Professional Construction Estimators Association of America, Inc. (PCEA) was chartered in 1956 with 35 members from various construction disciplines in Charlotte, North Carolina. Some of the Charter members remain active today. During our early years, members rallied together to exchange ideas, promote educational endeavors and high ethical standards, while simultaneously developing new friendships. Under the leadership of Charlotte’s early presidents, the members set forth many goals to promote and support the industry while expanding the voluntary association. As a result of these efforts, a second chapter was formed during 1958 in Greensboro, North Carolina (now called the Triad Chapter). The Raleigh-Durham Chapter (now called the Triangle Chapter) followed behind in 1963. Subsequent chapters were formed in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia and Florida. Vern W. "Bill" Helms of the Charlotte Chapter was elected as our first National President in May 1975 during the first annual convention at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Since then, PCEA has grown to almost 1,000 members with twelve chapters in five states. Current goals include active expansion to other market areas.

PCEA members have always been active in the promotion of construction education for the betterment of the industry. Each chapter individually coordinates, develops and establishes programs to assist and enhance the educational endeavors in their community while pursuing the educational goals of membership. PCEA Chapters support educational programs ranging from, but not limited to, scholarships to local students, endowed scholarships at several Universities, providing construction instructors, purchasing equipment for use in technical training and introducing construction as a trade to "at risk" students.
Members Corner

Dedicated to our members and family

If you, or you know of someone having personal or health issues please let me know, so their needs can be noted.

Please keep the following members in your thoughts and prayers;

- Our Soldiers and Sailors near and far
- Uncle Frank, Prostate Cancer, Dad Kidney & Lung Cancer.

Above are the Officers and Board Members working for you.

PCEA Triangle Chapter 3 Scholarships:

PCEA recognizes that one of the greatest problems facing our industry is a shortage of interested and well qualified employees at all levels. To that end, our mission is to extend Scholarships to persons interested in pursuing a career in the construction Industry.

The following Scholarships are funded by the PCEA Triangle Chapter fundraisers and events. (Please see a Faculty Representative at these schools to receive an application).

PCEA Member Dependent Scholarship

The PCEA Member Dependent Scholarship is available to immediate family members of PCEA members in good standing. The recipient of this Scholarship does not have to be pursing a degree in the Construction Industry.

North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
East Carolina University
Wake Technical Community College
Vance Granville Community College

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<td>President</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rdegnan@mapdoors.biz">rdegnan@mapdoors.biz</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Adam Blalock</td>
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New Member’s Corner

We are expecting several new members this month;
We need more new Members! Invite your colleagues, Customers and vendors to join our group of professionals!

Help Wanted?
Do you need to add staff for your growing backlog?
Advertise !!!

Need help?
♦ Let our newsletter work for you.

♦ Know Someone that needs a job? Get them noticed, Lets Help our Contractors fill those voids

Use the PCEA newsletter to advertise your needs.

Include Link to your Company News Letter Per Year (12 Issues) $ 25.00

Let others know about the successes your Company is Having. Attract the right people to join your firm.

Help Wanted Adds 1/2 Page “Help wanted Adds” (Per Issue ) $ 00.00 For Member Firms
Ways the PCEA Can Help You?

A Healthy Growing Triangle Chapter Benefits All Members

2018 Membership / Advertising Drive

For our Local Triangle Chapter of the PCEA to grow and flourish we need to continue to bring in new members. The very best way to grow our membership is through the word of mouth of an active membership.

Since our founding in 1956, the PCEA has had but one goal to raise the professionalism and competence of our membership in support of the Construction Industry.

We do this in several ways.
I. By providing educational opportunities for our members.
II. Offering online accredited training at a reduced cost to our members.
III. Monthly presentations, during our monthly meetings, by professionals who have support roles for the Construction Industry or professionals who have interesting subject matter relevant to current events.
IV. Monthly News Letter that provides construction related articles, amusing factoids, and a format that allow for promoting Construction Businesses through paid advertising.
V. Member Dependent College Scholarships Opportunity

We offer our support to you and your business, either through your membership or through our paid advertising. Either way you will gain access to our membership opportunities, or direct access to our members and readership through out the southeastern United States.

Our Organization has Members and readership in North Carolina, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

We are hopeful that by reading this note and the attached copy of our most recent Triangle Chapter News Letter, that you would choose to join our organization as a paid member or at the very least, advertising your business, or employment needs in our monthly news letter.

Your paid membership or paid tax deductible advertising supports the local Triangle Chapter’s annual Scholarships and ongoing educational activities.

Full Page Advertisement Free for Firm making a presentation for the monthly meeting

Full Page Advertisement Free with Paid New Membership.

Full Page Advertisement per Year (12 Issues) $500.00
Full Page Per Issue $300.00
Half Page Advertisement per year (12 Issues) $300.00
Half Page Per Issue $250.00
Quarter Page Advertisement per year (12 Issues) $200.00
Quarter Page Per Issue $ 50.00
Include Link to your Company News Letter Per Year (12 Issues) $ 25.00
Help Wanted Adds 1/2 Page “Help wanted Adds” (Per Issue) $ 00.00
# July Extended Weather Forecast

### A Look Ahead for your outdoor Tasks

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Technology is on the rise in the construction industry, with an increasing number of construction companies deploying an array of leading-edge technologies across the project lifecycle. While traditional construction software has failed to solve construction’s productivity problem, mobile technology solves the two primary pain points driving digital transformation in the construction industry. Mobile construction apps not only reduce risk and help construction professionals maintain their bottom line, but also help teams communicate and share documents both in the field and office.

• The high return on investment construction professionals can expect from mobile technology
• How to craft a strategy to increase technology adoption within your organization
• How to determine the ROI from your investment in mobile construction apps
Construction Industry, Growth Keeps Brokers on Their Toes

Brokers who specialize in the construction industry love their clients and are very committed to keeping up with their needs. Ask them, “So what’s new?” and the conversations inevitably veer off in various directions: risk management, pricing, hot areas, technology, coverage questions and more.

Here are just a few of the directions that emerged from recent Insurance Journal talks with construction specialists who love their construction clients.

Construction Continues to Grow

It is a good time to be in the construction insurance business. U.S. construction spending grew by 7.6 percent from April 2017 to April 2018 with employment growth in the sector increasing in 256 out of 358 metro areas, according to the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC). For the same timeframe, the AGC reported that private residential construction spending soared 9.5 percent, private nonresidential spending grew 5.3 percent, and public construction spending jumped 7.7 percent.

