

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Coast Guard / Navy Seals

Coast Guard's equivalent to Navy SEALs

All branches of our military forces poke fun at each other on occasion. However...

ever we Coasties, generally catch the brunt of this "fun" stuff. A lot of it is from ignorance, because so many folks just do not know what all the USCG does, our proud history, and some of it is the result of our very laid back attitudes.

In reality there is not much our USCG cannot and has not done, or may be called upon to do at a moment's notice, even if we are considered the red-headed step child of the armed forces.

When a couple or more of we old Coasties get together we even poke fun at ourselves, being proud of the fact that we even consider ourselves to be hooligans, as in "HOOLIGAN'S NAVY", from the experiences we've had by accomplishing much with very little and very frequently NOT BY THE BOOK!

The USCG has its own special forces who are the equivalent to any of the SOCOM units such as NAVY SEALs, who they often train with and referred to as MSRT (Maritime Security Response Team). The MSRT is a full time counter-terrorism assault team, hard core law enforcement and first responders in boarding details on hostile vessels anywhere on God's earth.

These well trained VOLUNTEERS were part of the USCG DOG or Deployable Operations Group, disbanded in 2013, however the MSRT remains today on call for serious, dangerous situations worldwide.

Several teams are components of this assault element of our USCG, with the Direct Action Section specially trained in boarding details and close quarters combat. There is a Precision Marksmen Observer Team commonly called snipers, often times deployed on moving aircraft or boats.

I can relate to this last aspect from personal experience but at a much lesser level and in rudimentary form, that job now being extremely fine tuned in a much more dangerous world. The last element would be the Tactical Delivery Teams.

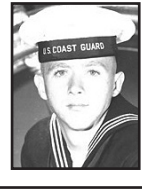
The MSRT include good men who are trained in chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear and high explosives with EOD and bomb squad abilities. I believe that requires nerves of steel. If neutralizing terrorists or pirates is necessary to defend American security the USCG volunteers of the MSRT will be ready, willing and able even in international waters.

Like most Spec Ops groups much is on the down-low, not publicly discussed or known about. Most recently we know these great men of the MSRT were in and around the coast of Syria and Africa.

As an OLD Coasty, I can attest to the fact that even back then we were deployed on a couple of missions that are not in or on any official records anywhere, nor do we have any credit in our personal files, or ribbons/awards to show. But ask most any Coasty if that kind of stuff matters and he'll grin and say "Heck No, we just get the job done and go kick back somewhere with a cold drink and good meal!"

I'm proud of what our modern USCG is capable of and ask that our Good Lord would look over them and protect them. Some of the finest VOLUNTEERS in our military forces. - Semper Paratus

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



Joe Heller 2023-HEILESTER.COM

A View From A Happier Place

We have long conjectured that the primary function of modern media is twofold: to influence the movement of money from our bank accounts, and to act as a herding mechanism for our beliefs and behaviors. With this in mind, we embarked some time ago, here in our little home away, on a life altering journey to curate the information we receive. We don't watch network news except on the rare occasion when an event affects us locally. We're choosy when it comes selecting digital information sources. We try to be aware of cognitive bias in both the giving and the receiving of information.

We've discussed this project here before, but as the efforts to plunder and herd are unrelenting, it bears repeating. It has been interesting to observe how attitudes and behaviors change, for the better, in the absence of broken news and nightly shooting reports.

One of the primary benefits of our project has been the disappearance of a particular kind of stress which had become so endemic to our lives that it existed as a kind of background noise - We didn't really notice it until it was gone. Last night I went to sleep with my digestion undisturbed by images of inner city violence. The first cup of coffee this morning has not turned bitter with fears of generational change, falling skies and economic collapse.

Unburdened by the spectacle of celebrity drama and opinions about opinions, there is more time for reading, more time for hobbies and projects, and there is no dust on the tools in the shop. Unburdened by politics, I find that people are more likable. If you refuse to discuss politics, your friends may experience some cognitive dissonance at first, but in time your conversations will become more rewarding.

