



River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1
SPRING 2011

REUNION 2011 IS ALMOST HERE

The Wyndham Hotel is now accepting reservations for reunion 2011. Make yours today!

Join us August 31, 2011 - Sept. 4, 2011 at the beautiful Wyndham Hotel in Indianapolis. Room rates: \$79.00 per night plus tax. These rates are valid for 3 days prior to the reunion and 3 days following the reunion. Individual meeting or hospitality rooms are \$125.00 per day. You may begin making reservations now. The toll free number is 1-877-361-4511 or 317-381-6103.

A Note from "Action Jackson"

Hi Albert,

We are ready for the troops to start making reservations. Below is the link that will go directly to the MRFA booking page, if they would prefer to book online. Either way, I have been informed that we are ready to go. Visit www.wyndham.com/groupevents2010/indap_mrfa/main.wnt.

Michelle "Action" Jackson, Convention Svc. Mgr.
E-mail mjackson@wyndham.com
2544 Executive Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46241
Direct: 317-381-6130, Fax: 317-248-0187
www.wyndhamindianapoliswest.com

Registration Notes

Please send your check or money order (payable to MRFA or Mobile Riverine Force Association) before August 25, 2011 to: MRFA Reunion, 106 Bellevue Dr. NE, Conover, NC 28613. If you have any questions, contact Albert at mrfa@bellsouth.net or Charlie Ardinger at mrfamembership@mabtel.coop or Gunner Stanley at gunnerstan@aol.com.

Please register early. If you wait to pay your registration fee at the reunion, the cost of registration will be \$60.

When filling out your form, please do so as accurately and clearly as possible, especially your unit and the dates you were in-country. This way there will be no misunderstandings when you check in.

You will receive your registration form and name tags at the MRFA registration desk when you check in.

For those few who always try to get by without paying the registration fee, and try to get a free ride, we'll be checking name tags. This is not playing fair with your fellow members and spouses since it raises the costs for everyone else. Last reunion, we found 4 or 5 members walking around with name tags from years past.

In the past some of you have requested a copy of your registration form for your paperwork prior to the reunion. We will be glad to do so via email. Be sure to select this option in the above form. Again, please make sure you send the correct e-mail address. You will still need to fill out this form and send with the registration fees. We'll email you a confirmation copy.

Please send a correct e-mail address. At past reunions, folks have questioned us on their info sent and we show them what they sent and they still want to make changes. As for units some of you may have been in 3 or 4 different units. We can only put so much on a name tag so try and keep it to one or two units or ships, or RivDivs, Co's, etc.

Thanks for your support.

Albert

The Wyndham Hotel

So close to the airport, yet so far ahead of the pack.

Be first-class. At the Wyndham West Indianapolis Hotel you are never far from everything that makes travel a little more pleasant. The fact is we're the closest full-service hotel to the airport and just minutes from downtown

Indianapolis. Step inside our newly renovated hotel and you'll quickly realize you're sacrificing absolutely nothing for convenience. Our airy lobby is done in gorgeous earth tones with granite floors and is flooded with sunlight. Colorful abstract art by a painter whose work hangs in major museums adorn our walls. You'll also find welcoming clusters of seating that are perfect for catching up with friends or for an impromptu meeting with colleagues. Book your reservation today.

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We understand that for most, bankers' hours are a charming thing of the past. To get things done sometimes life needs to conform to your schedule. That's why anytime of the day or night you can grab a workout in our 24-hour Fitness Center, order up a tasty snack from our Room Service or even finish a report in our Business Center. When you're finally ready to wind down, relax in one of our comfortable guest rooms or take a dip in our pool. Shoe shine and dry cleaning services mean you'll always look your best. When a comfortable dining experience or an icy cocktail is on the menu, head to our restaurant or sports bar. Those hosting a stylish wedding or professional gathering are sure to appreciate our huge amount of customizable event space

with our very own Exhibit Hall.

With airport monitors in the lobby, you just know our service is on a higher plane.

We think there's nothing more frustrating than being stuck in the airport waiting for a flight. That's just one reason why we have airport monitors showing departure information for all local flights right in our lobby at the Wyndham West Indianapolis Hotel. If your plane happens to be late, linger by our pool or have that extra cup of coffee with us. Of course, you can

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Mobile Riverine Force Association 2011 Reunion • Indianapolis, IN August 31, 2011 - September 4, 2011 Reunion Registration Form

Name: _____
Unit In Vietnam: _____ Dates: _____
Name(s) Wife, Family (Guest): _____
Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Cell: _____
E-mail: _____

Send this form with check or money order to the address below.

Reunion Registration: \$50 covers both member and spouse	\$ _____	Total: _____
Other Guest(s): (\$25 each)	\$ _____	Total: _____
Non-Member: (\$75 each)	\$ _____	Total: _____
Grand Total Enclosed:	\$ _____	

☐ Please send my registration info via email.

The Wyndham Hotel

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always print your boarding pass right in the hotel. If your shoes need a last minute touch-up, we have you covered there, too. But when it's your presentation that needs touching up, no worries – our Business Center is available 24 hours a day. Our dedicated Business Center Concierge can help you make copies, collate or just give you directions.

When you are ready for a meal, stop by our rustic Marker Restaurant. It features a wine list so impressive it has been mentioned in several national magazines. We even have an in-house wine steward, who'll offer suggestions for just the right choice to complement your entrée. If you're more in the mood to sip a cold ale or lager, try our sports bar with flat-screen TVs and pub-inspired leather seating. Room Service is available 24 hours a day for those who prefer not to go out. Naturally, complimentary Wi-Fi is accessible from almost anywhere in the hotel and pool side.

Services & Activities

There are many helpful services and amenities available to you while you are staying with us. Many are complementary but some do require a fee. So whether you need a spare toothbrush or a document to be faxed, just ask.

On-Site Activities & Entertainment

Indianapolis has so much to offer. But right within the hotel there are some great choices for things to do. For those who want to work up a sweat, we have a newly renovated fitness area featuring cardio equipment with private monitors and MP3 jacks. If soaking up some sun is more your idea of down time, enjoy yourself by the pool. Our pool welcomes you all summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Even if the nighttime temperature dips, no problem - the pool is heated and very comfortable.



A Belated Bravo Zulu

Due to some articles we had been holding for some time (which had been promised to be posted in *River Currents*), we didn't have the space to run all of the pictures from our Veteran's Day Celebration in DC. Sorry folks, we didn't mean to overlook you. You all did a great job and a belated Bravo Zulu to each of you.

Albert



Master of Ceremonies,
Gunner Chet Stanley.



Chaplain
Jim Johnson.



Brg/Gen. Doug Smith.
Rear Admiral Carlson.



Captain Mike Connely.



Lt/Gen. Pat Hughes.

Veterans Assistance for 2011 Reunion

Some of you have asked if we will be having the Vets assistance table at the 2011 reunion. I'm glad to say Tim Goins will have a table set up and will be assisted by his wife Carla and Associate member Paula Scott Wright, widow of past MRFA member Richard Scott. Tim, Carla and Paula did a great job at the 2009 reunion. Below are just a few things Tim and his staff can help you with.

Tim will set up from 0800 to 1700 hours on the convention days. He will have a computer able to access any VA info sites. He'll also have his cell phone with direct access to the VA Regional Offices (on weekdays). On the cell, a VA Field Examiner (active), an ex-VA higher-up who loves to pry benefits from the VA, and my own contacts at the Santa Fe Vet Center—or, for that matter, any Vet Center, Clinic, or VA Hospital (again only on weekdays, except for the ex-VA guy). We'll have a printer to print out forms.

Some of the things that I can do:

1. Determine the status of VA claims or appeals and explain the status in understandable English.
2. Evaluate the viability of a claim (i.e. PTSD have-to-haves to be successful).
3. Explain the claims process (medical and mental).
4. Explain burial rights and funerals with FMHs.
5. Help dependents of veterans (both living and deceased) determine their benefits (if any).
6. Explain how 100%ers can apply for Voc. Rehab. or reapply and what Voc. Rehab. is.
7. Help get lost DD-214s, awards, citations, and medals.
8. Counsel VA-hostile veterans on how to approach that monolithic bureaucracy (many veterans believe that the place to start is their home VA Regional Office (the infamous VARO). NOT!
9. Explain the eligibility of veterans for VA Health Care (means testing, etc.).