While building hasn’t hit the peaks of the housing boom prior to the Great Recession, construction overall is in good shape.

“It’s a healthy construction market outlook,” says Danette Beck, national construction practice leader at USI, an insurance brokerage and consulting firm. “There aren’t any projections right now that there is going to be a slowdown.”

Beck still sees apartment and residential construction on the rise — another positive sign for future growth in the broader construction market.

“I always look at that growth (in apartments and residential) as a positive — if homebuilders are buying land and still building buildings, that’s a positive.” What follows is more building in other sectors — for roads, schools, shopping centers — other infrastructure projects that support communities.

Construction specialist Marc Kaplan, an agent and broker for San Diego-based Michael Ehrenfeld Co., said his builder clients are still seeking out available land for new buildings. That’s a good sign for his book of business, which includes a mix of both builders and contractors.

“So as long as my builders are looking for land, that’s going to mean that my trade contractors are going to continue to have work,” Kaplan said. “There’s just a lot of building going on right now in residential, although some of it is segmented,” he said. “Some price points are just flying out the door while others [higher-end homes] are sitting a little longer.”

Paul Hohlbein, president of Builders & Tradesmen's Insurance Services Inc. (BTIS) based in Rocklin, Calif., said BTIS is seeing substantial growth in its large book of what Hohlbein calls the “micro-contractor” space.

“There’s a lot of growth because the economy is good and there’s a lot of new start-up businesses,” he said. Small contractors, or those with one, two or three employees, are busy building small projects in just about every area of the country, he said.

BTIS writes “micro-contractors” in 45 states. Hohlbein says his firm, which writes more than $330 million in premium, has new business coming in from all over. “We are seeing really nice growth in the New Jersey, Pennsylvania area, and in the Midwest states, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota.” He said the Southeast is growing as well in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. “Texas is always good to us just because of the sheer size of Texas.”

Meaningful Risk Management

Another area that is evolving in today’s growing construction market is risk management, the experts say. If they are to capitalize on new business opportunities, agents and brokers serving this market need to understand more
“Contractors are taking on more risks today than they were yesterday,” USI’s Beck said. With so much construction work going on right now, “it’s incumbent on contractors to be diligent about their risk management philosophy and plans and be careful to not take on more risk than they are prepared to handle,” according to Beck.

Professionals insuring contractors need to be thoughtful when managing risk. “You have to sit down and understand what their goals are and consider that insurance is only one piece of risk management,” said Beck.

She sees risk allocation continuing to shift as contracting structures and projects become more complex. “Owners are asking contractors to do more and more,” she said. “The risk allocation shift puts added pressure on contractors to manage risk effectively and efficiently.”

In addition, the industry is still experiencing heightened merger and acquisition (M&A) activity as contractors continue to find ways to grow and capture more market share. With M&A, additional risks such as geographic nuances or vertical integration present themselves, she says.

“You hear ‘insurance and risk management’ and you think ‘OK, we’re going to put together an insurance program that manages all the risks,’ and it doesn’t. There are other things that contractors can do to manage risks,” Beck said. She advises insurance professionals to be well-versed on “meaningful” risk management practices in construction.

“It’s a much more thoughtful conversation about how you structure a meaningful risk management program,” Beck said. “You can’t just walk into a construction client’s office and expect that since you understand the concepts of insurance, that you’re going to understand the risk issues.”

For example, sub-contractor pre-qualification is one area that general contractors and large trade contractors are always worried about due to sub-contractor defaults. Construction insurance professionals must help clients create a better risk profile for underwriters, she said. “The better adept that you are at understanding who your partners are, the better you can manage their risk profile,” Beck said.

Technology Helps the Process

As contractors are increasingly turning to technology and analytics to help them with risk management, construction brokers are also turning to technology.

“We utilize technology to really help them as they take on more risks,” Beck said. “When you look at insurance brokerage firms, you look at the platform and what they have from a value-add standpoint on what they give to their clients.”

USI’s tech investment in construction was one reason Beck joined the brokerage earlier this month from Marsh. “The investments that they’ve made in technology to help clients make informed decisions are really powerful. It helps our teams to be better and be extensions of their clients, so they can help them make decisions to do what they do best, which is build buildings, or build infrastructure. And they can make decisions that can help them take on more risks while protecting their balance sheet.”

BTIS’s investment in technology is helping it reach its goal of being a $1 billion firm in less than 10 years, Hohlbein says. But it’s also helping its retail agents and the end customer — the contractor — with ease of doing business in today’s fast-paced construction market.

New technology is streamlining the insurance buying process for micro-contractors and agents that use BTIS, he says.

“We’re trying to make it easy for them to purchase insurance product and give them options, so they choose and custom tailor what they need,” he said. Hohlbein’s goal is to give contractors a different way to buy coverage that helps his firm and his agency partners as well. “BTIS has been busy building technology to put on agents’ websites, that will allow the contractor to get a price and actually submit and bind the piece of business online through the agent website.” The API-based technology aims to cut quoting and binding times from five minutes to 60 seconds, the announcement said.

Hohlbein said the firm is currently working with a group of beta agents to test the technology and it will soon be made available to all the retail agents that do business with BTIS.
Coverage Trends

The construction insurance market is no different than the overall property/casualty market, according to Kaplan.

“Everything is soft to stable,” he said. “There isn’t really a hard market for any line of coverage except commercial auto,” he said.

Beck agrees commercial auto is a challenging market for construction but added that catastrophe exposed regions such as California might be experiencing some pain as well. With last year’s wildfire activity in California “we’re seeing some carriers struggle with writing coverage for wildfire risk,” especially with infrastructure-related construction. “That’s just because California got hit really hard.”

One coverage area that is trending in importance during today’s construction building uptick is delay in start-up coverage, according to Tim Kania, Aspen Insurance Global Head of Energy & Construction and U.S. Property.

While delay in start-up coverage has been around for a long time, it’s still probably one of the most complicated and potentially misunderstood coverages in construction insurance, he says. There remains some uncertainty around what the coverage covers from multiple players in the construction transaction from lenders to brokers, and even insurers, according to Kania.

“If you have various people in a room, there might be a slight misconception as to how the cover responds and what should be reported as value. That obviously can lead to misalignment or misunderstanding whenever events happen,” Kania said.