"But if we don't keep up, how will we know how to vote? It's vital that we vote, especially now that they are trying to destroy our country!"

If it's an acquaintance telling you that, you can simply say "If everything you say is true I'd have to agree with you," smile, and walk away. If it's a friend, you're going to have to be patient. Deeply imbedded fears that are continuously groomed can be difficult to overcome. Your friend probably hasn't read much history, or has forgotten that the same fears, arguments and accusations have cycled through our civilization many times, only now they are amplified by technology.

Your friend is not going to get a historical perspective watching "The View" or listening to Fox News faithfully reporting what was said on "The View." By the way, I heard a good one recently, suggesting that we can now expand the usefulness of the word, "view," as in a herd of goats, a flock of sheep, a school of fish, and a view of morons.

I'm not suggesting a "head in the sand" retreat from information about the world. It behooves us to remain alert and aware; to think globally, but not too much, and act locally, very locally, within that bubble of awareness which encompasses family and friends and community.

A cursory glance at my online news aggregator this morning is sufficient to inform me that the news is basically the same as it was three weeks ago, and most of it is opinion. When we separate fact from interpretation and set aside the latter, not much is left to trouble us. What is more important to my daily life is how my neighbor who has been ill is feeling this morning. What is more essential to my own continued good health is not the rehashing of perpetual arguments, but the relaxation and fulfillment gained in reading the books I enjoyed by reinvesting that time.

And as far as economics is concerned, is it merely a coincidence that in the absence of the broken, the tacky, the prudent and the manipulative in media, I find that my wallet sits higher this morning, flush with all the cash that wasn't spent assuaging the fears of an increasingly paranoid culture?

Think about it...but not too hard or for too long. The sun is coming up on another unique and irreplaceable day. How will you spend it?

Towns County Community Calendar

Table with community calendar events: First Monday of each month (School Board, HS/MS Media Center, 6:45 pm), Every Tuesday (Storytime for Children, TC Library, 10:30 am), First Tuesday of each month (Hiaw. City Council, City Hall, 6 pm; YH City Council, YH City Hall, 7 pm), Second Tuesday of each month (Conventions & Visitors Board, Civic Center, 8 am), Second Wednesday of each month (Board of Elections, Elections Office, 4 pm), Third Monday of each month (Planning Commission, Civic Center, 6 pm; Water Board, Water Office, 6 pm), Third Tuesday of each month (Commissioner's Mtg, Courthouse, 5:30 pm; City of Young Harris Planning Commission, Meeting Room in City Hall, 5 pm).

Letters To The Editor

Abortion Pill - What You Need to Know!

Dear Editor,

What a year 2022 was as we witnessed monumental progress in the fight against abortion. Roe v. Wade was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court returning the responsibility for legislation of abortion laws back to the individual states. In our State of Georgia, the Heartbeat Law was enacted which makes abortion illegal after a baby has a detectable heartbeat, usually by 5-6 weeks gestation.

With progress often comes challenges as we are seeing at the Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center Medical here in Blairsville, and as are being seen at other pregnancy centers across our state and nation. In states like ours where abortion laws have greatly reduced the time limits for legal abortion, or have outlawed it altogether, abortion-minded women are focusing their attention on the abortion pill.

Before the laws changed, most women had time to seek information and assistance from pregnancy centers before making their decision. They were able to have an ultrasound and see the life growing inside them, often changing hearts to choose life. Now, with stricter time limits imposed, many women are fearful of running out of time. They aren't taking time to process their options, but instead, they are going straight for the abortion pill, bypassing the pregnancy centers all together.

You have probably seen in the news that CVS, Walgreens, and other pharmacies are offering the abortion pills with a prescription from a licensed provider. Abortion pills are also easily obtained from abortion clinics and abortion providers as well as over the internet. Over the internet, a woman just fills out a medical questionnaire online, submits payment, and someone in another country writes a prescription. The pills are then mailed to her home from pharmacies in countries like India or China. There is no lawful regulation or oversight to abortion pills obtained over the internet making the process even more dangerous than already is for women seeking an abortion. She gets no counseling, no education on what to expect during the process, and no ultrasound to assure she doesn't have an ectopic pregnancy, which is when a fertilized egg attaches outside the uterus, and if untreated, may lead to life-threatening bleeding.