And lots of stuff I can't think of right offhand.

Tim served in E-Co/3rd/60th (Recon) 68-69.

MRFA GOLF OUTING 2011

2011 REUNION GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, SEPT. 02 • Tee Time: 10:00 am

Your \$45 registration fee includes:

- Golf including shared cart at Winding River Golf Club, 8015 Mann Road, Indianapolis, IN
- Box lunch (sandwich, chips, apple, cookie (or similar item))
- Beverages (Beer, soft drinks, PowerAde, water) from beverage carts
- Driving range
- Maybe a prize or two (this is not confirmed) but having FUN is the order of the day



REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Name: _____

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Guest • Unit: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

If you wish to request a foursome with specific golfers, please list their names here. Remember they need to list you on their order forms too!

Name: _____

City: _____

Name: _____

City: _____

Name: _____

City: _____

☐ I will need round trip shuttle service from the hotel to the golf course (Please check one): ☐ YES ☐ NO
(Fee will apply – To be paid directly to hotel)

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Golf Registration Fees \$ _____

Special Edition Golf T-Shirts
\$15.00 each

_____ Sm. _____ Med. _____ Lg.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
WINDING RIVER GOLF CLUB _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL

Total # of shirts _____ x \$15.00 ea. = \$ _____

Shirts available for pick up at hotel or course.

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to: G. Philip Rossman II, please state "MRFA Golf Outing" in memo area.

Mail registration form and payment to: G. Philip Rossman II, 5724 Grassy Bank Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46237-5053.



4th/47th wreath.



9th Division wreath.



L-R: MRFA President,
Albert Moore, Lt.
General Pat Hughes and
Brg. General Doug Smith.

Fire Support Bases Vietnam

Fire support base (FSB, firebase or FB) is a military encampment designed to provide indirect fire artillery fire support to infantry operating in areas beyond the normal range of direct fire support from their own base camps. FSBs were originally used by South Korean troops during the Vietnam War, and the U.S. adopted it after South Korean troops proved its usefulness through many battles such as Battle of Tra Binh Dong.

An FSB was normally a permanent encampment, though



Fire Support Base Danger, headquarters of an element of the 9th U.S. Infantry Division, Dinh Tuong Province, Vietnam, 1969.

many were dismantled when the units they supported moved. Their main components varied by size: small bases usually had a battery of six 105 millimeter or 155mm howitzers, a platoon of engineers permanently on station, a Landing Zone (LZ), a Tactical Operations Center (TOC), an aid station staffed with medics, a communications bunker, and a company of infantry. Large FSBs might also have two artillery batteries, and an infantry battalion[1].

Firebase Bastogne was a United States firebase constructed in Vietnam in 1968 by the 101st Airborne Division.



FSB 23rd Artillery Group, Vietnam, 1971

Fire Support Base Jaeger

We were on a fire support base built in the middle of an open field in the Mekong Delta, about 40 miles southwest of Saigon. The base was a temporary home for four 155mm howitzers (B Battery, 1st Battalion 84th Artillery) that could lob 100-pound high explosive shells 5-10 miles with virtually pinpoint accuracy. The mission was to provide security for highway 4, for rice to be transported from the delta to Saigon and further north. February 25, 1968, was about three weeks after the Tet Offensive and things were uncertain, but seemed to be settling down a bit. I had been in Vietnam just about a month. The nice thing about being assigned to an artillery unit, I thought, was that most of the fighting was done from 5-10 miles away.

Fire Support Base Jaeger was approximately one acre in the middle of a dry rice paddy, surrounded by coils of barbed wire and machine gun mounted armored personnel carriers positioned about 25 yards apart, with tree lines about 1000 feet to the north and west. It had taken most of two days to dig and build the sandbag bunkers for sleeping quarters and barriers shielding the howitzers.

On this particular Sunday night we relaxed and enjoyed old radio shows played on the Armed Forces Radio Network. Listening to the drama of Matt Dillon and Gunsmoke took us away from where we were and what we were dealing with and made us feel close to home, even though our homes were really eight to ten thousand miles away.

There were approximately 200 of us on Fire Support Base Jaeger. Eighty assigned to the artillery unit and 120 with the infantry company (Company C, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry) providing security for the big guns, and a contingent from the 15th Combat engineers. I was the only medic assigned to the artillery battery. The infantry unit had five medics but as of yet I had had no contact with them.

Two nights previous, we had been setup in the yard of an old hotel. I had been asked to assist some Vietnamese Medics treating a couple of civilian children wounded by Viet Cong shrapnel.

I helped them locate veins to begin IVs. The children had lost a lot of blood and were in shock, but there was no chance of getting them to a hospital in the night. All we could do was clean them up and try to make them comfortable. I really felt inadequate with just 10 weeks of medical training and virtually no field experience; but just last week, I had successfully removed some calluses from one of the gun chief's feet with a pair of manicure scissors. He had convinced his gun mates that I had the skill of a surgeon. So my guys believed in me and really treated me well. Everyone was glad to have a medic nearby and I always felt flattered when they called me "Doc."

Nights in Vietnam were under the stars. Illumination flares frequently were seen slowly parachuting across the distant sky, shedding light on something some observer might have thought suspicious. Occasionally we could see tracers sprayed into the distant sky. We never knew if they were ours or theirs, a part of a battle, or just someone shooting at the sky for the hell of it. We tended to assume the latter.

It was hot in the bunkers but we would gladly trade fresh air for the security they provided when we had the opportunity for sleep. By midnight we had turned radios off and were trying to ignore the heat and get some sleep. Then it started. Machine guns opened up to the east of the compound. No big deal, someone shooting at shadows ... then, the unmistakable sharp sound of incoming mortars ... still nothing to get concerned about ... two weeks prior, during Tet, I had slept through most of 213 mortar rounds dropping in on our base camp at Dong Tam.

There had been some property damage but the bunkers hadn't been penetrated.

The machine gun fire and rifle fire escalated. One man ran past the bunker, grabbed an M-60 30 caliber machine gun, saying, "I see 'em!" and headed toward the perimeter. Flares filled the sky, creating daytime visibility with surreal multiple shadows that flowed with the

nighttime breeze. Someone ran up to our bunker, "Where's Doc? I need him." I grabbed my aid kit and went with him.

About 50 yards away from the bunker, two of the infantrymen, manning a machine gun on one of the APC's, had flesh wounds, gunshots or shrapnel in their upper arms. Nothing serious. I bandaged them and asked if they were able to stay. We didn't want a gap in the perimeter. They said they could and I headed back to the bunker. I knew the situation was getting intense but really hadn't a clue. When I got to the bunker, I was directed to the commanders tent where more wounded waited. Corporal Johnston was the most seriously injured. I cut open his pant leg and a five-pound glob of jellied blood rolled out. All I could do was to apply a tourniquet above the wound and set him aside until he could be evacuated. More and more wounded soldiers were brought to me. I used all the bandages that I had pretty quickly and was beginning to tear fatigues to improvise when one of the infantry medics was brought to me. He had a fairly minor wound, but was more than willing to give me his bandages and medical supplies and get out of the way -- thanks coach, but I'll sit the rest of this game out. He seemed to feel that he had done his part ... at the time it made good sense to me, too.

"We need Doc at gun number two!"

By now the situation was extreme, fires, gunshots and explosions all around. Our ammunition dump was on fire and some of the artillery shells were glowing from the heat. We knew that if they blew, it would be over for all of us. I remember distinctly thinking as I ran past the burning explosives ... If I get killed, it would be no big deal ... but I'd sure hate to get burned. That thought still haunts me. Faced with real and imminent danger, given the choice between death and a life of pain.