With the uptick in construction activity, this coverage is becoming more prevalent and it is important that the entire industry from lenders to brokers to insureds understand the coverage, he said.

Kania describes the coverage, simply, as time element coverage related to construction projects. Delay in start-up coverage is provided to insure against potential loss of earnings, debt service obligations, fixed costs and/or other soft costs following a delay beyond the anticipated date of a building’s completion resulting from a covered property damage loss under the property construction policy.

Kania says the coverage can be purchased as an option by the principal/owner of the project. Coverage might also be mandated as a condition of applicable financial lending covenants.

It’s important for projects of all sizes. “Delay in start-up coverage as well as the coverage components can be sought on a wide array of projects with varying project size and complexity and is not limited to mega projects or to a minimum sized project,” he said.

It has similarities to business interruption coverage but is unique for construction. “It is triggered only after the project goes beyond an anticipated date of completion,” Kania said. “In other words, the project has to go beyond the original estimated date that the project would be completed.”

If coverage is triggered, claims are paid based on indemnities from losses that were covered under the property damage section of the policy, he said.

Kania advises construction brokers to have a good understanding of the following:

1. **The principals in the scope of the coverage provided.** “That can be complicated because it can be tailored for a particular project and the needs of that project, and projects vary from project-to-project. Even though it’s two building projects, those building projects may vary in how they want to protect loss of earnings,” he said.

2. **The insurance parameters need to be understood clearly.** “That’s who is insured, what is the sum that’s insured, and how long is the period of indemnity,” he said. “Look at potential loss scenarios in the indemnification examples to make sure that you get the principals in scope of cover correct and the insurance parameters correct.”

**Translate potential revenue loss into covered delay in start-up.** “So, it’s not a loss of revenue cover; it’s a loss of earnings cover. It really looks at net profit and fixed costs as the indemnification and doesn’t look at lost revenue,” he said.
Construction has been the perfect niche for Michael Ehrenfeld’s Kaplan. “There’s a lot to know in this industry, but there’s a lot to know with anything,” he said.

Kaplan says he has met “some of the best people” through specializing in construction. “Contractors are sometimes stereotyped as flaky and I don’t get that,” he said. That stereotype is just wrong, he said. “My clients are not flaky; they’re responsible. They want to do the right job. It’s important that they have a good reputation,” Kaplan said.

USI’s Danette Beck couldn’t agree more.

“People ask me all the time, ‘Why did you get into construction?’ And I say, ‘I think it’s the best industry,’” she said. By insuring the construction industry, Beck plays a small role in how she impacts the communities in which she lives. “The skylines, the cities, the infrastructure that connects people. What other industry says they can do that?” But it is an industry that requires a specialist to be thoughtful and knowledgeable when it comes to insuring risk, not unlike any other industry.

Construction firms, like many U.S. business, are family-owned companies, second generation, third generation, or fourth generation companies and their personal brand, their thumbprint in the community is at stake, she said.

“When something goes wrong, it’s very personal,” she said. “This is a family name that’s going on the face of this building, this road, this bridge, this wastewater treatment plant, this nuclear power plant,” she said. “I look at all my clients and prospective clients as family. It’s really important that you not only protect their balance sheet, but also their reputation.”
July 1

July 1st - Canada Day, a national holiday in Canada, formerly known as Dominion Day, commemorating the confederation of Upper and Lower Canada and some of the Maritime Provinces into the Dominion of Canada on July 1, 1867.

July 1, 1862 - President Abraham Lincoln signed the first income tax bill, levying a 3% income tax on annual incomes of $600-$10,000 and a 5% tax on incomes over $10,000. Also on this day, the Bureau of Internal Revenue was established by an Act of Congress.

July 1, 1863 - Beginning of the Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War.

July 1, 1893 - President Grover Cleveland underwent secret cancer surgery aboard a yacht owned by his friend, Commodore E.C. Benedict. The surgery was performed on a cancerous growth in his mouth. The entire left side of his jaw was removed along with a small portion of his soft palate. A second, smaller operation was performed on July 17th. Cleveland was then fitted with a rubber prosthesis which he wore until his death in 1908. The secrecy was intended to prevent panic among the public during the economic depression of 1893.

July 2

July 2, 1776 - The Continental Congress in Philadelphia adopted the following resolution, originally introduced on June 7, by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia: "Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved. That it is expedient forthwith to take the most effectual measures for forming foreign Alliances. That a plan of confederation be prepared and transmitted to the respective Colonies for their consideration and approbation."

July 2, 1788 - Congress announced the United States Constitution had been ratified by the required nine states and that a committee had been appointed to make preparations for the new American government.

July 2, 1881 - President James A. Garfield was shot and mortally wounded as he entered a railway station in Washington, D.C. He died on September 19th.

July 2, 1917 - A race riot occurred in St. Louis, Missouri, resulting in an estimated 75 African Americans killed and hundreds injured. To protest the violence against blacks, W.E.B. DuBois and James Weldon Johnson later led a silent march down Fifth Avenue in New York.

July 2, 1964 - President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race in public accommodations, publicly owned or operated facilities, employment and union membership and in voter registration. The Act allowed for cutoff of Federal funds in places where discrimination remained.
Birthday - The first African American on the U.S. Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was born in Baltimore, Maryland. Nominated by President Johnson, he began his 24-year career on the High Court in 1967.

July 3

July 3, 1775 - During the American Revolution, George Washington took command of the Continental Army at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

July 3, 1976 - The raid on Entebbe airport in Uganda occurred as an Israeli commando unit rescued 103 hostages on a hijacked Air France airliner. The jet had been in route from Tel Aviv to Paris when it was hijacked by pro-Palestinian guerrillas. Three hostages, seven hijackers and twenty Ugandan soldiers were killed during the rescue.

July 3, 1988 - Iran Air Flight 655 was destroyed while flying over the Persian Gulf after the U.S. Navy Warship Vincennes fired two surface-to-air missiles, killing all 290 passengers aboard. A subsequent U.S. military inquiry cited stress related human failure for the mistaken identification of the civilian Airbus as an enemy F-14 fighter jet.

July 4

July 4, 1776 - The Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.

July 4, 1863 - Vicksburg, the last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, surrendered to General Grant and the Army of the West after a six week siege. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, the Confederacy was effectively split in two, cut off from its western allies.

