



**hollow charge:** a shaped charge producing a deep cylindrical hole of relatively small diameter in the direction of its axis of rotation

**homeland:** the physical region that includes the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, United States possessions and territories, and surrounding territorial waters and airspace

**homing:** the technique whereby a mobile station or weapon directs itself, or is directed, towards a source of primary or reflected energy, or to a specified point



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### Words to Ponder:

"What counts is not necessarily the size of the dog in the fight; it's the size of the fight in the dog."

~ Dwight D. Eisenhower

### Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin  
LCpl Timothy Robinson, USMC: Persian Gulf

### Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:  
the book of Romans



## Another Sunrise

Each year, on November 27th, John "Red" Parkinson gets up in the darkness and cold before dawn, and climbs to the top of a nearby hill to reflect on the life that God has given him. The cool air and gradual ascent to the top reminds him of a more difficult time and location far away. As he ages, the journey becomes a little more difficult each year, but it is an important time of reflection that brings him back. In the predawn hours, he thinks back to November 27, 1950, and the battle of Yudam-ni and his promise to God that forever changed his life.

The Korean War is often called "the forgotten war" by many historians because it never captured the mainstream imagination as did World War II. Yet, the combat was as intense and the conditions as harsh as any endured by any military component in the history of our country's warfare. Without the conventional ending of warfare with parades and great fanfare that marked previous wars, and with an armistice signed that still divides a peninsula, the Korean War still seems to be a bit of unfinished business in the military history of our nation.

On June 25, 1950, South Korea was invaded by the Korean People's Army of North Korea. The invading force had substantial superiority in manpower and equipment over the South Korea's Republic of Korea (ROK) army and the United Nations (UN) force in place to prevent South Korea from falling. The strategy of North Korea was a large frontal assault accompanied by a double envelopment crushing the South Korean force on its flanks. Having been outgunned and outmanned, the South Korean and UN forces retreated in disarray leaving behind much of

its equipment. During this retreat, the capital city of Seoul was lost to North Korea. In August, the Pusan



**John "Red" Parkinson**  
(circa 1950)

Perimeter was put in place to halt the aggressive North Korean army. This bought valuable time for the UN logistical superiority to provide the needed troops and supplies to neutralize North Korea's advance.

During the month of August, the North Korean army repeatedly tried to break the line at the Pusan Perimeter while taking tremendous losses in the face of a now well-equipped and well-manned UN force. General of the Army Douglas MacArthur developed a daring and dangerous plan for a landing at Inchon that would flank the enemy, retake the capital city of Seoul, sever the Korean People's army supply and communication

lines, and put the invaders on the defensive. Inchon's natural and artificial defenses were formidable - it had a small anchorage with high seawalls and dangerously quick channel currents. It was considered by planners on both sides as a terrible location to land an army. However, MacArthur correctly calculated that the North Koreans would not consider this as a possible location for a landing force and was wide-open for amphibious operations in the right weather conditions. MacArthur insisted on landing at Inchon rather than more ideal locations and his plan (Operation Chromite) has been considered one of military genius in the decades that have followed. MacArthur achieved the surprise he had hoped for on the unsuspecting North Koreans at Inchon (15-19 September, 1950) and he anticipated having the war won by Christmas of 1950.

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## HERE'S WHY: THE STORY BEHIND CHALLENGE COINS

**Editor's Note:** Have you ever wondered what challenge coins are all about? Here's part 1 of the scoop.

Many readers may not even know what a "challenge coin" is, or how they are used within the modern-day military ranks, but their use is highly prevalent in many arenas. Members of the US Armed Forces have a long-standing tradition of carrying such coins that symbolize unit identity and brotherhood. Each piece usually bears unique unit symbols or mottos that identify the group in which they represent, and are often traded, presented, and collected between unit members. Challenge coins capture the very essence of military affiliation and instill pride to those that carry them.

Depending on who you ask, the "challenge coin" has historical roots dating back from fifty to nearly one-hundred years. The most documented and familiar story about these coins comes from an American fighter pilot who was shot down during World War I and forced to land in hostile German territory. The pilot was subsequently captured and temporarily held in a detention facility that was later attacked by British Forces.

