

PEOPLE

Active Duty

By Mike Wagner

Just over a year since leaving Congress, former **Sen. Chuck Hagel**, R-Neb., seems to be busier than at any time in his career as an Army sergeant, newscaster, congressional aide, lobbyist, business executive and politician.

The weeks since the attempted bombing of a Northwest Airlines jet on Christmas have been especially intense, with a stepped-up review being conducted by the President's Intelligence Advisory Board, co-chaired by Hagel and former **Sen. David Boren**, D-Okla.

Hagel is also juggling work as a distinguished professor at Georgetown University and the University of Nebraska at Omaha; as a member of **Defense Secretary Gates'** Defense Policy Board; as chairman of the Atlantic Council, devoted to strengthening U.S. ties with Europe; and as a member of numerous boards, including for the Public Broadcasting Service and Deutsche Bank Americas.

On top of all that, this month Hagel

was named the first member of a new honorary board for the Lung Cancer Alliance, a non-profit working on patient support and advocacy for those living with or at risk of the No. 1 cancer killer.

"We established the Honorary Board in order to thank those who have taken strong public positions on the need to change public health policy and increase research funding for all aspects of lung cancer," said **Laurie Fenton Ambrose**, LCA president and CEO.

During his two terms in the Senate, Hagel regularly sponsored legislation calling for a coordinated federal effort to reduce the lung-cancer mortality rate.



Former Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb.

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Hagel, 63, said through a spokesman last week that he has been involved with the Alliance since his Senate days and has "some very dear friends" there.

After serving an Army tour in Vietnam in 1968, Hagel was a newscaster and talk show host in Omaha for a few years before coming to Capitol Hill in 1971 as administrative assistant to newly elected **Rep. John McCollister**, R-Neb. Hagel stayed through McCollister's unsuccessful run for the Senate in 1976, then was manager of government affairs for Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. until his appointment as deputy administrator of the Veterans Administration in 1981.

Hagel moved to the business world in 1982, co-founding VANGUARD Cellular Systems, Inc., in the mid-1980s and later becoming president of Omaha investment bank McCarthy & Co. He won his first of two Senate terms in 1996 but announced in September 2007 he'd retire at the end of 2008, having become increasingly at odds with the **George W. Bush** administration over its Iraq war policy.

DRAWING BOARD/MARK ARMSTRONG