When I got to gun number two, PFC Farrell was lying at the entrance of a bunker holding his chest. I opened his shirt to find a hole about the size of a man's fist in the middle of his chest. No blood, but I think I saw his heart beating.

"Am I gonna' be all right, Doc?"

I bandaged the wound. "Yeah, you're okay." And with my assurance he got up and walked to the command bunker to await evacuation. I was amazed.

Gun group number one got hit the hardest. Their bunker was penetrated by a rocket propelled grenade (RPG) and we had to dig all seven squad members out. Six were seriously injured, but PFC Parker was killed. When we put him on the litter, his arm dangled over the side and I placed it on top of him. It was cold, but I didn't want to allow myself to believe he was dead. Parker was probably my best friend in the unit. We had come over on the same flight

By now the situation was extreme, fires, gunshots and explosions all around

and had consistently been getting assigned to the same units since arriving in-country. Just this evening we had sat together waiting to get a haircut, joking about life in the real world.

We related ... same middle class background, same hopes and dreams.

Seemingly, from nowhere, F-4 fighter jets lit

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FSB Jaeger

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

up the night with cluster bombs. There would be one flash, followed almost instantly by hundreds of smaller flashes. I'd never even heard of cluster bombs, but tonight I thought they were a good thing. The fighters made four or five passes in the open fields around our compound. Then, all was quiet. It was over much more suddenly than it had begun.

After a few minutes, helicopters began landing to pick up the wounded. When the first one landed, I noticed none of the artillery officers (there were three or four still with us) seemed interested. They looked dazed. It may have taken a minute or two, but I started directing the loading. Corporal Romines had lost two fingers in the middle of his right hand, but he was there to assist. Corporal Johnston, with the badly injured leg, was still holding-on and was probably the most seriously injured. We got him on a flight and continued loading for what seemed like hours. When everyone else was gone, I told Romines to get on and get that hand taken care of. I was impressed by everything he did. We had always called Romines "Old Man." He was 34 years old while most of us were in our late teens and early twenties. We had been drafted but he had joined the Army so that his daughter with leukemia could get medical treatment. I admired, but did not yet understand, a father's love for his child.

By now the sun was beginning to shed light on a new day. I sat down on top of a bunker and just sat. Infantry squads patrolled the rice paddy around the compound. Occasionally I would hear a single gunshot. I believed they were dispatching wounded Viet Cong. I didn't care. I was numb. I knew I should feel something for theirs and for ours. I was numb. Bulldozers dug a massive trench and they piled 98 dead VC bodies in it and covered them with no more regard than we gave our trash.

We gently lined up Parker and 19 dead comrades in black body bags. They were sent home.

Outside the command post more than 40 captured weapons, AK47's, machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and land mines were spread out on display. Among the display was a VC medic's aid bag. I looked in it and found several bandages, a couple of small bottles of perfume and some Vietnamese coins. I felt a kinship to the man who had carried this bag. I kept a coin.

We had 11 of our 25 armored personnel carriers destroyed, 20 dead and 68 wounded. A military news report called the casualty rate "moderate."

Viet Cong had actually penetrated our perimeter and had momentarily gained control of two of the artillery pieces, turning them, attempting to drag them off by hand. About ten feet from my bunker, I found a grenade with its pin pulled lying on its handle. It had been carefully and intentionally placed there. One clumsy step could have dislodged it and set it off. They had been closer than I realized.

The next few days at Jaeger were uneventful, and I was returned to the base camp in Dong Tam.

I wrote this to put a vague burden that I've

been carrying around for 34 years into a perspective. Reading it in print helps me do that. On the larger scale, the attack on FSB Jaeger was not a terribly significant event in the Vietnam conflict. It certainly didn't turn the tide of the war. It did, however, have an impact on the 20 soldiers, and families of those, who lost their lives that night. It permanently affected the lives of those who bore its scars. Those of us who were fortunate enough to come through it unscathed still carry their memory; and although we didn't give our lives, they were offered. What has always bothered me most, I suppose, is that the event has never been given a footnote in history and as obscure as this writing may be, it now exists. The perspective is mine and mine alone, but it's all I had. —Randall K. Logan

Note: FSB Jaeger, was located 14 kilometers (about 8 miles) East of Cai Lay and just south of QL4.

Fire Support Base Cudgel

In November of 1967 elements of the 5th Bn (Mech.) 60th Inf and 2nd Bn 4th Artillery withstood a brutal attack by the Viet Cong.

From the Old Reliable News, November 1967.

As we began to dig our foxholes, a 9th Division helicopter touched down with the final resupply of ammunition for the night.

The smell of freshly turned earth filled the Mekong Delta clearing as the helicopter lifted off and hovered momentarily over this 3rd Brigade fire support base.

SP4 John Moses, 31, Jackson, MI, a clerk in the personnel section of the 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, and I were debating about the size of our foxhole as the helicopter disappeared into the darkening Vietnam sky.

Moses looked up and threw a shovel full of dirt from the hole. Sweat streaked down his face. "I don't like this place one bit," he said staring into the jungle surrounding the fire base.

West of Fire Base Cudgel flowed one of the many tidal rivers that wind through the western part of Dinh Tuong Province. On the south, a smaller canal borders the camp.

By midnight the rising Delta water table had filled the foxhole with six inches of water and forced us to find sleeping quarters above ground.

About two hours later, the sound of explosions and people dashing for cover awakened me. I pulled the blanket from my face just in time to see a tracer ricochet in front of me.

Something big was happening.

Machine gun fire was coming in low and heavy. I started to low-crawl to the foxhole, but didn't dare climb over the parapet we had built around the pit.

For twenty minutes I hugged the ground.

Biting a blade of elephant grass, I waited until the enemy fire shifted to another part of the camp. The second it did, I was in the foxhole.

The crack of enemy weapons fire seemed

endless. The sound of mortar rounds exploding continued almost unceasingly.

Artillery pieces of Batteries C and D, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery quickly countered the attacking enemy. Mighty 105 howitzers were leveled to fire point-blank barrages.

The enemy was that close.

With dawn came the dust-off helicopters. They carried away five dead and 38 wounded American soldiers.

Details of what happened unfolded as the infantrymen and artillerymen talked about the fierce two hours of combat that had taken place early that morning.

The 156-man fire base had been attacked by two companies of Viet Cong. The two companies had tried unsuccessfully to overrun the American position.

Private First Class George Pardner, 19, a grenadier with the Recon Platoon, 5th/60th recalled the details of the clash:

"Our platoon had dug fox-holes on the west side of the river and everything was quiet until about 2a.m. That's when they hit us with everything. Man, they were close," Pardner, of Rochester, NY, continued. "They were no more than 25 meters from our position and were trying to throw grenades on us."

"We kept tossing grenades back at them and firing. I set off a claymore mine and we could hear them screaming and running all over the place."

"You could hear them talking, that's how close they were," added Recon Platoon leader, First Lieutenant Lee B. Alley, 21, of Laramie, Wyoming. "They hit us with automatic weapons and carbine fire."

Company C, 5th/60th encountered enemy wave attacks from the river.

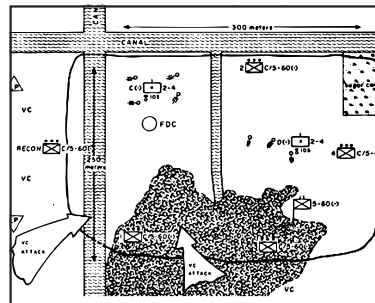
Weapons squad leader, Sergeant Robert Frazier, 20, of Hamlet, Indiana, said, "I don't know if they were in boats or if they were swimming, but they kept streaming from the water."

"They fired rockets at us from across the river," said Staff Sergeant William Chandler, 25, of Lovelady, Texas. "You name it - they had it."

"If they weren't hard core," Chandler added, "I don't want to mess with anything harder."

"What had happened during the morning hours of Saturday, Nov. 18th, was an attack, first from the south and then from the west," said Lieutenant Colonel William R. Steele, commander of the 5th/60th. An estimated three companies of the 261st Viet Cong Battalion took part.