This attack afforded the American an opportunity to later escape. At some point after his escape, and without many of his personal belongings with him, the American was confronted by French soldiers who detained him. He was presumed to be a German at the time, which led the French to nearly take his life. The American plead with the French Officer that he was indeed an ally, and presented a challenge coin he had received from his Lieutenant some time before being deployed. The coin was struck with the American's Unit insignia and other identifying marks.

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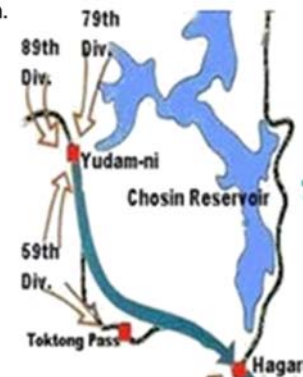
## Another Sunrise

General MacArthur quickly dispatched the US Eighth Army north along the western coast of the Korean Peninsula and the ROK I Corps and the US X Corps to advance north on the eastern coast. China's Chairman Mao Zedong issued a warning to the UN forces against advancing north and large formations of Chinese troops dubbed the People's Volunteer Army (PVA) secretly crossed the border into North Korea in October. General MacArthur was sure that China would not enter into the conflict and he ordered UN troops northward. On October 25th, the ROK forces encountered Chinese PVA units. On October 31st, Mao Zedong ordered the PVA to immediately destroy the ROK Capital Division, ROK 3rd Infantry Division, US 1st Marine Division,

and the US 7th Infantry Division. On November 6th, the Chinese PVA units were ordered to retreat to be able to draw UN troops into the Chosin Reservoir area (see map).

John "Red" Parkinson was assigned to the Weapon's Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 7th Marine Regiment (or the "3-7") as an anti-tank rocket launcher gunner. In November, the 3-7 was a part of the US 1st Marine Division that moved north from Hungnam to the southern end of the Chosin Reservoir - a man-made lake located in the northeast of the Korean Peninsula. November turned out to be a bitterly cold month with temperatures plunging to -42F. Most troops had been issued parkas and shoe-pacs, but many still had their summer utilities

and only one USMC blanket to stave off the frigid temperatures. The conditions were so cold that the .30-cal. heavy machine gun was filled with anti-freeze rather than water. Frostbite was an ever-present concern.



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## Army Launches Telehealth Program

Gigail Cureton

**Editor's Note:** The following article was featured in the *Army.mil* news on 24 Feb 2016.

The Army launched a new program on 2 Feb 2016 to measure the impact of technology on providing primary care services in reducing the time non-urgent care patients spend in busy emergency centers.

The six-month telehealth pilot, administered by Regional Health Command-Atlantic (Provisional), is a joint effort of Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH) and Eisenhower Army Medical Center (EAMC) connecting family medicine and primary care physicians from Eisenhower with patients at Blanchfield to provide medical care via a secured video teleconference.

According to Master Sgt. Jason Alexander, RHC-A (P) Clinical Operations NCO, many ill patients use the emergency department after hours due to the unavailability of their primary physician. With the pilot, RHC-A staff are helping the emergency department staff at Blanchfield focus on more serious ill or injured patients.

"If you or your family member is

sick, having access to a doctor right away is a priority. This is why some patients present to the ED with low acuity," said Alexander. "This pilot aims to identify patients who fit this category and redirect them to a primary care doctor at Eisenhower.

*'Bringing the right care, by the right person, at the right time, and in the right format will enable us to transform our delivery of care.'*

Not only will the care provided be focused to their need but it will also help reduce their wait time and allow ED professionals to take care of more urgent cases."

Accessibility involves establishing a "Virtual Patient-Centered Medical Home or PCMH" to redirect non-urgent care patients from BACH's emergency room in Kentucky to an area where they can be screened and evaluated by qualified telehealth physicians working at the EAMC Telehealth Center 445 miles away in Georgia.

A PCMH is a way of organizing primary care that emphasizes care coordination and communication to transform primary care to allow better access to health care, increase satisfaction with care, and improve overall health.

Access to care is a key focus area for Army Medicine. In 2014, then

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel released the findings of a military health system review, which described the military's ability to meet certain benchmarks for quality, safety and access to care as average.

"Bringing the right care, by the right person, at the right time, and in the right format will enable us to transform our delivery of care and improve patient access to that care," wrote Brig. Gen. Ron Place, RHC-A commanding general, in his February message to regional staff.