July 4, 1882 - The "Last Great Buffalo Hunt" began on Indian reservation lands near Hettinger, North Dakota as 2,000 Teton Sioux Indians in full hunting regalia killed about 5,000 buffalo. By this time, most of the estimated 60-75 million buffalo in America had been killed by white hunters who usually took the hides and left the meat to rot. By 1883, the last of the free-ranging buffalo were gone.

Birthday - Novelist and short-story writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864) was born in Salem, Massachusetts. His works included; The Scarlet Letter, The House of the Seven Gables and The Blithedale Romance.

Birthday - Song writer Stephen Foster (1826-1864) was born in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania. Among his nearly 200 songs were; Oh! Susanna, Camptown Races, Swanee River, Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair, and Beautiful Dreamer. He died in poverty at Bellevue Hospital in New York.

Birthday - Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933) the 30th U.S. President was born in Plymouth, Vermont. He became President on August 3, 1923, after the death of Warren G. Harding. In 1924, Coolidge was elected President but did not run for re-election in 1928.
July 5 **Return to Top of Page**

**July 5, 1775**- The Continental Congress adopted the Olive Branch Petition expressing hope for a reconciliation with Britain. However, King George III refused even to look at the petition and instead issued a proclamation declaring the colonists to be in a state of open rebellion.

**Birthday** - Civil War Admiral David Farragut (1801-1870) was born near Knoxville, Tennessee. He is best remembered for his yelling "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" during an attack on his fleet by the Confederates.

**Birthday** - Promoter and showman P.T. Barnum (1810-1891) was born in Bethel, Connecticut. His American Museum opened in 1842, exhibiting unusual acts such as the Feejee Mermaid, Siamese Twins Chang and Eng, and General Tom Thumb. In 1871, Barnum opened "The Greatest Show on Earth" in Brooklyn, New York. He later merged with rival J.A. Bailey to form the Barnum and Bailey Circus.

**Birthday** - Cecil J. Rhodes (1853-1902) was born at Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. As a South African millionaire and politician, he was said to have once controlled 90 percent of the world's diamond production. His will established the Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for young scholars aged 18-25. Rhodesia was also named for him.

**July 6**

**July 6, 1885** - Louis Pasteur gave the first successful anti-rabies inoculation to a boy who had been bitten by an infected dog.

**Birthday** - Revolutionary War Naval Officer John Paul Jones (1747-1792) was born in Kirkbean, Scotland. He is best remembered for responding "I have not yet begun to fight!" to British opponents seeking his surrender during a naval battle.

**July 7**

**July 7, 1898** - President William McKinley signed a resolution annexing Hawaii. In 1900, Congress made Hawaii an incorporated territory of the U.S., which it remained until becoming a state in 1959.

**Birthday** - Baseball pitcher Leroy R. (Satchel) Paige (1906-1982) was born in Mobile, Alabama. Following a career in the Negro Leagues, he became, at age 42, the first African American pitcher in the American League. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1971.

**July 8**

**July 8, 1776** - The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence occurred as Colonel John Nixon read it to an assembled crowd in Philadelphia.
July 8, 1943 - During the Nazi occupation of France, Resistance leader Jean Moulin died following his arrest and subsequent torture by the Gestapo. He had been sent by the Allies into France in 1942 to unite the fledgling Underground movement. In June of 1943, he was arrested in Lyon, tortured for eleven days but betrayed no one. He died aboard a train while being transferred to a concentration camp.


July 9

July 9, 1868 - The 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. The Amendment defined U.S. citizenship and prohibited individual States from abridging the rights of any American citizen without due process and equal protection under the law. The Amendment also barred individuals involved in rebellion against the U.S. from holding public office.

July 10  Return to Top of Page

July 10, 1943 - The Allied invasion of Italy began with an attack on the island of Sicily. The British entry into Syracuse was the first Allied success in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower labeled the invasion "the first page in the liberation of the European Continent."

July 10, 1973 - The Bahamas gained their independence after 250 years as a British Crown Colony.

July 10, 1991 - Boris Yeltsin took the oath of office, becoming the first popularly elected president in Russia's thousand-year history.

Birthday - Theologian and founder of Presbyterianism, John Calvin (1509-1564) was born in Noyon, France.

Birthday - American artist James Whistler (1834-1903) was born in Lowell, Mass. He is best remembered for his portrait Whistler's Mother.

Birthday - French author Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was born near Paris. "Happiness," he wrote in The Past Recaptured, is beneficial for the body but it is grief that develops the powers of the mind."

Birthday - Tennis player Arthur Ashe (1943-1993) was born in Richmond, Virginia. He won a total of 33 titles including the U.S. men's singles championship and U.S. Open in 1968 and the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1975. As a pioneering African American athlete, he fought against racism and stereotyping and was arrested numerous times while protesting. In 1992, he announced he had likely contracted HIV through a transfusion during heart surgery. He then began a $5 million fundraising effort on behalf of the Arthur Ashe Foundation for the Defeat of AIDS and campaigned for public awareness regarding the dreaded disease. He died from pneumonia in New York, February 6, 1993.
July 11

**Birthday** - John Quincy Adams (1767-1848) the 6th U.S. President, and son of the 2nd President, John Adams, was born in Braintree, Massachusetts. After serving just one term as President, he served 17 years as a member of Congress. He died in 1848 while in the House of Representatives in the same room in which he had taken the presidential Oath of Office. He was the first president whose father had also been president.

July 12

**July 12, 1943** - During World War II, in the **Battle of Kursk**, the largest tank battle in history took place outside the small village of Prohorovka, Russia. About nine hundred Russian tanks attacked an equal number of German tanks fighting at close range. When Hitler ordered a cease-fire, 300 German tanks remained strewn over the battlefield.

**July 12, 1994** - Germany's Constitutional Court ended the ban on sending German troops to fight outside the country. The ban had been in effect since the end of World War II. The ruling allowed German troops to join in United Nations and NATO peace-keeping missions. On July 14, German military units marched in Bastille Day celebrations in Paris, the first appearance of German troops there since World War II.

**Birthday** - British pottery designer Josiah Wedgwood (1730-1795) was born in Burslem, Staffordshire, England.

**Birthday** - American philosopher Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) was born in Concord, Massachusetts. At Walden Pond he wrote, "I frequently tramped eight or ten miles through the deepest snow to keep an appointment with a beech tree, or a yellow birch, or an old acquaintance among the pines."