The firepower of the leveled howitzers along with the infantrymen and supporting air strikes and armed helicopters had beaten back the enemy charge.



Mech Charge Helps Turn Delta Battle

From The Old Reliable, May 1967

Dong Tam: When the issue hangs in doubt, charge. With that thought in mind the commander of a 9th Division mechanized company led its armored personnel carriers (APCs) into a bloody battle near here last week that left 195 Viet Cong dead.

Soldiers in other units engaged in the battle described the armored charge as a turning point in the fight between elements of the Old Reliable' 2nd Brigade and units of the 514th Viet Cong Provincial Mobile Battalion in the Ap Bac Secret Zone.

My men were anxious to take their vehicles into battle, explained First Lieutenant Larry D. Garner, commander of Company C, 5th Battalion (Mechanized), 60th Infantry.

When the Battalion Commander of the 2nd Brigade to which the 5th/60th C Company is attached gave his go ahead, the men started screaming battle cries as they moved out.

Lieutenant Garner, who has a Master Degree in Military History, and who later received a

Silver Star for his actions during the battle, recounted the action of this company. "When we reached the bunkers the men completely overran the enemy position. My boys were running up and down dropping grenades in every bunker they saw" (unreadable) "The track drivers were even battling with the enemy", Lt. Garner said, "One of the drivers (unreadable) was standing up and firing a grenade launcher. "I thought someone else had taken over control of the track, but no, there was no one else. Either he was driving with his feet or he had a very well-trained monkey with him".

The crushing effect of the mech assault relieved some of the pressure on the infantry units that had been pinned down. They were able to maneuver and overrun the Viet Cong who had forced them to keep their noses in the ground with heavy automatic weapons fire. The arrival of the APCs in the thick of the battle brought another blessing. The tracks carried volumes of extra ammunition and even extra machine gun barrels for the infantry units.

several messages are posted there:

Sgt. Dougherty had been reduced in rank; he was an E-7 at one time. We called him grandpa. I knew him because he was from Philadelphia. He carried a carbine, it was his favorite weapon. I contacted his godson and have been trying to contact a couple of other members of the company, Pat Reyes and Ray Mimm, who also knew him. I don't know if they are members of the MRFA (if they are, maybe someone has their email address). The only thing I have are phone numbers which have been disconnected.

—Bob Stern

Yes Doc, I do remember Thanksgiving Day 67. They had split the company up, and we all had to search different checkpoints. I can't remember which PLT got hit with command detonated mines, but we lost 4 guys. The one I remember is SGT. Dougherty. He was older than all of us. Someone told me he had fought in the Korean War. A mine got the first 3 and wounded him. They told him to walk in the rear with the LT but he said he was alright. He had only walked a short distance when the second mine went off and took him. In my mind that was the beginning of the TET of 68 for the 3/60th.

—Pat Reyes (P.S. Dougherty was 40 yrs. old.)

Doc, I got my slow reaction award (Purple Heart) that day. Sgt. Dougherty was the one that had told another before we left on the mission that he was not coming back alive. I wish I could remember the medic's name that was wounded that same day. We were told that dinner would be served in the field that afternoon, but for some reason I knew I was going to have dinner in Dong Tam. To this day I remember Capt. Jenkins calling the PH a slow reaction award and just handed me a cardboard box with the Medal in it—no big deal.

—John Adame

SSG Quintero was leading his 3rd platoon across some rice paddies toward a tree area. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary until there was a sudden explosion from the trees. Several of his people were hit in that initial blast but soon they recovered and were returning fire. SSG Quintero found Dougherty Theodore Aloyis (67-11-24) wounded and lying near a rice paddy dike. Quintero sat him up and asked him if he was OK. Dougherty said yes, he was OK. Suddenly there was a second blast and Sergeant Quintero said that he actually saw a large chunk of metal strike Dougherty in the chest as he held him. Dougherty never saw what hit him. Dougherty was an old man and was close to Quintero. We used to drink at a beer tent behind the 4.2 motor and Bandido Charlie's (C-5th/60th Mech.) tents. Echo and Bandido Charlie would party until wee hours of the morning lying on the warm sand.

—Sgt. David Lopez

SGT Dougherty is also mentioned several times by Chaplain Jim Johnson at: <http://community-2.webtv.net/DocII/ChaplainJimJohnsons/> I believe that Jim Johnson also wrote a book, Combat Chaplain: A 30-Year Vietnam Battle, that is now out-of-print, hard to find and expensive to buy (as a used book). It may be available at some libraries, though.

There is a review of Jim Johnson's book at: <http://www.mrfa.org/bookrev.htm> and it may still be possible to buy a copy of this book directly from the author or the publisher.

—Jim Stone, Echo 2/39 Recon 2/68-2/69

Fire Support Base Lambert Seeking

Three-man LP Foils Attack by 40 Enemy on Fire Support Base West of My Tho

by SP5 T. L. Farley, Staff Writer

The first volley of machine gun fire threw dirt and stones all over us. We had to do something fast or we'd never get back to the fire base."

This realization prompted Private First Class Darie R. Schiappa and two other soldiers from Company C, 5th Mechanized Battalion, 60th Infantry, to thwart single-handedly a VC attack on this 9th Division fire base 10 miles west of My Tho on Highway 4 in the Mekong Delta.

"It was 7 p.m., April 14 and the three of us were on a listening post about 75 yards from the perimeter," Schiappa said. "There were a lot of children playing around but suddenly they disappeared. About that time we got hit."

Schiappa, 19, of Vestal, NY, said an estimated 40 guerrillas attacked with small arms, automatic weapons and grenade launchers.

Private First Class Dennis A. Harris, 21, of Eden, N.C., remembered one piece of good luck.

The Charlies were just a few meters away in heavy foliage and although they were putting out a heavy volume of fire, they just couldn't hit anything. That gave us time to take cover behind a large concrete structure."

"We knew there was a lot of VC activity in our area so we came prepared for anything," said Private First Class Millar R. Goodwin, 20, of Trenton, Ga. "When we started to do our stuff they had to get their heads down or lose them."

Because the 5th/60th soldiers on the base perimeter could not fire for fear of hitting their listening post, Schiappa realized that he and his two friends would have to fight it out by themselves.

While Harris and Goodwin poured fire on the enemy, Schiappa climbed atop the huge structure to direct their fire and throw grenades.

Ten minutes later, the enemy realized that the three-man fusillade was more than they bargained for and broke contact, escaping with all but one of their dead comrades.

There was a man named Theodore Dougherty who was serving with E/3/60 on 24 November 67 when he was KIA in Dinh Tuong province. I am assuming that this man was Tom Hamm's godfather.

The first thought that comes to my mind is that SGT Dougherty was rather old to be an E-5 with 18 years of service. There has to be a story there; he must have been a WW2 and/or Korean War veteran. Maybe one who separated for some time from the service, who then reenlisted for Vietnam.

I had a 42 year old SFC (E-7) who was my platoon SGT for a while in late 68. He was twice my age and his oldest daughter is only a year or so younger than me. He had served in WW2 in the Pacific and was a training NCO stateside during the Korean War but was on his second Vietnam tour when I met him.

Another comment: E Company 3/60 had been the combat support/heavy weapons company for the 3/60 BN at Ft. Riley, but was converted to a rifle company when the 3/60 was assigned to the 2d BDE to work with the MRF. A couple of my MOS 11H buddies from AIT at Ft. Polk were assigned to E/3/60 in early Feb. 68, when we all arrived in RVN; but SGT Dougherty was already dead by that time, and my two buddies also did not make it. The first of our group was KIA on 27 Feb. 68.

I think Jim Toney, who is a member of MRFA (not sure if he is on the MRFA email list) was assigned to E/3/60 in early Jan. 68, but Jim may know others who would have been with E/3/60 in 67 and might have known Ted Dougherty.

