

MILITARY TERMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND ACRONYMS

igloo space: an area in an earth-covered structure of concrete and/or steel designed for the storage of ammunition and explosives

Impact action fuze: a fuze that is set in action by the striking of a projectile or bomb against an object (e.g., percussion fuze, contact fuze, or direct action fuze)

Imprest fund: funds issued by Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to a military organization to purchase beginning inventory for military activities



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Words to Ponder:

"Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."

~ John F. Kennedy

Pray for our Deployed Members:

Chaplain Brian Palmer and Family: US Army, serving the Lord in Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Andrew Folz: US Air Force, deployed overseas

Together in Scripture Reading:

This month:
the book of First Timothy



Profiles in Courage

In his 1957 Pulitzer Prize winning book "Profiles in Courage," then Senator John F. Kennedy outlined short biographies describing acts of bravery and integrity by eight United States Senators throughout the Senate's history. These senators defied the opinions of their party and constituents to do what they considered to be right and in the best interest of America. Acting in response to their conscience opened them to severe criticism and a loss of popularity. Kennedy himself noted the difficulties of decision-making in the political arena: "The fanatics and extremists and even those conscientiously devoted to hard and fast principles are always disappointed at the failure of their government to rush to implement all of their principles and to denounce those of their opponents. But the legislator has some responsibility to conciliate those opposing forces within his state and party and to represent them in the larger clash of interests on the national level. And he alone knows that there are few if any issues where all the truth, and all the right, and all the angels are on one side."

In the early 1960s, the United States was greatly concerned about the expansion of Communism throughout the world as the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States broadened across the globe. When Cuban Dictator Fidel Castro allied openly with the Soviet Union, the United States considered this alliance to be unacceptable. When the Bay of Pigs Invasion in 1961 turned out to be both a military and political nightmare, the alliance between the Soviets and Cuba intensified. Following a meeting between Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Fidel Castro in July 1962, the Soviets agreed to build Russian missile launch facilities



President John F. Kennedy

providing the protection Cuba wanted. It also served as a forward missile base for the Soviets in answer to the presence of American Jupiter ballistic missiles in Italy and Turkey.

The Kennedy administration had provided a weak response to the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961 and then completely mishandled the Bay of Pigs Invasion. These mismanaged reactions to Communist expansion left the impression that President Kennedy was, as one Soviet advisor wrote, "too young, intellectual, not prepared well for decision making in a crisis situations...too intelligent and too weak." Nikita Khrushchev told his son Sergei that Kennedy "would make a fuss, make more of a fuss, and then agree."

In August 1962, US Intelligence began to get reports of massive construction projects in Cuba. Reports of large cylindrical objects being moved through towns and villages raised suspicion that the Soviets might be building missile launch sites in Cuba. At first, it was thought that defensive missile sites were being built; however, U-2 (American spy plane) flights and surveillance of Soviet shipping suggested that these sites might be for offensive intermediate-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying thermonuclear warheads. If indeed the Soviets were constructing ballistic missile sites, the Soviets could effectively target a majority of the continental United States from Cuba, striking with little or no notice of launch. On September 11, 1962, the Soviets publicly warned that an American attack on Cuba or on Soviet ships carrying supplies to the island would mean war.

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DID YOU KNOW: LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT THE PEARL HARBOR ATTACK (II)

Editor's Note: This past month marked the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, so we present to you part two of the list adapted from the article by political writer Derek Butler.

The Japanese attack, while devastating, was also a failure on a larger scale. The main objective was to hit three U.S. aircraft carriers – the *Lexington*, the *Enterprise* and the *Saratoga*, but they weren't in the harbor.

A memorial was built at the USS Arizona site ([aerial view shown below](#)), thanks in part to Elvis Presley. Elvis Presley, who had recently finished a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, performed a benefit concert that raised over \$50,000 – more than 10 percent of the final cost for the memorial.

Neutralize – The attack was planned by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, who commanded the Japanese aircraft carriers during the raid on U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. The motive behind the attack was to neutralize the U.S. Pacific Fleet before they could rise to fight against the Japanese.

As tensions with Japan increased, 52% of Americans expected war – as did the military. Bases remained on alert, however it was believed that any attack would likely focus on an American base in the Philippines, like Subic Bay, because of the strategic importance and the effect on shipping lanes.

Twenty-three sets of brothers died aboard the USS Arizona.