"Our whole objective here is really not to just assist wait times but to assist people who leave because they are tired of waiting and leave without being seen," said Alexander. "So the 'left without being seen' rate should drop, our wait times should drop, and the quality of the encounter and our handoff back to primary care should improve as we integrate our systems from this redirect process back to into primary care inside of the hospital."



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## The Army's Telehealth Program

Lt. Col. Kevin Horde, a family medicine physician from Fort Benning's Martin Army Community Hospital supporting the pilot at EAMC, had no telehealth experience before joining the pilot team. "It's a great opportunity to move our care delivery to the next level," he said.

In order to get ready for his first virtual patient, Horde had to take online classes in the use and application of telehealth and had to be credentialed to practice at both EAMC (his base of operations for the pilot) and BACH. Hours of practical experience followed under the tutelage of Dr. Wood, chief of telehealth at EAMC. Simulated patients and scenarios were used to get Horde,

and the nearly dozen RHC-A physicians training to support the pilot, comfortable with the virtual exam process.

"With that very first patient I had a little anxiety despite all of the training," Horde said. "Family medicine is hands-on, but the technology actually enabled me to have some great interaction with the patient. I was surprised."

Horde says the patients he has seen during the first weeks of the pilot all seem to enjoy the process and the attention both he and the support team at BACH provide.

"After the nurses in the room with the patient explain the process, I

come on the screen," he added. "Usually their first reaction is a smile. I think they are curious about being a part of this [pilot] and interested in the entire process because it is new. We are truly working together as a team and that is what the patient-physician relationship should be."

Voluntary surveys given to patients after the exam indicate that they feel their medical problem was adequately addressed and they are satisfied with their telehealth experience.

For more information, visit [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil)

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## Teamwork Lessons from Geese

**Editor's Note:** The following was adapted from a short story written in 1972 by Dr. Robert McNeish, an educator in Baltimore, MD.

When you see geese flying along in "V" formation, you might consider what science has discovered as to why they fly that way. As each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. People who share a common direction and sense of community can get where they are going more quickly and easily because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front. If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those people who are headed the same way we are.

When the head goose gets tired, it rotates back in the wing and another goose flies point. It is sensible to take turns doing demanding jobs, whether with people or with geese flying south. Geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

Dr. Robert McNeish

What messages do we give when we honk from behind? Finally (and this is important), when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot, and falls out of formation, two other geese fall out with that goose and follow it down to lend help and protection. They stay with the fallen goose until it is able to fly or until it dies, and only then do they launch out on their own, or with another formation to catch up with their group.

If we have the sense of a goose, we will stand by each other like that.



## Another Sunrise

On the night of November 27, 1950, 120,000 Chinese PVA attacked the 30,000 UN troops in the Chosin Reservoir area. The first sign of an attack was herds of deer bolting from the woods past the UN lines. Next, radio operators began to pick up Chinese communication providing an ominous sign that what was heading their way was not North Korean troops, but Chinese. When the pre-dawn attack came, the temperature was below -35F and the ground was like concrete.

Over 3,000 Chinese troops were headed toward Red Parkinson's unit and the sound of their feet coming across the frozen ground reminded him of "a herd of buffalo stampeding."

The Chinese planned a pre-dawn attack in order to take advantage of darkness and negate the American advantage of close air support and precision artillery. The fighting was intense as wave after wave of



Chinese troops rushed at the Americans. "You'd kill

100 and another 100 would come up," remembered one Marine. Red Parkinson and his unit not only had to fight the overwhelming numbers of Chinese troops, but the cold weather was wreaking havoc as well. The extreme temperatures had frozen the lubricating gel in their M-1 Garands (pictured at left) and soldiers had to place the buttstock on the ground and kick the operating rod handle open with the heel of their boot in order to free the weapon so that it would function properly.

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## CHALLENGE COINS (PART 1)

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The French officer immediately recognized the insignia on the coin and postponed any plans to take the American's life until his identity was validated. Later, the pilot was released, and the legend has it that the challenge coin presented to his would-be French executioner saved his life.

Today, the popularity of the challenge coin has evolved into more than just a mark of representation for military personnel. They are actively traded among active-duty, retired, and civilian personnel within government agencies. It has also become customary to present a challenge coin to dignitaries and special guests to certain locations as a sign of "welcome" and respect. Presidents William Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama have minted challenge coins to present to White House guests and diplomats of foreign countries. The tradition has expanded to other countries as well, to include Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Over the years, military coins have evolved from seemingly simple designs to more complex and colorful varieties. This can mainly be attributed to the advances in manufacturing techniques that have been perfected over the years. One of the earliest challenge coins known to exist was a simple, die struck brass coin with a faint emblem and barely discernible text.