As you can see, abortion pills are very dangerous, and yet this is not something the pharmaceutical companies, abortion providers, our government, and the media are willing to tell women or society. Instead, they say abortion pills are safe and effective, and women may just experience a little cramping and bleeding like during their menstrual period. The true reality is, abortion pills put a woman into full-blown labor, and the pain and bleeding she experiences are often severe, so severe sometimes that she will hemorrhage, losing over half of her body's blood volume, maybe leading to death but certainly requiring emergency medical treatment. Sometimes, the abortion is not complete, and she will require a surgical procedure to remove her dead baby. These women suffer trauma upon trauma.

But we know that we serve a mighty God who desires for life to be preserved (Psalm 139:13-16, ESV), and we will not be shaken! We will continue to stand and fight to rescue babies and their mothers from the evils of abortion. That is why we are both excited and hopeful to share information with you about abortion pill reversal. You may not have known that it is possible for an abortion to be reversed. Praise our mighty God because yes, it is possible in many instances. If a woman takes the first of the two abortion pills and then regrets her decision, fearing she has made a mistake, she can seek assistance from the Abortion Pill Reversal Network. This network will connect her with a physician who will review her case, and if she meets medical criteria, will start her on a hormone called progesterone which can block and counteract the actions of the first abortion pill. She will be monitored closely with ultrasound for weeks, and in many cases, these women go on to continue their pregnancy and have healthy full-term babies. God is good, He always provides a way!

The Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center Medical is partnering with a physician in our region who is part of the Abortion Pill Reversal Network. Our Center will be able to provide free ultrasound services to women in our region that includes northern Georgia, western North Carolina, and eastern Tennessee who are going through the reversal process. We will also have the opportunity to provide her with pregnancy, childbirth, and parenting education classes, community resource referrals, and most importantly, to share the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ with her. Praise God!!

Dana Ware, RN
Chuck Morgan, Board Secretary
Georgia Mountain Pregnancy Center Medical

Thank You!

Dear Editor,

I want to personally thank everyone in the Hayesville and Hiawassee communities who helped us get desperately needed coats and supplies to my teacher and pastor friends throughout Ukraine. I recently spoke with my friend, Lyubov Wharton, who is glad to report all of boxes have arrived to the six intended individuals. This included 15 boxes with over 550 pounds of coats, winter clothing, socks and gloves. What an awesome community we have here in far western North Carolina!

The boxes which arrived in Dnipro were initially to be distributed to refugees in the city on a recent Sunday. Since the announcement that the US would be sending more tanks, the bombing from Russia has been unpredictable and relentless. On the Saturday before the intended distribution, in Dnipro, a nine-story building was hit by an intercepted bomb, and 40 people lost their lives in that building. The church which was nearby opened its doors and was able to give your coats, shoes and clothing to those who had survived but lost everything.

In addition, two of our recipients have taken the supplies to two different cities where the fighting is intense on the Donbas border near Toretsk. Galena, the daughter of a pastor who ran an orphanage in a town we frequently visited before the war, took several of the boxes to the soldiers. It is bitter cold, and they don't have proper clothing or uniforms. Vala, one of the teachers I know, is tearing old clothes to make inserts for the soldier's pants since they don't have proper underwear or a way to let their clothing dry. Several of the teachers and families I know with amazing young sons who have college degrees are now being called up to fight in a new round of recruitment. I am sorry to report such horrible conditions, but I want everyone to know your contributions were valued, highly needed and greatly appreciated.

We are sorry we are unable to send pictures of each box but many of our recipients are in difficult situations. They express their deep gratitude through email and conversations with Lyubov daily.

Thank you deeply for making a huge difference and sharing your material blessings with families throughout Ukraine. Please keep these people who now wear your clothes in your prayers, hearts and thoughts daily.

Sincerely, Dawn M. Grinenko, MD The Still Place

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