July 13

**July 13, 1787** - Congress enacted the **Northwest Ordinance** establishing formal procedures for transforming territories into states. It provided for the eventual establishment of three to five states in the area north of the Ohio River, to be considered equal with the original 13. The Ordinance included a Bill of Rights that guaranteed freedom of religion, the right to trial by jury, public education and a ban on slavery in the Northwest.

July 14

**July 14, 1789** - The fall of the Bastille occurred at the beginning of the French Revolution.

**July 14, 1791** - In England, the Birmingham riot occurred on the second anniversary of the fall of the Bastille. Mob rule lasted for three days, targeting controversial scientist and theologian Joseph Priestly's home and laboratory as well as the homes of his friends. Priestly, who had expressed support for the American and French revolutions, fled to London with his family and later moved to America.
Birthday - American folk singer and social activist Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was born in Okemah, Oklahoma. Best known for *This Land Is Your Land*, *Union Maid*, and *Hard Traveling*.

Birthday - Gerald R. Ford, the 38th U.S. President was born in Omaha, Nebraska, July 14, 1913 (as Leslie King). In 1973, he was appointed vice president following the resignation of Spiro T. Agnew. He became president on August 9, 1974, following the resignation of Richard M. Nixon. He was the first non-elected vice president and non-elected president of the U.S.

**July 15 Return to Top of Page**

July 15, 1918 - During the Battle of the Marne in World War I, German General Erich Ludendorff launched Germany's fifth, and last, offensive to break through the Chateau-Thierry salient. However, the Germans were stopped by American, British and Italian divisions. On July 18, General Foch, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops, launched a massive counter-offensive. The Germans began a retreat lasting four months until they requested an armistice in November.

Birthday - Dutch painter Rembrandt van Rijn (1606-1669) was born in Leiden, Holland. Best known for *The Night Watch* and many portraits and self portraits.

Birthday - The first American saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) was born in Lombardy, Italy. She was the founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and established Catholic schools, orphanages, convents and hospitals. She was canonized, July 7, 1946, by Pope Pius XII.

July 16

July 16, 1769 - San Diego was founded as the mission San Diego de Alcala by Father Junipero Serra.

July 16, 1945 - The experimental Atomic bomb "Fat Boy" was set off at 5:30 a.m. in the desert of New Mexico desert, creating a mushroom cloud rising 41,000 ft. The bomb emitted heat three times the temperature of the interior of the sun and wiped out all plant and animal life within a mile.

July 16, 1969 - The Apollo 11 Lunar landing mission began with a liftoff from Kennedy Space Center at 9:37 a.m.

July 16, 1999 - A small plane piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. took off at 8:38 p.m. from Fairfield, New Jersey, heading toward Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. His wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister Lauren were passengers on the 200 mile trip. The plane was expected to arrive about 10 p.m. but disappeared off radar at 9:40 p.m. Five days later, July 21, following an extensive search, the bodies were recovered from the plane wreckage in 116 feet of water roughly 7 miles off Martha's Vineyard. The next day, following an autopsy, the cremated remains of John F. Kennedy, 38, his wife Carolyn, 33, and her sister Lauren, 34, were scattered at sea from a U.S. Navy ship, with family members present, not far from where the plane had crashed.

Birthday - British portrait painter Joshua Reynolds (1723-1792) was born in Plympton, Devon, England.

Birthday - Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910) was born near Concord, New Hampshire.
Birthday - African American journalist and anti-lynching crusader Ida B. Wells (1862-1931) was born to slaves at Holly Springs, Missouri. Following the Civil War, as lynchings became prevalent, Wells traveled extensively, founding anti-lynching societies and black women's clubs.

Birthday - Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928) was born near Oslo. He was the first to sail from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean via the Northwest Passage. He discovered the South Pole in 1911 and flew over the North Pole in a dirigible in 1926. In June 1928, he flew from Norway to rescue survivors of an Italian Arctic expedition, but his plane vanished.

July 17, 1918 - In the Russian town of Ekaterinburg in Siberia, former Czar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, and their five children were brutally murdered by Bolsheviks.

July 17, 1996 - TWA Flight 800 departed Kennedy International Airport in New York bound for Paris but exploded in mid-air 12 minutes after takeoff, apparently the result of a mechanical failure. The Boeing 747 jet crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Long Island about 8:45 p.m. All 212 passengers and 17 crew members on board were killed.

Birthday - Puerto Rican patriot Luis Munoz-Rivera (1859-1916) was born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico. He worked tirelessly to attain self-government for his homeland.

July 18, 1947 - President Harry Truman signed an Executive Order determining the line of succession if the president becomes incapacitated or dies in office. Following the vice president, the speaker of the house and president of the Senate are next in succession. This became the 25th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified on February 10, 1967.

Birthday - American politician Samuel Hayakawa (1906-1992) was born in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is remembered as the college president who climbed atop a sound truck at San Francisco State College in 1968 during student protests, then disconnected the wires thus silencing the demonstrators. This made him popular among conservatives including California Gov. Ronald Reagan. Hayakawa became a Republican and was elected in 1976 to the U.S. Senate, serving just one term. In 1986, he led the successful California initiative to declare English the state's official language.

Birthday - Nelson Mandela was born the son of a Tembu tribal chieftain on July 18, 1918, at Qunu, near Umtata, in South Africa. He became a lawyer, joined the African National Congress (ANC) in 1944, eventually becoming deputy national president in 1952. In 1964, he was convicted for sabotage as a result of his participation in the struggle against apartheid. He spent the next 28 years in jail, but remained a symbol of hope to South Africa's non-white majority. Released in 1990, he was elected President of South Africa in 1994 in the first election in which all races participated.
July 19

July 19-20, 1848 - A women's rights convention was held at Seneca Falls, New York. Topics discussed included voting rights, property rights and divorce. The convention marked the beginning of an organized women's rights movement in the U.S.

July 19, 1863 - During the American Civil War, Union troops made a second attempt to capture Fort Wagner near Charleston, South Carolina. The attack was led by the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry, commanded by Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, who was killed along with half of the 600 men in the regiment. This battle marked the first use of black Union troops in the war.

Birthday - French impressionist painter Edgar Degas (1834-1917) was born in Paris. Best known for his paintings of dancers in motion.