There is a roster of men who served with E/3/60 and D/3/60 (redesignated in late 68) in 67-68: <http://community-2.webtv.net/DocII/ECHOCO3RD60TH9THDIV/>

There are photos and more information available at: <http://community-2.webtv.net/DocMcClain/Echo3rd60th9thDiv/>

Just hit a bonanza at the above website: <http://community-2.webtv.net/DocII/Nov241967/>

U.S. Naval Support Activity Dong Tam (1966-71)

Dong Tam, in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta, was the home ashore during the Southeast Asia Conflict for a unique joint services formation, the Mobile Riverine Force. Composed of a brigade of the Army's 9th Infantry Division and the Navy's Riverine Assault Force, the 5,000-man unit was created to launch swift, wide-ranging offensive operations against the Viet Cong by using the many waterways in the region. To retain flexible logistic support, resources were initially concentrated on river-based ships, smaller craft and pontoon barges that deployed with the combat units.

However, recognition that supplemental shore facilities also were needed prompted the search for a suitable site. Anticipating operations against the Viet Cong in the southern and western approaches to Saigon, Army and Navy leaders sought a base site that was centrally located and on a major river in the region. The My Tho area possessed some assets, but they were a scarcity of unoccupied land on which to locate a base. However about 5 miles west of the city, at Dong Tam, there were several hundred acres of abandoned rice paddy that could be developed to support a base.

Accordingly, in August 1966 dredges began filling a 1-square mile area with river sand and at the same time excavating a boat turning basin. This work was dangerous – three of the five dredges used at Dong Tam from 1966 to 1969 were damaged or sunk by Viet Cong swimmers. Another vessel was sunk when it dredged up live ordnance that exploded.

Regardless of the risk, by January 1967 the site was ready to receive construction forces. Seabees moved ashore and began work on berthing, messing, administrative, and recreational facilities with pre-stocked materials transported from Saigon by the Brule (AKL-28), Mark (AKL-12) and YFR-889. In addition the naval construction men installed a pier using six pontoons.

In January 1967 the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, Detachment Dong Tam, was established to provide the naval component of the Mobile Riverine Force with fuel, ammunition, and supplies. Maintenance and repair of river craft were also a responsibility. As the detachment strove to build up the logistic establishment, interim measures were taken to support the assault force. A 12,000 gallon fuel barge, eight mechanized landing craft (LCM-3) repair, berthing and messing barge YRBM-17, barracks craft APL-26 and floating crane YD-220 were dispatched to the site in the first half of 1967.

With the base prepared to receive them, River Assault Squadron 9 elements of the Navy's assault force deployed to Dong Tam in March and April 1967. Each squadron consisted of various converted landing craft, including two command craft (CCB) five monitors, twenty six armored troop carriers (ATC), sixteen assault patrol boats (ASPB), and one refueler. Mobile support for the entire Mobile Riverine Force was by two self propelled barracks ships (APBs) USS Benewah APB-35, USS Colleton APB-36, two fleet tank landing ships (LST) two tugs (YTB) and a non self propelled barracks barge (APL-26) and ARL-30 USS Askari, and a

repair barge (YFNB).

By the end of 1967 the base at Dong Tam was able to provide boat berthing, dry dock, maintenance and repair, supply, communications, sleeping and messing facilities for one river assault squadron. The Army compound accommodated an infantry battalion and an artillery battalion. These units periodically rotated with their counterparts afloat. In addition, a detachment of the Navy's Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3 was based at Dong Tam for support of the Force.

During 1968 the responsive logistic support provided by the detachment at Dong Tam, as well as the support contingent afloat, enabled the Mobile Riverine Force to surprise and destroy widely separated enemy units. During the TET Offensive the force was saving My Tho, Can Tho, and Vinh Long from complete enemy destruction.

Although the Mobile Riverine Force was disbanded in August 1969, Dong Tam continued to serve the Navy in Vietnam. As a logistical Support Base, it provided river craft with major overhauls and stocked large amounts of supply items for smaller installations in the area. In September 1971, once the Vietnamese Navy was prepared to take on the responsibility for support of river operations in the region, the U.S. Navy turned over its facilities at Dong Tam.

U.S. Naval Support Activity Nha Be (1966-1972)

The U.S. naval establishment at Nha Be, seven miles south of Saigon, was a major combat and logistic base during the Southeast Asian Conflict. As naval leaders concluded early, the site was strategically placed at the junction of the Long Tau and Soi Rap, the main rivers between the port of Saigon and the South China Sea. In addition Nha Be lay astride waterways traversing the Viet Cong – infiltrated Rung Sat



special zone and the eastern Mekong Delta region. To support river patrol and minesweeping operations, Nha Be was ideally located. In addition, the Vietnamese Navy's River Assault Group compound there was initially suitable for a small American force.

In March 1966 a detachment of Mine Squadron 11, employing 57-foot minesweeping boats (MSB's) and converted landing craft, became the first U.S. naval unit to deploy at Nha Be. During the next five years the U.S. minesweeping force patrolled the water approaches to Saigon, escorted commercial and military vessels, and worked to keep the ship channels free of enemy mines. While vessels were damaged or sunk, the absolutely vital water line of communication was never severed by Viet Cong action.

Also in March 1966, the first units of the navy's River Patrol Force tied up at Nha Be and soon afterward began operations against the Viet Cong waterborne logistic traffic in the Rung Sat and in the Mekong Delta. Eventually, the base was able to support forty river patrol boats (PBRs) engaged in this operation, designated Game Warden. Other components of the force were Helicopter Support Squadron 1 and Helicopter Attack (Light) Squadron 3, detachments of which flew from helicopter pads at nearby Cruickshank Airfield. Both the surface and air units of the River Patrol Force based at Nha Be took part in operation Giant Slingshot, which sought to interdict communist men and supplies infiltrating from Cambodia on the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers during 1969-71.

The support base at Nha Be developed into a major logistic complex. Initially the river Sailors had to rely on Army depots in Saigon for supply items common to both services and were quartered in tents at the Vietnamese installation. However, once the Naval Support Activity Saigon Detachment Nha Be was established, conditions improved. A pier for the PBRs was fashioned with Army pontoons, and YRBM-16 a large converted lighter, was stationed at the site, making berthing, repair, spare parts, and supplies available. An Army crane was used for hull repair of the MSBs. These and other measures were taken to provide interim support.

Meanwhile 20 acres of nearby swampland were filled with dredged soil and by December 1966, work was begun on permanent base facilities, which included depot-level repair, administrative, communications, storage, maintenance, quartering, and messing buildings, four 1,000-barrel fuel storage tanks, and a boat pier.



Although securing potable water and shoring up the landfill presented problems, Nha Be became a key naval support complex in the Saigon area.

U.S. Naval Advanced Base Go Dau Ha

Located close to the Cambodian border on South Vietnam's Vam Co Dong River, U.S. Naval Advanced Tactical Support Base, Go Dau Ha provided U.S. naval forces with an advanced base of operations during the Vietnam War. River patrol boat (PBR) units staged there as well as the boats of the River Assault Groups (RAG) in the effort to hinder communist infiltration that threatened nearby Tay Ninh and Saigon, further southwest.

Initially, acquiring sufficient land at Go Dau Ha proved a problem; but during 1969 the Army's engineers created a land fill and metal reinforced base area on the river bank. Soon afterward, Seabee units built sleeping and messing facilities, fuel and ammunition storage defensive works, and a helicopter pad.

Go Dau Ha was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in April 1971, as U.S. Naval Forces were withdrawn from the war.

MRF Summary Report – February 1967

MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE SUMMARY

ComRivFlotOne / ComRivSuppron - Seven Command History - February 1967

On the 1st of February 1967, ComRivFlotOne/ComSuppron-Seven, Captain Wade C. Wells, USN, and the major portion of his staff were at the Naval Amphibious Base Coronado preparing for their deployment to Vietnam. The advanced echelon of the command divided between the USS Whitfield County LST 1169, and the Headquarters for Commander Naval Forces Vietnam, Saigon. Under the leadership of Chief Staff Officer Captain Edwin P. Smith Jr. USN, this advanced group of ten officers and 15 enlisted men was preparing for the arrival of the staff of River assault Flotilla One and was overseeing the training of River Assault Squadron Nine 4 Officers and 9 enlisted men River Assault Division Ninety-One 2 officers and 135 enlisted, both of which were embarked on the Whitfield County. Serving as temporary support ship, Whitfield County was anchored in Vung Tau Harbor, one mile from Vung Tau.

