



Weekly  
INFORMATION  
FOR VETERANS

# 3<sup>rd</sup> District FYI

**Issue Number: 2**  
**Month: September**  
**Year: 2021**

Conference  
Schedule

Mid Winter

Jan 8 & 9  
Embassy Suites, Mufreesboro

Department  
Convention

July 2 & 3  
Marriott Cool Springs Franklin

District  
Commander's  
Visits

September 5  
Post 96, Copperhill

September 9<sup>th</sup>  
Post 68, Athens

District  
Commander's  
Notes

Following posts need to  
update Constitution & Bylaws:

11	100
14	107
50	148
68	236
95	291

District Adjutant  
David Sherrill

District Membership  
Chairperson Carla Bell

taltn3rd@gmail.com

## this issue

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Tech Corner **P.5**

District 3 Commander, Ron White

[basketguy@bledsoe.net](mailto:basketguy@bledsoe.net)

3<sup>rd</sup> District Website

[www.taltn3rd.org](http://www.taltn3rd.org)

## Commander's Score

### September is National Disaster Preparedness Month

The American Legion was founded on the four pillars of strong national security, veterans' affairs and rehabilitation, fostering Americanism and mentoring children and youth. By actively engaging your post in the community with a disaster preparedness program, your post will be fulfilling needs in all four areas. As partners with the Department of Homeland Security, Legionnaires can step to the forefront in their communities as advocates of national security and preparedness. Similar to the civil defense program that many communities participated in during the Cold War, disaster preparedness for both natural and man-made disasters is crucial for every town. There are many opportunities for every post's participation.

Posts can provide vital backup and assistance to local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and become involved in their Emergency Operations Plans as well. By developing public outreach programs, your post can enable local youth to be trained and engaged in the kinds of skills that would be needed in an emergency. Disaster kit promotions and post activities with emergency personnel as guest speakers would bring the media and the public to your post. Special post disaster readiness drills and events could be tied in with Americanism events. Post disaster preparedness and response with successful outreach to the community, will greatly enhance your post's visibility and commitment to service in the area. By reaching out to the public, the media, youth and other community groups, you will be signaling to everyone – including veterans and potential members of your post, Auxiliary Unit or Sons of The American Legion Squadron – your commitment to making a difference for the better in your town.

#### Ways to get involved:

- Trained veterans with leadership experience – Volunteer opportunities with Red Cross, Salvation Army, EMA office, Citizen Corps Council, etc.
- School presentations
- Disaster Supply Kit program and promotion for every home
- Adult and youth training programs at the post
- Town Hall meetings on disaster preparedness
- Programs linking preparedness to citizenship on Flag Day, Independence Day
- Post events during September Disaster Preparedness Month
- Participation in local disaster preparedness.

## Posts Information

Post 291 has received PPE, masks, disinfectants and sanitizers from a donation made by Home Depot. Tommy, Vice Commander, has offered to give needed items to other Legion Posts.

Call: (904) 705-2422

September 25

Sevierville Post 104 will host an Adjutant training day. Contact post if attending.

(865) 908-4310

## County Veterans Service Offices

**McMinn**  
Susan Peglow  
423-744-1605  
[peglowsw1@gmail.com](mailto:peglowsw1@gmail.com)

**Monroe**  
Andy Boyd  
(423) 442-5812  
[andy.boyd@monroetn.com](mailto:andy.boyd@monroetn.com)

**Rhea**  
Don Smith  
(423) 775-7849  
[smithdon@rheacounty.org](mailto:smithdon@rheacounty.org)

**Roane**  
Gary Woodall or  
Jennifer Booth  
(865) 882-4015  
[Gary.woodall@roanecounty.org](mailto:Gary.woodall@roanecounty.org)  
[jennifer.booth@roanecountytn.gov](mailto:jennifer.booth@roanecountytn.gov)