July 20 Return to Top of Page

July 20, 1715 - The Riot Act took effect in Britain. If a dozen or more persons were disturbing the peace, an authority was required to command silence and read the following, "Our sovereign Lord the King chargeth and commandeth all persons, being assembled, immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George, for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the king." Any persons who failed to obey within one hour were to be arrested.

July 20, 1954 - An agreement was signed in Geneva, Switzerland, ending hostilities between French forces in Vietnam and the People's Army of Vietnam.

July 20, 1969 - A global audience watched on television as Apollo 11 Astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first step onto the moon. As he stepped onto the moon's surface he proclaimed, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" - inadvertently omitting an "a" before "man" and slightly changing the meaning.

Birthday - Explorer Edmund Hillary was born in Auckland, New Zealand, July 20, 1919. In 1953, he became first to ascend Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world at 29,023 ft.

July 21

July 21, 1898 - Guam was ceded to the United States by Spain.

Birthday - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) was born in Oak Park, Illinois. His works included; The Sun Also Rises (1926), A Farewell to Arms (1929), For Whom the Bell Tolls (1940) and The Old Man and the Sea (1952). Awarded the Nobel Prize in 1954, he wrote little afterward, became ill and shot himself to death on July 2, 1961.

Birthday - University professor and author Marshall McLuhan (1911-1980) was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Best known for stating, "The medium is the message," regarding modern mass communication.
July 22

July 22, 1934 - Bank robber John Dillinger (1902-1934) was shot and killed by FBI agents as he left Chicago's Biograph Movie Theater after watching the film Manhattan Melodrama starring Clark Gable and Myrna Loy. Dillinger was the first criminal labeled by the FBI as "Public Enemy No. 1." After spending nine years (1924-1933) in prison, Dillinger went on a deadly crime spree, traveling through the states of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. He was reportedly betrayed by the "Lady in Red."

July 23

July 23, 1952 - Egyptian army officers launched a revolution changing Egypt from a monarchy to a republic.

July 24

July 24, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Royal Air Force conducted Operation Gomorrah, raiding Hamburg, while tossing bales of aluminum foil strips overboard to cause German radar screens to see a blizzard of false echoes. As a result, only twelve of 791 Allied bombers involved were shot down.

July 24, 1945 - At the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference in Germany, Winston Churchill, Harry Truman and China's representatives issued a demand for unconditional Japanese surrender. The Japanese, unaware the demand was backed up by an Atomic bomb, rejected the Potsdam Declaration on July 26.

Birthday - "The Liberator" Simon Bolivar (1783-1830) was born in Caracas, Venezuela. He is known as the George Washington of South America for his efforts to liberate six nations: Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia from the rule of Spain.

Birthday - French playwright and novelist Alexandre Dumas (1802-1870) was born in Villers-Cotterets, France. His works included The Count of Monte Cristo and The Three Musketeers.

Birthday - American pilot Amelia Earhart (1898-1937) was born in Atchison, Kansas. She became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and to fly solo from Hawaii to California. She perished during a flight from New Guinea to Howland Island over the Pacific Ocean on July 3, 1937.

July 25 Return to Top of Page

July 25, 1898 - During the Spanish-American War, the U.S. invaded Puerto Rico, which was then a Spanish colony. In 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens and Puerto Rico became an unincorporated territory of the U.S. Partial self-government was granted in 1947 allowing citizens to elect their own governor. In 1951, Puerto Ricans wrote their own constitution and elected a non-voting commissioner to represent them in Washington.

July 25, 1909 - The world's first international overseas airplane flight was achieved by Louis Bleriot in a small monoplane. After asking, "Where is England?" he took off from France and landed in England near Dover, where he was greeted by British police.
July 25, 1943 - Mussolini was deposed just two weeks after the Allied attack on Sicily. The Fascist Grand Council met for the first time since December of 1939 then took a confidence vote resulting in Mussolini being ousted from office and placed under arrest. King Victor Emmanuel of Italy then ordered Marshal Pietro Badoglio to form a new government.

July 25, 1956 - The Italian luxury liner Andrea Doria sank after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm on its way to New York. Nearby ships came to the rescue, saving 1,634 people, including the captain and the crew, before the ship went down.

July 26

July 26, 1944 - The U.S. Army began desegregating its training camp facilities. Black platoons were then assigned to white companies in a first step toward battlefield integration. However, the official order integrating the armed forces didn't come until July 26, 1948, signed by President Harry Truman.

July 26, 1945 - The U.S. Cruiser Indianapolis arrived at Tinian Island in the Marianas with an unassembled Atomic bomb, met by scientists ready to complete the assembly.

July 26, 1953 - The beginning of Fidel Castro's revolutionary "26th of July Movement." In 1959, Castro led the rebellion that drove out dictator Fulgencio Batista. Although he once declared that Cuba would never again be ruled by a dictator, Castro's government became a Communist dictatorship.

Birthday - Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was born in Dublin, Ireland.

July 27

July 27, 1953 - The Korean War ended with the signing of an armistice by U.S. and North Korean delegates at Panmunjom, Korea. The war had lasted just over three years.

July 28

July 28, 1932 - The Bonus March eviction in Washington, D.C., occurred as U.S. Army troops under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, attacked and burned the encampments of unemployed World War I veterans. About 15,000 veterans had marched on Washington, demanding payment of a war bonus they had been promised. After two months' encampment in Washington's Anacostia Flats, forced eviction of the bonus marchers by the U.S. Army was ordered by President Herbert Hoover.

July 28, 1943 - During World War II, a firestorm killed 42,000 civilians in Hamburg, Germany. The firestorm occurred after 2,326 tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped by the Allies.

Birthday - Jackie Kennedy (1929-1994) was born in Southampton, New York (as Jacqueline Lee Bouvier). She was married to John Fitzgerald Kennedy and after his death later married Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.
July 29

Birthday - Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) was born in Dovia, Italy. He ruled Italy from 1922-1943, first as prime minister and then as "Il Duce," the absolute dictator.

July 30

July 30, 1975 - Former Teamsters Union leader James Hoffa was last seen outside a restaurant near Detroit, Michigan. His 13-year federal prison sentence had been commuted by President Richard M. Nixon in 1971. On December 8, 1982, seven years after his disappearance, an Oakland County judge declared Hoffa officially dead.