The USS Arizona Memorial

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Top New Year's Resolutions

Editor's Note: The following was adapted from an article published at [LifeHealthPro.com](#) in January 2015 by company senior editor Warren Hersch.

Getting out of debt, cutting excessive spending and keeping track of financial activities are among the top New Year's resolutions of America's middle class military families, according to new research.

First Command Financial Services Inc. unveils this finding in its latest First Command Financial Behaviors Index. The research, based on November survey results, shows that 95 percent of middle-class military families (commissioned officers and senior NCOs in pay grades E-6 and above with household incomes of at least \$50,000) have identified one or more financially-themed resolutions for the New Year.

'The November 2014 survey results revealed that 70% of military respondents felt anxious about budgetary sequestration.'

In 2015, the top financial aspirations of military families included:

- Get out of debt (selected by 37 percent of survey respondents)
- Cut back on excessive spending (29 percent)
- Keep track of financial activities (28 percent)
- Learn to budget responsibly (28 percent)
- Improve credit score (26 percent)
- Start saving money for retirement or put more money into retirement savings (25 percent)
- Use cash or debit more often instead of credit cards (24 percent)
- Make sound stock market investments (24 percent)

Warren S. Hersch

- Learn not to live beyond your means (23 percent)
- Be financially independent (23 percent)
- Shop more at discount stores or for discount brands (20 percent)

The November 2014 survey results revealed that 70 percent of military respondents felt anxious about budgetary sequestration: the 2011 Budget Control Act that authorized an increase in the debt ceiling in exchange for \$2.4 trillion in deficit reduction, including defense appropriations, over the following ten years.



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Profiles in Courage

On October 15, 1962, President Kennedy was briefed by the CIA's National Photographic Interpretation Center (NPIC) that U-2 overflights had positively identified evidence of medium-range (SS-4) and intermediate-range (R-14) ballistic missile facilities in Cuba. Additionally, the Soviets had stationed MiG-21 fighters, Ilyushin Il-28 bombers, and eight S-75 Dvina surface-to-air-missile sites in the country as well. Several courses of action were available to Kennedy that ranged from no action to a full-scale invasion. The Joint Chiefs of Staff highly recommended, almost to the point of insubordination, that the US implement a full-scale bombing campaign followed by an invasion of Cuba. Kennedy knew that the stakes were high - no response to the missiles would not only endanger the United States, but would also endanger relations with allies worldwide. A full-scale invasion could well trigger an all-out nuclear war.

Much to the chagrin of his Joint Chiefs of Staff and many of his advisors, President Kennedy decided on a quarantine of Cuba. The military

blockade was to prevent further missiles from entering Cuba and diplomatic pressure was applied demanding that missiles already in Cuba be dismantled and returned to the Russia. On October 22, President Kennedy delivered a nationwide address on all major networks announcing the discovery of the missiles ([a portion of the text from this address is quoted on page 3](#)).

Over the next few days, the world held its breath as these two superpowers faced off on the open seas. The United States increased its readiness level from DEFENSE CONDITION (DEFCON) 4 to DEFCON 3. Strategic Air Command (SAC) sent twenty-three nuclear armed B-52s into continuous orbit points within striking distance of the Soviet Union. World opinion was being courted as desperate accusations were traded between the two nations on the floor of the United Nations. Naval confrontations at the points of quarantine were con-

tentious and the risk of all-out war was a very present danger. By October 25, the two nations were at stalemate and SAC went to DEFCON 2 for the only time in US History. Both nations were teetering on the brink of nuclear war!

Unknown to the world, secret negotiations between Kennedy and Khrushchev ([pictured below in April of 1961](#)) began October 26 with third party emissaries trying to find an acceptable path forward to both nations and avoiding war. Though the rhetoric continued on the world stage, both leaders hoped for a peaceful resolution.

October 27, 1962, known as "Black Saturday" by the Kennedy cabinet, three separate incidents converged as the stalemate that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war intensified.

(These events will be discussed in the article "One Man" next month.)



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COLA Hike for Vets in 2017

Military retirees and individuals receiving veterans benefits will see only a 0.3 percent cost-of-living increase in their federal benefits next year, a nominal increase matching 2016's hike.

On Tuesday, officials from the Social Security Administration announced the small raise, the third consecutive year the benefits adjustment will be under 0.5 percent. Since 2009, the cost-of-living hike has been more than 2 percent only once, when it reached 3.6 percent in 2011.