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### APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

- Joe Wilson - 3
- Deborah Martin - 10
- Joshua Ingersoll - 17
- Pat Mesley - 20
- Micah Palmer - 26
- Becky Watkins - 29
- Ivey Palmer, Ed Salerno, Kimberly Stewart - 30

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:

- Andy & Teresa Ralph - 3

## THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

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**1 Apr 1893** - US Navy establishes the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

**2 Apr 1917** - US President Woodrow Wilson asks Congress to declare war against Germany.

**6 Apr 1992** - death of Isaac Asimov, Boys' High alum, US Army veteran, science fiction author

**8 Apr 1865** - Confederate General Robert E. Lee's retreat cut off near

Appomattox Court House

**9 Apr 1941** - Commissioning of the battleship *USS North Carolina*

**12 Apr 1808** - Subsistence for US Army officers is fixed at 20 cents per ration, later that year applied to all officers of the revenue cutters.

**12 Apr 1864** - death of Thomas Green, 49, Brigadier General, C.S.A., at Blair's Landing, LA (having the

honor of being the only Confederate general killed in action by the US Navy)

**16 Apr 1991** - President George H.W. Bush announced that US forces would be sent into northern Iraq to assist Kurdish refugees.

**29 Apr 1918** - America's WWI Ace of Aces, Eddie Rickenbacker, scored his first victory (of 26 total) with the help of Captain James Norman Hall.

## Another Sunrise

(Continued from page 3)

The ground was so hard that it would not give way as the 81-mm mortars fired and the baseplates of the mortars began warping. Additionally, morphine syrettes had to be defrosted in the medics' mouth before it could be administered, and blood plasma supplies were frozen and useless.

Despite the wall of fire coming from the marines, the Chinese kept coming and it appeared that the 3-7 and Red Parkinson would be overrun. When things looked its worst, a fellow Marine told Red Parkinson to pray to God and He would answer. With a Gideon Bible that he had been given before coming to Korea, Red Parkinson began to recite the 23rd Psalm. There in what the marines called "Hell Fire Valley," Parkinson faced "the shadow of death." He prayed, "God don't

let me die, not here. I just want to see the sun come up one more day – just give me another day." He gave his life to Jesus Christ and promised to serve Him if he survived the battle. Just before the 3-7 gave way to the overwhelming numbers, reinforcements arrived to repel the enemy attack. The Chinese lost an estimated 40,000 troops in the battle around the Chosin Reservoir (see *memorial pictured below, left*).

To many, the Korean War ended with an armistice and a feeling that there was unfinished business in the Korean Peninsula. However, to John "Red" Parkinson, his business with the Lord had been completed on that cold and violent November

night in 1950. He survived the war and the faith he found on the frozen battlefield remained strong throughout his life. He even became a Gideon in 1975 giving him the opportunity to distribute scriptures like the one that made a difference to him in Korea. Each November 27th, John "Red" Parkinson climbs to the top of a hill near his farm and thinks about God's grace and mercy that gave him many more days to watch the sunrise.



John "Red" Parkinson (present day)



**Editor's Note:** Based on the article "When the Deer Come Running," by Martin K.A. Morgan for the *American Rifleman*, Feb 16.

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.*

**Psalm 23:4**



## Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Praise the Lord that Albert Watkins' surgery was successful on March 8th and he is cancer free! Please continue to keep Ashley Huskey in your prayers as doctors are treating her for vasculitis over the next few months. Ashley is the daughter of Todd and Tammy Huskey; please pray that the treatments she is taking will completely stop the vasculitis. Please keep Lance Corporal Timothy Robinson in your prayers. Timothy is serving in the Persian Gulf and is married to Hope Kennon Robinson. Please

pray for his safety and that he will be able to share his Christian witness with those he is serving. Please continue to pray for Mallia Barnhill who has Stage IV lung cancer. I worked with her husband for a number of years and he is a close friend. Also please pray for Brian and Ivey Palmer as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin.

~ Colonel Martin

### Coming up next month:

- **Here's Why:** Challenge Coins: conclusion
- **Stress Can Become a Perfect Storm**