Birthday - Automotive pioneer Henry Ford (1863-1947) was born in Dearborn Township, Michigan. He developed an assembly-line production system and introduced a $5-a-day wage for automotive workers. "History is bunk," he once said.

July 31

July 31, 1776 - During the American Revolution, Francis Salvador became the first Jew to die in the conflict. He had also been the first Jew elected to office in Colonial America, voted a member of the South Carolina Provincial Congress in January 1775.

July 31, 1790 - The U.S. Patent Office first opened its doors. The first U.S. patent was issued to Samuel Hopkins of Vermont for a new method of making pearlash and potash. The patent was signed by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.
Toolbox Talks for OSHA Safety and Health

Toolbox talks are an easy way for foremen and supervisors to supplement the OSHA training efforts of their company or organization, and to keep safety front and center in their workers’ minds. These short pre-written safety meetings are designed to heighten employee awareness of workplace hazards and OSHA regulations. They are not intended to take the place of formal OSHA safety training for workers, but to supplement it.

Here are a few tips to keep in mind when conducting a toolbox talk for your workers:

- Read the toolbox talk to yourself a couple of times before you hold the actual meeting with workers. That way you will be more familiar with the content to be covered and therefore less apt to stumble while reading to the group.
- Try to hold the toolbox talk in an area that is free of noise and other distractions. If the workers cannot hear you talking, or are distracted by other activities in the area, they won’t be focusing on your talk.
- Speak clearly and directly. Mumbling or reading too fast makes it difficult for the workers to understand you. Just take a deep breath, and then speak clearly and at a natural pace.
- Use a prop when possible to help you keep the workers attention. If you are giving a toolbox talk on setting up a portable step ladder, have one set up nearby so you can point out things as you read the toolbox talk. To really drive home a point, have an unlabeled container you found on the jobsite available when giving a toolbox talk on OSHA’s hazard communication standards about labeling requirements.
- Always give workers an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the toolbox talk. Don’t make snide remarks to employees who do ask a question, as this will discouraging others from asking questions later.
- Always document your toolbox talks. Even if certain OSHA standards do not require documentation of safety training, it can’t hurt to have the information about the topic, the trainer, the date, and names of the workers on file.
- Last but not least, practice what you preach. Nothing makes a trainer lose credibility faster than to have a worker see them doing something that violates the safety precautions that were covered in a previous toolbox talk. Always set a good example.

Free Toolbox Talks

The free toolbox talks provided below on this website are available for you to download and print at no cost for use within your company or organization. They are not to be used for commercial gain, nor can they be republished on any other website or in any document without our explicit permission.

A new toolbox talk will be published on this site each month. Each topic selected is generic enough to be applied to many different work environments (construction and general industry). While the information contained in each toolbox talk is believed to be accurate, remember that these toolbox talks are not intended to take the place of formal OSHA training, they are only intended to supplement the mandatory training and help maintain awareness.

You are responsible for checking the OSHA training requirements for construction and / or the general industry training requirements to determine the actual training that must be provided to your workers. OSHA Training Services Inc, cannot be held liable for the content in, or misuse of, these generic toolbox talks.

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July 19-2018 Membership Meeting to be held @ Casa Carbone. Speaker of the month Is Mr George I. Dodson / Technical Sales Representative Representing LATICRETE International, Inc.

August 16-2018 Membership Meeting to be held @ Casa Carbone. Speaker of the month Is Mr Joseph Stallings Representing the Town of Garner. Joseph will be speaking about what it takes to bring in new Businesses into our area. How localities prepare for and accommodate their infrastructure and social needs as they enter the community.

September 20-2018 Membership Meeting to be held @ Casa Carbone. Speaker of the month to be announced

October 5-2018 PCEA Sporting Clays at Drakes Landing, PCEA Fundraising Event 3146 Chalybeate Springs Rd, Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

This year promises to be the best outing yet!
July 19-2018 Membership Meeting to be held @ Casa Carbone.
This Months Speaker Is Mr George I. Dodson / Technical Sales Representative
Representing LATICRETE International, Inc.

Casa Carbone
6019-A Glenwood Ave
Oak Park Shopping Center
Raleigh, NC 27612-2601

Our Meeting starts with a pre-meeting social 18:30 -19:00 hrs.
At 19:00 our meeting is called to order and you are introduced.

August Membership Meeting @ Casa Carbone
August 16-2018 Membership Meeting to be held @ Casa Carbone.
Speaker of the month Is Mr James Stallings
A Local Community Growth, does not happen without planning and hard work.

Our Speaker for August represents the Garner Economic Development. If you have watched the news or read the newspaper you’ve had to have noticed the surge of growth in Garner, North Carolina. Garner has made local and National news by being one of the better places to live and work in North Carolina. Ranking in the top 25 in most measured categories for living and working.

Joe Stallings joined the Town of Garner as their Economic Development Director in January of 2015. Prior to coming to Garner, Stallings served as the Economic Development and Media Coordinator for the Town of Benson, NC. Stallings received his Bachelor degree in Political Science with a concentration in Town, City and County Management and a minor in Regional Planning and a Master’s in Public Administration from Appalachian State University. He currently serves on the United Community Bank Board and is an active member in the Trojan Business Alliance, North Carolina Economic Developer’s Association, International Economic Development Council, Garner Young Professional’s Network and the Council for Entrepreneurial Development.

From the Triangle Business Journal By Lauren K. Ohnesorge A developer linked to Seattle e-retailer Amazon is finalizing plans with the town of Garner for “Project Axis,” a planned warehouse distribution facility at the old ConAgra site. Officials have not identified the tenant. Maybe Joseph will be able to share who the new complex will support.

Bring your questions. This will be a great opportunity to learn how Businesses are wooed into relocating to our area.

Joseph Stallings
Economic Development Director
Town of Garner
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Garner, NC 27529
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www.garnernc.gov

Garner Technology Center Site Video CLICK HERE
The are places in this world that have left indelible marks upon the men and women that served and fought for our Freedoms and National interest.

Some of these places were never acknowledged and or flatly deigned by our leaders and by our Presidents. Few knew to the extent our country has gone to usurp the information that once was “Top Secret” and “Need to Know”.

One such place was “Long Tieng, Laos.

Long Tieng (also spelled Long Chiang, Long Cheng, or Long Chen) is a Laotian military base located in Xiangkhouang Province. [1] During the Laotian Civil War, it served as a town and airbase operated by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. [2] During this time, it was also referred to as Lima Site 98 (LS 98) or Lima Site 20A (LS 20A).