Veterans benefits are not automatically tied to the Social Security increase, but in July lawmakers passed legislation linking the two

benefits for 2017. In the last few decades, veterans have seen their annual adjustment differ from the Social Security COLA only one time, and then only due to minor rounding differences.



The Social Security COLA is calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' periodic Consumer Price Index, a statistical estimate of the anticipated price of a variety of household goods and services.

This year, officials are estimating only small increases in those costs, identical to the rise seen in expenses heading into 2016.

The Social Security, military retiree and veterans benefits changes affect more than 70 million Ameri-

cans, about 22 percent of the country's population.

According to the Associated Press, the 0.3 percent adjustment will mean less than \$4 more a month for a Social Security recipient who sees the average payout of \$1,238.

The adjustment will go into effect for beneficiaries starting Dec. 30.

Veterans using Medicare for health coverage may not see anything at all once those medical costs come into play. The Associated Press reports that Medicare Part B premiums, which are usually deducted from Social Security payments, are expected to increase next year, effectively wiping out the COLA hike.

For more information, visit www.militarytimes.com

Did You Know: Facts ABOUT PEARL HARBOR (III)

(Continued from page 2)

The attack on Pearl Harbor lasted for about two hours and took the lives of 2,467 men and women. (Until the attacks of 9/11, it was the greatest loss of life in a single attack on American soil.)

The USS Arizona's entire band was lost in the attack.

The USS Arizona still leaks fuel. She continues to spill up to 9 quarts of oil into the harbor each day.

Even to this day, any Pearl Harbor survivor is granted VIP treatment on any US military installation. They are allowed to bypass lines, given preferential seating at air shows, and other assorted benefits.

The main driving factor of the Japanese attack stemmed from an economical factor. The U.S. had conducted an embargo against Japan, which was significantly hurting their economy.

The attack took place on a Sunday because the Japanese military believed Americans would be caught off-guard. Many US military members were eating breakfast when the assault took place.

Seven of eight battleships were sitting in "Battleship Row." All eight were sunk or heavily damaged, but six were restored to working condition.

Since the attack was brought on without any recognized warning, the International Military Tribunal for the Far East judged the attack on Pearl Harbor to be a war crime.



PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S NATIONWIDE ADDRESS - 10/22/62

(Excerpted) 'It shall be the policy of this nation to regard any nuclear missile launched from Cuba against any nation in the Western Hemisphere as an attack by the Soviet Union on the United States, requiring a full retaliatory response upon the Soviet Union.... To halt this offensive buildup, a strict quarantine of all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba, from whatever nation or port, will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin blockade of 1948.'

Top New Year's Resolutions

More than half of the survey respondents are concerned about their job security in the coming months. And almost three out of four expect to be financially impacted by anticipated cuts to defense spending.

Still, middle-class military families are feeling positive about their current finances. The index reveals that half (51 percent) feel they are better off than they were a year ago. Just 8 percent say they are worse off. (Another 40 percent say their personal financial situation is about the same.)

Financial planners are contributing to the more positive outlook. The index reveals that 60 percent of survey respondents who have a financial advisor feel "extremely" or "very confident" their financial situa-

tion will improve in the next year. That compares to just 18 percent who do not work with a financial advisor.

"As we look back on another year of financial uncertainty for military families, men and women in uniform who are working with financial professionals are feeling more confident than their do-it-yourself colleagues that their finances will improve in 2015," says Scott Spiker, CEO of First Command Financial Services, Inc. "Families who work with a financial coach are more likely to spend less, save more and pay down debt in their pursuit of financial security.

"As we move through the new year we expect to see a growing number of active-duty households put their

trust in knowledgeable financial professionals and take other positive actions that will help them get their finances squared away for the future," he adds.

Compiled by Sentient Decision Science, Inc., the First Command Financial Behaviors Index assesses trends among the American public's financial behaviors, attitudes and intentions through a monthly survey of approximately 530 U.S. consumers aged 25 to 70 with annual household incomes of at least \$50,000. Results are reported quarterly.

About the author: Warren S. Hersch is Senior Editor, Advanced Markets & Sales, for National Underwriter Life & Health magazine, and serves as Life Insurance Channel Editor for LifeHealthPro.com.

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

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JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

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MAILBAG FOR ANDREW FOLZ

For those who would like to drop Andrew Folz a note of encouragement, his deployed address is:

Andrew Folz
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Unit 61239
APO AE 09309-1239

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

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01 Jan 1863 - Union Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside ends his "Mud March" in Virginia

03 Jan 1781 - Mutinous Pennsylvania troops make camp near Princeton, NJ, and elect representatives to bargain with Pennsylvania

state officials. Negotiations resolve the crisis, although over half of the mutineers will leave the army.