Elements of River Assault Squadron Nine (RAS-9) and River Assault Division Ninety-One (RAD-91) continued training with the 9th Infantry Division's 3rd Brigade, using boats borrowed from the Vietnamese Navy (VNN) RAS-9 and RAD-91 were exercising with the Army in LCM operations. This training followed a four-day cycle set up by ComRivFlot One personnel.

Day 1. Movement to the ship, lectures by ship and flotilla personnel.

Day 2. Wet net training and beaching and gunnery exercises.

Day 3. Day and night exercises with several insertions and extractions at selected areas in the RSSZ.

Day 4. Another exercise in the RSSZ with insertion and extraction, at various operation areas, and a return to the support ship. By February 5, five such cycles had been completed. Other elements of the squadron and division were undergoing training as observers aboard VN RAG boats at Can Tho and My Tho.

During the TET holidays from 9-12 February, training operations were secured and the time was used for boat maintenance and repairs. On the 12th of February, RAS 9 and RivDiv-91 began working with the 3rd/47th 2nd Brigade 9th Infantry Division. In the first four-day cycle "A" and "B" Company participated. On February 16,

1967, "C" and "E" Companies were scheduled to start the same four-day cycle That "A" and "B" Companies had just completed. Increased enemy activity in the Long Tau channel of the RSSZ caused a change. On 16 February 1967, ComNavForV ordered RAS-9 and RAD-91 to support two companies of the 3rd Battalion in the Rung Sat Special Zone (RSSZ). This message marked the end of training and the beginning of combat operations for River Assault Flotilla One.... At 0800 hours, units of RAD-91 landed "A" and "B" companies of the 3rd/47th in the RSSZ – thus began Operation River Raider One, the First U.S. Riverine Assault operation since the Civil War. Also on the 16th of February, the arrival of the USS Askari (ARL-30) gave Commander River Assault Squadron SEVEN, a repair capability. The following morning at 0800, Army and Navy personnel gathered at the Command Post in the RSSZ for a brief on the already-commenced operation. On the 18th of February, a Joint Tactical Operation Center (JTOC) was established on the Whitfield County. Search and destroy and ambush attempts by the Army failed to produce any significant contact with the enemy. However, positive evidence of his recent presence was ascertained.

On the 23rd of February, the staff of ComRivFlot One arrived in Danang and was transferred to Vung Tau on the 25th. The USS Henrico (APA-45) stood in Vung Tau Harbor on the 24th of February to relieve the Whitfield County as interim support ship for ComRivFlot One.

Captain Wells arrived in Saigon on the 27th of February after participating in briefing at CinPacFlt Headquarters. RAD-92 arrived in Saigon on the 28th and was shuttled to Vung Tau and USS Henrico during the day. At 0801 (local time) on 28 February Riverine Assault Force (TF-117) was activated under the command of Captain Wells. Units assigned to TF-117 were River Assault Flotilla One / River Support Squadron Seven Staff / River Assault Squadron Nine Staff, River Assault Division Ninety-One and Ninety-Two and the USS Askari (ARL-30). Captain Wells flew to Vung Tau on the 28th and broke his pennant at 1010 (local Time) in USS Henrico.

Significant among February 1967 activities for ComRivFlot One was (1) the change of operational status on the 16th, (2) the arrival of ComRivFlot One on the 27th and, (3) the activation of TF-117 on 28 February 1967.

A Tribute to the Delta Dragons

By Tom Stanley (tstanley45@gmail.com)

While contemplating the feasibility of continuing to write, sans publisher, an idea came to mind that has caused much consternation within my immediate family as concerns to my deteriorating physical condition. The diagnosis of Poly-neuropathy is one of the gifts widely accepted as being attributed to Agent Orange. A toxin to which none of us who were exposed, had ever heard of until long after it was too late to take any precautions against becoming exposed. The damage was done without anyone knowing that such a toxic substance even existed.

I can well understand my family's attitude about my having placed myself in harm's way, even though no one knew of the existence of the particular harm. That it was a war zone was an accepted fact which gave me only slight pause when I was asked to consider taking a position on one of the company's huge steam powered hydraulic dredges, as a relief for the First Assistant Engineer. I considered that if my employers needed me, it was my obligation to accept the position. I had, after all, held the same position on a job in Tahiti four years previously.

It was in early April of 1967, when I arrived on the job near the town of My Tho, (pronounced me-toe) in the delta country of the

*Dredge New Jersey
Dong Tam Harbor*



Republic of Vietnam. We were building a base (DONG TAM) for a contingent of the U.S. Army in what had been part of a huge rice plantation. The job-site had been drained and the residual grasses burned over. The Army was already taking up residence when we started pumping sand from the Mekong River by the thousands of cubic yards, raising the base elevation of the former site some six feet above normal grade. In this manner our troops could live comfortably above the mud they were currently enduring. The Army provided armed guard for our people working ashore and maintained a rotating contingent of armed guards aboard the dredge. The Navy provided a continuous patrol up and down the river to prevent any sort of invasion from the river. The Navy's Riverine forces called themselves River Rats or the Delta Dragons. Their forces were small, high speed plastic hulled PBRs. They were well armed and highly maneuverable and manned by some of the Navy's true heroes.

While our Army contingent actually lived aboard the dredge, enjoying air conditioned quarters, ice water, refrigerators, showers and flush toilets, the River Rats lived on twenty

U.S. River Patrol Boat Staging Area Ha Tien (1968-1969)

The American Naval Base at Ha Tien, on the South Vietnam-Cambodia border in the Mekong Delta region, served as a Advanced Tactical Support Base for river patrol boat (PBR) units engaged in anti-infiltration operations along the Vinh Te Canal. In keeping with the Vietnamization of the war. The Ha Tien facility was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in December 1970 after two years of operation.

—Photo furnished by CS3 Tom Bityk



Tribute to Delta Dragons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

eight foot boats whose main battery was the high speed capabilities, the automatic twin turret machine guns and seven enlisted sailors, all volunteers. They normally operated in squadrons, with a single officer in charge of several boats. They regularly stopped for a few moments on every trip up river, their principal hunting grounds, where they could fill their water coolers with pure, clean water, not having to be treated with chlorine. We had two ice makers aboard to provide ice for our crew as well the men working ashore on the drag lines and bulldozers. In addition, we had a spare that was currently out of commission. I personally repaired the spare and put it in service and made it a point to share ice and clean water with our Navy troops in the same manner we did with the soldiers who stood guard duty aboard.

Since the engineering spaces were my responsibility, which included the evaporators for distilling water and ice makers, I neglected to ask permission from anyone prior to making the Navy welcome to share our ice. The Project Manager, who had never served in the military services, took exception to my actions. His complaint was that we might not have enough for our own personnel. Consequently I was ordered to cease allowing the sailors to take ice, even when I regularly saw the men coming in from the shore work, dumping ice from their coolers at the end of the day.

Time to take drastic measures. I disabled the ice makers and informed all personnel that once the bins were empty, we had no more ice. The ban on furnishing the Navy with ice lasted less than two days. When the Project Manager asked what was wrong with the ice makers, I borrowed a technical term I had heard one of our Korean mess boys use. "Dem broke".

Asked could I possibly fix at least one of them I informed him that I knew one of the Engineers on one of the PBRs that knew about refrigeration, I felt that he might be willing to help me get them back in service, but it seemed unfair to ask for help and not allow them to share the results of their help. Until this day, I'm not sure whether he believed me or suspected the truth, but he admitted that I did have a good point. He agreed that if I could get help in repairing the plants he would have no objection to sharing our ice, provided no one wasted any. He was barely out of sight before we were again making ice.

