest. The American flag waves in the air during the singing of the national anthem before professional sporting events; it soars above local, state and government buildings; and it’s saluted when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

In honor of our organization’s upcoming 100th anniversary, The American Legion created "Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag" – a richly illustrated 112-page tribute to our nation’s colors from the Revolutionary War to the 21st century.

The bookazine explores the flag’s history, meaning, rules and place in society. Included are dozens of colorful photos, illustrations, quotations, lyrics, poems, fun facts and mysteries, as well as an illustrated guide to U.S. Flag Code, which was the product of a 1923 American Legion conference in Washington, D.C.

"Indivisible" is available for $9.95 on newsstands nationwide at Barnes & Noble, Books-A-Million, Book World, Hastings and Sam’s Club, as well as at selected post exchanges and commissaries at U.S. military installations. Copies are also available for order online through American Legion Emblem Sales at www.legion.org/flag.

Orders can also be placed by calling toll-free: (888) 453-4466

"Indivisible" presents a 100th Anniversary fundraising opportunity for posts. Posts can buy the bookazine in bulk and resell them to members or the public. Bulk orders of 25 or more cuts the price to $7.95 each. Posts, districts and departments are also encouraged to buy the bookazine in bulk and distribute to schools or libraries, or use as a fundraiser or membership incentive.

Legion Family members can help raise awareness and excitement about the flag bookazine by coordinating events with their local bookstores where the bookazine will be sold. For example, Legion Family members can show customers how to properly fold a flag; collect unserviceable flags; or share the overall story of what the bookazine is about.
11 Nov. 2015. Our post, Brig. Gen Robin Olds, American Legion Thailand Post TH01, had the privilege of participating in the Remembrance Day Ceremonies at Thung Si Muang Park here in Ubon Thailand. It was a very good ceremony with Thai official, military units, schools and the like laying wreath's at the Monument of Merit. This monument was erected by the freed POW's at the end of WWII that were encamped in Ubon by the Japanese to build the Burma Railroad. It was also a celebration of "Little Mother Ubon". She and her daughter risked their own life and safety to bringing food and water to the POW's by passing it through the fence to them. It was also a 50th anniversary tribute to the members of "Operation Crown". The building of an airfield north of Ubon at Loeng Nok Tha, by the British in the early 60's. The runway and aprons are still in use today by the general aviators of Thailand. To my knowledge, our post is the first American group to officially participate in these ceremonies. I would like to thank Jim Curtis and Mike Chapman for working our group into the ceremonies on short notice. We look forward to participating again in the years to come.

LARRY EDMONDS/Commander/American Legion/Thailand Post TH01/Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand/083-201-1062
US veterans urge White House to halt import of Syrian refugees

INDIANAPOLIS, IN - Concerned about the threats represented by ISIS and other jihadists, the head of the nation's largest veterans organization has called for at least a temporary halt to White House plans to allow thousands of Syrian refugees to enter the United States.

"Unless a flawless vetting process can be established, The American Legion supports a pause in any process which seeks to accept an increase of refugees from the Middle East and Southwest Asia and anywhere anti-Americanism is suspected in the interest of national security," said American Legion National Commander Dale Barnett. "The American Legion maintains compassion for refugees; however the United States must ensure without any doubt that those who seek to destroy our American way of life are not hiding among innocent refugees. There are still too many unanswered questions about what led to the cowardly and heinous attacks in Paris last week. We should not increase the risk of such an attack occurring here."

Barnett pointed out that FBI Director James Comey has not been able to provide assurances that the United States currently has an adequate vetting process.

"And so if someone has never made a ripple in the pond in Syria in a way that would get their identity or their interest reflected in our database, we can query our database until the cows come home, but there will be nothing showing up because we have no record of them," Comey told a congressional committee in October.

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 14,000 posts across the nation.

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DETACHMENT OF FRANCE

Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01

Lee Preston… Detachment of France Commander “2016”

Hello Fellow SAL Members

November has come and gone and I hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving. For Memorial Day I purchased a wreath and my wife accompanied me to Saint Avold for the wreath laying ceremony at St. Lorain cemetery. There were many people there and the ceremony went well. There were more than just Legionnaires in attendance as there where some people visiting from the states that dropped in to enjoy the ceremony. Overall it was a good experience for everyone. Christmas is coming and I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and all the best in the New Year. Please be safe over the holidays and let us all keep those military members that are in harm’s way in our thoughts and prayers. Remember all of the veterans that have given so much for us to have the freedoms that we enjoy today. Thank you all for being members of the Sons of The American Legion and for all of your sacrifices you make to create the organization that we have. Again, Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year.

Lee Preston/Detachment Commander
For more than 90 years, the Legion has been the nation's leading advocate for proper health care and earned benefits for America's veterans. The Legion was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930, and an ardent supporter of its rise to Cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 1989.

To those who have sworn with their lives to protect America against enemies near and far, national security is a deeply held value. The past and present threat of terrorist attacks magnifies the importance of this value.

The nation's cultural, moral and patriotic values have been under attack for decades, a disheartening trend that continues today.