08 Jan 1947 - George C. Marshall becomes Secretary of State

12 Jan 1967 - Death of Gen. Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith, USMC

16 Jan 2001 - Andrew J. Smith, 55th Mass, posthumously awarded a Medal of Honor, for Nov 30, 1864.

21 Jan 1903 - The US and Columbia sign Hay-Herran Treaty, giving the US a 99 year lease and sovereignty over the Panama Canal Zone

Profiles in Courage

The United States informed its North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies that "the situation is growing shorter...the United States may find it necessary within a short time in its interest and that of its fellow nations in the Western Hemisphere to take whatever military action may be necessary."

When the collaborating events reached critical mass, the secret negotiations between Kennedy and Khrushchev finally had a breakthrough on October 28th. A negotiated settlement between Kennedy and Khrushchev determined that the Soviets would remove the medium and intermediate range missiles from Cuba under the provision that the United States would remove its Jupiter missiles from Turkey and Italy, and that the United States would guarantee that she would not invade Cuba. This offer from Khrushchev seemed to be a reasonable offer by Kennedy, particularly since the Jupiter missiles in question were an aging weapon system.

The Cold War between the Soviet Union and United States continued for almost thirty years after the Cuban missile crisis ended. Though President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Khrushchev prevented the outbreak of World War III and kept the world from nuclear disaster, many opponents in both the United States and the Soviet Union felt that the

compromise had weakened their countries. Kennedy was accused by the military of "the greatest defeat in the history of the US." Khrushchev was accused of propagating a great "humiliation" to the Soviet Union and was replaced two years later by the Politburo. History has, however, looked much differently on this period of time.

In 2012, American Political Science and professor at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, Graham Allison wrote: *"Fifty years ago, the Cuban missile crisis brought the world to the brink of nuclear disaster. The Soviet Union had deployed 100 tactical nuclear weapons to Cuba, and the local Soviet commander there could have launched these weapons without additional codes or commands from Moscow. The US air strike and invasion that were scheduled for the third week of the confrontation would likely have triggered a nuclear response against American ships and troops, and perhaps even Miami. The resulting war might have led to the deaths of 100 million Americans and over 100 million Russians."*

It is said that "hindsight is 20/20" and it is indeed easy to look back at things and have a clearer vision of what choices should have been made. All of us have or will have tough decisions in our life that may not have clear-cut answers or may

be controversial. Having the courage, integrity and Christian character to make a decision to do the right thing in a particular situation will not always be popular. James 4 tells us that it is a sin to know what is right and then not do it. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3 that if we suffer for doing what is right, God will reward us for it. Then he tells us not to be afraid of the threats that we may receive for doing what is right. Paul solidifies these truths in Galatians 6, telling us not to get tired of doing what is right. If we continue to do what is right, God is the one who will reward us with a great harvest of blessings.

In this story, two men are known in history as having chosen the right path and avoided sure destruction. Though some may debate both men's character, history has shown that the outcome of their joint effort was in the best interest of each nation and the world. If two men like Kennedy and Khrushchev followed the principles of Psalm 34:14 by turning from the path of evil to do what was right, searching for peace and working to maintain it, then may it be said of us Christians that we had the courage to do the same in the day-to-day decisions in our lives.



Prayer Notes, Event Announcements

Welcome to the year 2017! God really blessed us in this past year and I'm so thankful for each of you who participate in the Yellow Ribbon Ministry! Please continue to pray for Ashley Huskey as she is being treated for vasculitis. Please keep Phil

Wagner in your prayers for continued health and strength. Andrew Folz, son of Ken and Cheryl Folz, recently deployed overseas with the Air Force. Please keep Andrew and his family in your prayers during this period of separation. Please continue to keep Brian and Ivey

Palmer in your prayers as they minister to soldiers and families at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin. Also, Brian is up for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and that may necessitate a transfer to a new location. Please keep them in your prayers! Please pray for our nation as we transition to a new administration of January 20th. Please pray for a smooth transition and for God's blessing and wisdom to President-elect Donald Trump and his administration! Deborah and I want to wish each of you a very Happy New Year and look forward to the year ahead in the service of the Lord!

~ Colonel Martin



The Brian Palmer Family