When one of the boats coming from up river with a captured VC who had been wounded stopped by to ask our resident medic to look to the wounds, I asked the Officer, Lt. Fisher, to tell his troops they were once again free to share our ice. I did mention that I had made a deal with the Project Manager and assured him that the Navy would not waste like his own shore crew did. The Navy, to my certain knowledge, never wasted either water or ice for as long as I remained on the job, and I seriously doubt they ever did later.

Two days later a Navy AKL, a supply transport, came up the river near us and anchored. They had come to supply the Riverine Forces with supplies and while they busily off-loaded into LCMs to lighten the supplies ashore, I received a message from Lt. Fisher to have one of our tugs go along side the AKL at number two hatch and stand by. I called Johnny Greene, a Tugboat's Captain, and asked him to go see what the Navy wanted from us. He had barely arrived along side when a huge pallet load of Schlitz Beer was landed on the stern of the Tug. While Schlitz has never been a personal favorite with me, this



Troops walking pipe line to dredge out of Dong Tam

was a most welcome token of appreciation from the Delta Dragons and Lt. Fisher.

The next time I saw Lt. Fisher, I made it a point to thank him and his men. He was making his last run up-river before he "derosed" out. Sadly he was killed on that trip. I have deliberately used a fictitious name when referencing the Lieutenant, but the men who provided and the men who consumed that load of beer will remember him.

I have often thought of those men of both services who aided in protecting us and wonder if by making their lives just a bit easier, is making my current condition not so bad after all. I do know that I can't really feel any bitterness, nor can I honestly say I regret having taken the job in the first place. I do know that the men I tried to help appreciated it far above the actual value of the deed, if there is a value attached.

It was only a week or two after Lt. Fisher's death that I received a message from home that a very dear young first cousin of mine was killed in an ambush while operating out of Cu Chi. He was killed on his eighteenth birthday. He was a sergeant and had a Bronze Star, a Silver Star, a C.I.B. (combat infantryman's badge) and two Purple Hearts when his body was brought home.

I found that the death of my cousin instilled a change in my attitude that I could not understand. I know he did his duty faithfully and well, and that he knew he was always in harm's way. Having acknowledged that his death had caused my attitude to change, I decided that I could no longer perform what would be my duty for as long as I remained. I decided to resign and leave the country before it made me react in a less than proper manner.

A year later I met Johnny Greene on another project in Jamaica. He had developed the same change in attitude when the Tet Offensive came close to destroying all the work we had done, while trying to do what we thought was our duty.

Accordingly, in August 1966 dredges began filling a 1-square mile area with river sand and at the same time excavating a boat turning basin. This work was dangerous – three of the five dredges used at Dong Tam from 1966 to 1969 were damaged or sunk by Viet Cong swimmers. Another vessel was sunk when it dredged up live ordnance that exploded.

Note: Johnny Greene is a real person. One that you automatically called by first and last name each and every time you addressed him.

The Second Seige of Saigon, Y Bridge

On May 10, 1968, Bandido Charlie Co. again engaged the VC near the Y Bridge in Saigon. Fourteen F100s, four A37s, and four F4s were utilized in destroying the enemy and protecting the troops – 21 structures, 30 bunkers, and 10 buildings were destroyed and 230 enemy killed by the aircraft.

From the Octofoil: Early May 7, an estimated VC Platoon assaulted the Y Bridge, southern entrance to downtown Saigon. Simultaneously, an ARVN outpost further west came under siege by an enemy company.

The ensuing struggle involved 9th Div. troops in eight days of street fighting like that encountered during February by Old Reliable units in Cholon, My Tho and Ben Tre. Those initial experiences in urban operations would prove invaluable during Round Two of the war's crucial showdown.

As action boiled over into Saigon's southern suburbs, thousands of men, women and children poured into the city, seeking refuge. Many were cut down by the communists, who honor no distinction between Allied soldiers and innocent civilians.

Division infantrymen, closely supported by armored personnel carriers, helicopter gun ships, artillery and jet fighter-bombers, killed more than 700 enemy who tried for five days to invade the city. Three more days of sporadic flare ups during sweep operations swelled the enemy death toll close to 1,000.

The campaign cost the lives of 50 men.

When fighting first exploded before dawn May 7, APCs of the 5th Mech. Bn., 60th Inf., which had helped repel enemy intruders from Cholon during the Tet turmoil, rushed into the area from the Mekong Delta.

Nearing the ARVN compound, Co. C received heavy small arms, automatic weapons and B-40 rocket fire. Company A, racing to intercept the enemy at the bridge, also met intense VC fire. Gun ships and artillery supported both.

At dawn, U.S. air strikes raked the area, downing many enemy who had scurried for cover in a nearby factory complex. The trapped communists tried to flee south across open rice paddies but were battered by gun ships of the 3rd Sq., 5th Armored Cav. and 7th Sq., 1st Air Cav.

While Company A shut off the bridge access, Company C's tracks roared through the factory rubble from the west, choking off the enemy in a block building near the center of the complex. Huey Cobras and UH-1C gun ships sprayed the VC position with lethal mini guns and rockets.

By noon, May 9, elements of the 5th/60th again were embroiled in heavy contact along the canal, while the 3rd/39th was engaged in the built-up area near the Y Bridge.

At about 6 a.m. May 10, an estimated enemy battalion launched a heavy ground attack against an RF/RP outpost south of Saigon. Infantrymen of the 5th/60th and 6th/31 aided by artillery and air support, soon forced another enemy withdrawal.

Heavy fighting resumed the next morning and continued all day. Infantrymen, backed by frequent air strikes, chalked up 116 more enemy kills.

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Joe Hilliard for Joe Benack from Florida and Donald Hartzell from Pennsylvania
Bob Houle CS2 for Larry Hunter CS3 USS White River LSMR-536 John and Barbara Iannucci for Mitchell Perdue B Co. 3rd/60th (1/68-9/68)
Alexander Kaufbusch for John B. Titus and Steve Mirick A Co. 3/60 Inf
David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) IUWG 1-3 Qui Nlon KIA 8/11/68
Men of C Co 4th/47th 67 for our Brothers KIA 3/67 Benito Alaniz; MIA 4/9/67 Ronald P. Schworer; KIA 4/13/67 Charles "Duffy" Black; KIA 5/15/67 Donald M. Peterson; KIA 6/67 Robert J. Cara, Robert J. Jindra, Timothy A. Johnson, Forrest L. Ramos, Cameron A. Rice, David A. Robin, Sheldon B. Schulman, Hubert J. Fink, Kenneth D. Frakes, William M. Geier, John L. Winters; KIA 7/11/67 Marion "Butch" Eakins, Elmer F. Kenney, Harold W. King, Philip A. Ferro, George E. Smith; KIA 7/29/67 Cecil B. Bridges; KIA 9/29/67 James M. Sunday; KIA 10/6/67 Gale A. Alldridge, Danny D. Burkhead, Charles W. Davis; KIA 11/10/67 Charles W. Grizzle; and KIA 5/6/68 John T. Hoskins
Richard MacCullagh for John Phillips HMC and Rene Petit, LT, Chaplain
Kenneth R. Marple for brother SSGT Reece L. Marple B Co. 3rd/60th KIA 5/11/68
Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 3/31/69
A R "Monti" Montillo for William "Bulldog" McLaughlin B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/3/68 and Barry "Butch" Copp B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/28/68
Weaz and Linda Morgan for Lt George Stefencavage CO River Section 532
VP Roy Moseman for Oscar Santiago C-2 4th/47th (10/67-10/68)
Jasper Northcutt for SSGT Henry T. Aragon B-2 2nd/47th KIA 8/23/67, SGT James E. Boorman B-2 2nd/47th KIA 8/27/67, SP4 James D. Bronakoski B-2 2nd/47th KIA 4/27/67, SP4 Michael G. Hartnett B-2 2nd/47th KIA 4/27/67, SGT William D. Mize B-2 2nd/47th 5th/60th KIA 10/28/67, CPL Harold K. Southwick B-2 2nd/47th Inf KIA 3/2/67 (first KIA in B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam), and PFC Robert C. Voltz B-1 2nd/47th Inf (Mech) KIA 3/11/67 (first KIA 1st Platoon B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam)
Dave Remore for Paco 3rd/60th Inf KIA 5/2/67 and Bandido Charlie 5th/60th Inf KIA 7/30/67
Dennis Sawilville for brother Richard Falda A-112-6, passed away 10/29/10. "Lucky" may you have peaches and pound cake for eternity.
Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIAs of the MRFA (67-70)
Ken Sundberg for Michael David Sheahan 5th/60th KIA 2/25/68, Robert L. Conley 5th/60th KIA 2/1/68, and Glenn Dean Taylor 5th/60th KIA 2/1/68
Robert Sutton for LT James Frost Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69
Robert Thacker for SFC Earl T. Pelhan Jr. KIA 15th Combat Engineers
USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster Tom White for my brother Mackroy White T-151-4 and A-152-4 (4/68-1/70)
Gary Williams for Dale Winkel C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (1/68-1/69)
CPT Steve Williams in memory of 2LT David George Williams Co A 4th/47th KIA 9/21/67

