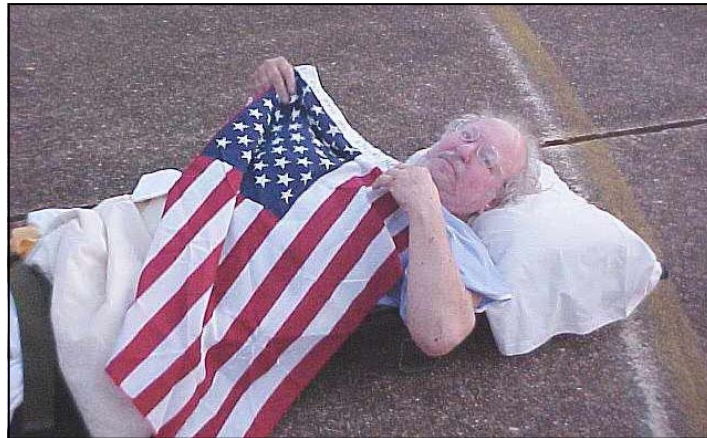


## New Orleans VA evacuated safely

### Vietnam veteran fights a battle of a different kind



Richard Lemoine, a Vietnam veteran who served with the 101st Airborne, has fought a battle he probably thought he would never face.

Several weeks ago, Lemoine traveled to New Orleans VA for surgery. He was recovering at the VA when the hurricane hit.

On Thursday, Missouri and North Carolina Air National Guardsmen led an effort to evacuate patients including Lemoine.

Lemoine, an amputee, was placed on an evacuation device called an Evacusled that carried him down seven flights of stairs.

He was placed in the back of a 2 1/2 ton military vehicle that carried him to the airport in Kenner, LA. Here, C-130s flew the patients to Shreveport, Alexandria, Houston, Jackson, and Little Rock.

After arriving in Alexandria, a guardsman gave Lemoine the American flag, pictured above, with the inscription "God Bless You—S. Twine".