At the height of its significance in the late 1960s, the "secret city" of Long Tieng maintained a population of 40,000 inhabitants, making it the second largest city in Laos at the time. [3] Although it never appeared on maps throughout this period.
The war in Laos was the biggest clandestine operation ever run by the CIA. Most Americans first began to hear about Laos in 1961, at a time when that country’s neighbor to the east, Vietnam, was equally unknown. U.S. aid had been flowing into Laos since 1954, the year French forces fell at Dien Bien Phu. That defeat resulted in the Geneva accord that divided Vietnam, giving all territory above the 17th parallel to the communist Viet Minh. One intent of the settlement was to assure that Laos, at the time ruled by a king whose bloodline was centuries old, remained an independent country. But the Laotian border with North Vietnam, the scene of conflict for centuries, continued to prove porous to incursions and influence. Communist-aligned Pathet Lao guerrillas within Laos became even more emboldened by the victory of their longtime Viet Minh sponsors across the border in North Vietnam.

Much of the U.S. aid money infusing the Royalist government was siphoned off by corrupt military officials. Angered by this graft, a relatively low-level officer in the army, Kong Le—a paratroop battalion commander—staged a coup and took over the capital city, Vientiane. Within days, Laos became a fragile coalition of murky allegiances and factions. The Pathet Lao took advantage of the confusion and expanded their influence and territory, and North Vietnamese operatives infiltrated the loose government Kong Le had cobbled together. Military analysts in the Pentagon openly discussed an invasion to restore stability to the small nation, which now threatened to become a cold war flashpoint—the Pathet Lao and Viet Minh were supported heavily by the Soviet Union. However, over the next year, during which an ongoing Geneva conference attempted to restore peace in Laos, and the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba ended disastrously, the focus began to shift to Vietnam, which, to U.S. strategists, had become the more logical place to mount resistance to communist expansion in southeast Asia. In November 1961, U.S. advisors and troops were sent to South Vietnam, shortly after a formal agreement was reached in Geneva designed to keep Laos neutral. By October 1962, all U.S. and Soviet advisors and troops had left Laos—except for those who went underground.

To support the war waged in South Vietnam, The North Vietnamese Army “NVA” supported by China and the Soviet Union were sending massive amounts of military goods and food to be used by the Viet Cong, PAVN, NVA. They used routes from the north utilizing the Ho Chi Minh Trail and ports located in the Gulf of Thailand to funnel these goods into South Vietnam.

The Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese People’s Army of Vietnam (PAVN) used well-organized logistics methods to supply and equip their fighting forces. This logistics organization helped greatly in their war against the American and South Vietnamese military during the Vietnam War.

The Viet Cong's full-time soldiers were referred to as the "Main Force" (Chu Luc). The National Liberation Front (NLF) was a united front designed to encourage non-communists to support the insurgency in the south. The term NVA identifies regular troops of the North Vietnamese Army as they were commonly known by their Western opponents. Collectively, both forces were part of PAVN which made up all armed forces of North Vietnam.
The Vietnam People’s Army had decided to build a secret road system to carry war supplies to the south. The network, initially coded 559, eventually became known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail. It was on one of Ho’s birthdays, May 9, 1959, that the trail’s construction began with the establishment of Military Transport Division 559, comprising 440 young men and women. Over the next 16 years the trail carried more than one million North Vietnamese soldiers and vast quantities of supplies to battlefields in South Vietnam — despite ferocious American air strikes.

The name, taken from North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, is of American origin. Within Vietnam, it is called the Duong Truong Son, or Truong Son Road, after the mountain range in Central Vietnam. Another name given the trail is “The Blood Road.” If relentless American bombing didn’t get him, it would take a North Vietnamese soldier as many as six months to make the grueling trek through jungle down the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

At least 10 percent of the casualties along the trail were from such illnesses as malaria. At regular intervals along the route, the National Liberation Front (NLF) built base camps. As well as providing a place for them to rest, the base camps provided medical treatment for those who had been injured or had fallen ill on the journey. Most of the base camps were underground.

Excavated by hand, intricate interconnecting tunnels with concealed entrances hid trail trekkers, often directly under the feet of American troops searching for them. Radio and telecommunications facilities, food and weapons caches, medical aid stations and barracks, all underground, hid thousands of the North Vietnamese at any given time during the war. The trail system was vastly improved. Even as more people used the trail, the trek was reduced to six weeks for a fit soldier.

The North Vietnamese also used the Ho Chi Minh Trail to send soldiers to the south. At times, as many as 20,000 soldiers a month came from Hanoi by this way. In an attempt to stop this traffic, it was suggested that a barrier of barbed wire and minefields, called the McNamara Line, should be built. The plan was abandoned in 1967 after repeated attacks by the NLF on those involved in constructing the barrier.

As a result of the failures to limit the successes of the North Vietnamese to support the war in the south, in 1962 the CIA first set up a headquarters for Major General Vang Pao in the Long Tieng valley, which at that time had almost no inhabitants. By 1964 a 1260m-long runway had been completed and by 1966 Long Cheng was one of the largest US installations on foreign soil, becoming one of the busiest airports in the world.

The US Special Forces used Long Tieng as a forward Operations Base in Laos and others in Cambodia. All Special Operation Forces were volunteers from the Special Operation Groups. Managed by the 5th and 7th Special Forces Group the volunteers were working to identify shipments of goods from the North and destroy the materials brought from the North to support the War in the South.

The Special Force Teams would be inserted along the trail as far north as the Chinese Border. We would locate shipments and call in air strikes to destroy the trail, Elephant Convoys, Truck Convoys and later Bicycle Convoys moving south on the trails leading into the northern, Central and Southern regions of Southern Vietnam.

The Special Force teams suffered losses exceeding 50%. These dedicated teams consisted of 2-3 man teams. They at times were supported by indigenous mountain tribes collectively called the Hmong / Mong. The Mong sustained losses exceeding 70%.

The Special Force Members operating in Cambodia and Laos had high Bounties placed on them. These teams when inserted for recons were hunted by the NVA, NLF, Pathet Lao and Viet Minh. With a minimum of $10,000 Bounty per head the Special Force Unit never made it back home to the US if they were discovered, and captured by a superior force.
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