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# Training Chalk Board

ABOUT THE LEGION

## OUR PILLARS OF SERVICE

 <b>VETERANS</b> VA benefit and appeal assistance Job and career guidance Homeless outreach	 <b>YOUTH</b> Scholarships Youth programs and competitions Junior ROTC and Scouting sponsorship
 <b>DEFENSE</b> Military family support Comfort items for wounded servicemembers Advocacy for troops and military in Washington, D.C.	 <b>AMERICANISM</b> Flag respect education Citizenship services Support for the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

- Today's American Legion is as focused on the welfare of our country's children and the issues facing young people as it has ever been. The structure of this organization is forever supported by the balance that our founding architects envisioned. Therefore, the Children & Youth pillar and its programs remain committed to serving the nation's youth.
- Members of The American Legion Americanism Commission's Committee on Children & Youth have been entrusted with the responsibility of upholding this pillar – the one that braces our nation's veterans by caring for their children, and our nation's children.
- The purpose of the committee is to formulate, recommend and implement plans, programs and activities designed to:
  - • Assure care and protection for the children of veterans.
  - • Improve conditions for all children and youth, with due concern for maintaining the integrity of the family home.
  - • Prevent social and physical ills of children and youth where possible.
  - • Maintain a balanced program that provides for their physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs.

# Post

Post Adjutants can place info pertinent to your post here.

## County Veterans Service Offices

Bradley  
Brian Heusterberg  
Donna Mason  
(423) 728-7100

Hamilton  
Chuck Alsobrook  
(423) 209-7884

Meigs  
Duane Johns  
(423) 334-1631

Polk  
Tim Woody  
(423) 548-6665

Veterans Crisis and National  
Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255 press 1

## District Officers Needed!

Jr Rotc Chairperson

Jr Shooting Chairperson

Boys State Chairperson

Oratorical Chairperson

# VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter

[#VetResources](#) [Benefits](#) [Secretary's Priorities](#) [Top Stories](#)

Published On: August 2nd, 2021 | 404 words | 1.3 min read

VA will begin processing [disability claims](#) Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas – if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

“I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. “Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward.”

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures – Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](#).

# How to erase everything Google knows about you

By Komando Staff, Komando.com

August 7, 2022

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Ever notice how Google always seems to know exactly what you're looking for? It's no coincidence. Google knows what you're interested in, what you search for, where you go and much, much more about who you are. How? Because of all the data you share.

With every search, click, message and request, you're feeding Google more information. The same goes for videos you watch on YouTube, the info you add to your Google profile or the questions you ask Google Assistant. [Tap or click here to see how you can delete everything you've ever said to Google.](#)

As scary as this might seem, data collection is par for the course for major tech companies. But there is a silver lining: You can delete almost everything you've shared with Google and get at least some of your privacy back. Here's how.

## 1. Search and destroy

Google uses your search history to build a detailed profile about you that it can share with advertisers. This personalizes the ads and content you see. It's also part of the reason why data is such a big business. [Tap or click here to see how much money your data can sell for online. You'll be shocked.](#)

If you want to start removing your information from Google, your search history is where to begin. Here's how you can clear your search history and activity:

1. Go to [myaccount.google.com](https://myaccount.google.com) and log in. Alternatively, go to [google.com](https://google.com) while logged in and click the circle icon in the upper right-hand corner with your image or initials inside. Then click **Manage your Google Account**.
2. Click on **Manage your data & personalization**, located under **Privacy & Personalization**.
3. Under the *Activity controls* panel, you will see checkmarks next to **Web & App activity tracking**, **Location History** and **YouTube History**. Click each one to adjust your settings. You can toggle them off to stop further tracking.
4. Below Activity controls, click on **My Activity** under **Activity and timeline**.
5. On the menu that appears in the left sidebar, click **Delete activity by**. Select how far back you would like to delete your history in the pop-up menu. Click **Delete** to confirm.

Once you've followed these steps, not only will your search history be gone, but you'll also have disabled tracking through apps, location history and YouTube views.

(to be continued in October 2021 Newsletter 3)



What digital lifestyle questions do you have? Call Kim's national radio show and [tap or click here to find it on your local radio station](#). You can listen to or watch The [Kim Komando Show](#) on your phone, tablet, television, or computer. [Or tap or click here for Kim's free podcasts.](#)