Today's young people face an array of societal pressures. The American Legion supports the family and understands that our children today are tomorrow's leaders. Boys and Girls State, The Oratorical scholarship competition and State Police Youth Week are some of our most popular Children and Youth Programs.
GR 09 members honor fallen soldiers

On 15 November, German Volkstrauertag (Memorial Day) nine members of the William D. Nelson Post GR 09, Neu-Ulm, Germany participated in a wreath laying ceremony together with members of Germany’s Tradition-sverein Ulmer Artilleristen (Traditional Association of Ulm Artillery soldiers) at the Ulm memorial honoring fallen soldiers and persons who have suffered at the hands of oppressors.

Bundeswehr Oberst (German military Colonel) Schreckinger, guest speaker recognized from previous ceremonies GR 09’s attendance and thanked the Legionnaires for their support of this important memorial service. In his speech he expressed with sincere feeling that today too many of the younger generation of Germans have lost the appreciation of what all American did for their country during the period following World War II.

A highpoint of the event was the attendance of Hr. Gerhard Gaeng, 96 year father-in-law of Legionnaire Eddie Irizarry. Hr. Gaeng, although his mobility is limited to use of a walker has attended this occasion for several years and vividly recalls his experiences of his unit’s fight to within 21 kilometers from Moscow in 1945 when they were ordered to withdraw.

The Traditional Ulmer Artillery Association was formed in 1909 and GR 09 has participated in this somber affair since 1998. With this comradeship the American Legion also disseminates the understanding of the Legion’s principles to our German hosts and as in years past the members Vereine expressed their gratitude to GR 09 for their participation.

After the ceremony everyone retired to a local clubhouse for a social gathering.
Army Cpl. Martin A. King, 18, of Harrisburg, Pa., was buried Nov. 9 in Annville, Pa. In early November 1950, King was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, when his unit was attacked by Chinese forces while occupying a position along the Nammyon River, near Unsan, North Korea. King was reported missing in action on Nov. 2, 1950, while his unit was conducting a fighting withdrawal to a more defensible position.

In 1953, during the prisoner of war exchanges historically known as “Operation Little Switch” and “Operation Big Switch,” American soldiers who were returned told debriefers that King had been captured during the battle and died from malnutrition at Pyoktong POW Camp. His remains were not among those returned by communist forces in 1954.

Between 1990 and 1994, North Korea returned to the United States 208 boxes of commingled human remains, which we now believe contain the remains of at least 600 U.S. servicemen who fought during the war. North Korean documents included in the repatriation indicated that some of the remains were recovered from the area where King was believed to have died.

To identify King’s remains, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including mitochondrial and Y-chromosome short tandem repeat DNA analyses, which matched his brother.

Today, more than 7,800 Americans remain unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue to be made from remains that were previously turned over by North Korean officials or recovered by American teams.

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For Week Ending 11/20/2015
Hepatitis C (hep C) is a significant health concern facing U.S. military veterans today. It has been suggested by several studies that a higher prevalence of hepatitis C is seen in veterans versus nonveterans. Over 5 percent of veterans enrolled in the care of the Veterans Health Administration have hep C. When left untreated, hep C can lead to cirrhosis and liver cancer. Hep C is curable — which means the hep C virus is not detectable in the blood months after treatment ends — but the first step is to get tested. This is why The American Legion is launching the Take Down Hep C campaign.

You may have hep C and not know it.

- Hep C is a blood-borne virus spread when your blood comes into contact with infected blood of another individual.
- Hep C is inflammation of the liver caused by the hepatitis C virus.
- Up to 75 percent of people with chronic hep C in the United States do not know they have it.
- Most people living with the virus have no symptoms following infection.
- Symptoms of the disease can be flu-like and include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, jaundice, abdominal pain, joint pain, dark urine and gray-colored stools.

U.S. veterans are at elevated risk of having hep C.

A veteran could have been exposed to hep C in one or more of the following ways:

- Combat medical work or sharing of personal items such as razors or toothbrushes.
- While receiving a blood transfusion, blood product or organ transplant (before 1992).
- Sharing dirty needles or receiving a tattoo or body piercing with contaminated equipment or by a non-professional.
- Exposure to contaminated blood on the battlefield or during sexual contact with a person with hep C.

Are you ready to Take Down Hep C?

- All veterans should know their risk factors, get tested for hep C antibodies and learn their results so they can talk with doctors about next steps including treatment options.
- Hep C antibody testing is available at all VA medical centers and you may qualify for a free test. Contact your American Legion Department Service Officer (DSO) for more information. To find department service officers near you, visit www.legion.org/serviceofficers.

Take Down Hep C – The Campaign

- Take Down Hep C is a national movement to encourage people who are at risk to get tested for hep C antibodies.
- The American Legion is working together with Abbvie, Inc., a national corporate alliance of The American Legion, to Take Down Hep C because the disease is a significant health concern facing U.S. military veterans.
- The American Legion National Executive Committee has passed Resolutions 140 and 148 that urge the Department of Veterans Affairs to approve presumptive service connection for hep C and increase funding for medical research for hep C and other health-care issues veterans face.
- Visit TakeDownHepC.com to learn more about the risk factors, importance of hep C antibody testing, and discussing the results with your doctor for possible treatment options.

Do your part – get tested today! Together we can Take Down Hep C.
If you offer services to our Legionnaires and/or veterans and would like to let it be known...place it in the Department Newsletter. Contact the Newsletter Editor David Greaux with the information. The input will be reviewed and decided by Department if the article will/can be posted.