Get Well Wishes

I just received a Christmas card from Penny Bledsoe, wife of **Colonel Jim Bledsoe**. The Colonel is not doing very well. In March he fell down some stairs and after the fall he could not walk or talk. He went into a nursing home for three months. After showing no improvement, Penny brought him home. He's now suffering from Alzheimer's and dementia, but Penny says he seems to be happy and it's good to have him home. You may contact Penny Bledsoe at 1329 Fall River Rd., Goodspring, TN 38460; phone 831-363-8746. Col. Bledsoe served in the 3rd/60th, 67/68. Colonel Bledsoe and Penny celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 18th. I'm sure Penny would appreciate any correspondence that you send. Colonel Bledsoe was always a true officer and gentleman and we all miss his attending the reunions. He is a strong supporter of the MRFA and was always there for his fellow Veterans.

MRFA Vice President **Roy Moseman** recently had heart bypass surgery. We're glad to say Roy is home now and doing well. You may contact Roy at 180 Riverview Rd., Athens, GA 30606; phone 706-549-0749; rmoseman@charter.net. Roy served in C/CO/4th/47th, 1967/68.

MRFA Board Member **Bob Doc Pries** recently had knee surgery. He had some complications after his surgery but is now home feeling better. You may contact Doc Pries at 5832 Windy Pines

Ln., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986; 772-879-0867. Doc served in B/CO. 2nd/47th (Mech.) Infantry, 1969-70.

Richard Hanks has been in the hospital but is home now after having had surgery for cancer. Richard served on the USS White River LSMR-536, 67-69. You may contact Richard c/o 2925 Squirrel Ct., Middleburg, FL 32068; phone 904-291-6832.

Member **Frank H. Rawl** has been fighting cancer for some time now. Recently, we received this e-mail from his daughter.

Hello everyone, I am sorry that it has taken so long to update you on Frank. He went to the doctor last week and they are going to stop his chemo. His cancer has spread throughout his body. The doctor said there was another type he could try but it would not make a difference. Frank has decided not to try anything else. His spirits are good but he does have some bad days. Please keep him in your prayers and hearts. I will make sure to update you more often. He says hello and wishes you all well.

Frank served in MineRon-11 Det-AMSB-18 (Nha Be), 8/67-8/68. You may contact Frank c/o 504 Roland Ave., Johnston, SC 29832; phone 803-275-9219; email: rawlsan@bellsouth.net.

Thanks for the prayers Angela. Folks, please keep Frank in your hearts and prayers. Send him an email - I'm sure he would like to hear from his brother Vietnam vets.

— Albert

Remembering Commodore Wade C. Wells

This is the first that I have heard of Captain Wells' death. Like everyone who served in the MRF during his tenure, I have my story about him.

As the Div/artly air observer assigned to the MRF, I lived on the Benewah. An H-23 helo from the LST would fly over and pick me up on the Benewah and I would fly missions in support of MRF operations. I did this from March to October 1967.

On one operation we remained on station till dusk. The Benewah was off shore. My pilot and I knew that by the time we arrived at the Benewah it would be after dark and the Captain had strict rules about attempting to land on the ship after dark—don't do it.

We headed for Vung Tau but a rainstorm made our precarious flight even more dangerous, and my pilot and I agreed to fly out to the Benewah and land there. By the time we arrived, it was dark. We called ahead and informed the ship of our situation; they turned on the helo deck lights. They were all we could see. Our flight out was scary. I recall the pilot telling me, "If I tell you to jump, jump. Don't ask questions just do it." It was hard enough ditching a helicopter in the water in broad daylight. Doing it at night was infinitely more risky. We couldn't see the horizon. The only navigation instruments in an H-23 were the attitude indicator and a radio direction finder; and they were 14-year-old technology, as the helicopter was built in 1953.

When we managed to successfully put the H-23 down (it took 20+ people to bring us in

who weren't on duty when we called in), we were immediately informed that Captain Wells demanded our presence in the ward room where he, Col. Fulton, and other officers were watching a movie.

As we entered the ward room the movie had been stopped and Captain Wells was giving us that you'll-wish-you-had-crashed-rather-than-go-through-this look.

"Just why in the hell are you landing on my ship after dark," he barked?

"Because our choice was to go down in the water," the pilot said.

"We couldn't make it to Vung Tau because of the storm," I added.

Wells proceeded to dress us down in front of everyone in the ward room.

"Don't ever pull a stunt like this again," he concluded.

"I'll keep that in mind next time," I responded (this was before I had decided to make a career of the army and was somewhat more insubordinate.)

Before Wells could bite my head off, Fulton, whom I knew and worked closely with, intervened and "reprimanded" me. His intention was more to prevent Wells from reacting to my comment. I could tell this from the slight smile on his face. The tactic worked and we were dismissed.

From that incident until I departed the MRF to rotate home in Oct. 67, every time Wells saw me on the ship he scowled at me; but it was a feigned scowl.

He knew how difficult that landing on the Benewah was. My pilot later told me that Wells complimented him on the landing.

—Ed Ross, 1st Lt (LTC Ret.) USA, Division Artillery, 9th Infantry Division

TAPS

Tribute to a Fallen One

Gentlemen,

After a long battle with failing health, BM1 Charles Campbell passed away on Tuesday, January 18, 2011. His family was home with him. May he rest in peace. I will keep you informed if there are any planned services. Everett R. Jones

Charles Campbell was one the nicest people I have ever met. He gave a spark of life to all those around him family and friends alike. Even in declining health he would still take part in the CCB working parties. As an old Bosons Mate, he had to be there to see the job through. Even though unable to work, he was there just the same. Over the years (along with Everett Jones and others of the working party) he did a magnificent job of keeping the CCB above standards that anyone could expect with a rusting out old CCB they had received. He helped turn it into the show boat it is today.

There aren't many men of Charles' stature left in our world today. We're all very fortunate to have known Boats Campbell. He was really a good man, shipmate and friend. He will be missed by all hands, Navy and Army alike. May he have fair seas and smooth sailing on his new journey of life... The Association's heart and soul goes out to Irene and the family of Boats Campbell. May you rest in peace, with no more pain or sorrow. You lived your life in the same way as you served your country in the Navy... with honor, dignity and with pride. Good-bye and farewell my old friend till we meet again. Boats served on M-92-2 12/67 12/68.

—Albert Moore President of the Mobile Riverine Force Association

You may contact the family c/o Irene Campbell, 677 G Street SP-1, Chula Vista, CA 91910; phone 619-427-6835; email ccicec@cox.net.

Albert,

I am very saddened to get the news of the passing of Boats Campbell. I spent my training at Mare Island with Boats and was assigned to T-92-7 He was the greatest Boat Captain. I was very proud to have served under Boat Captain BM1 Charles Campbell US Navy. I will not forget my time serving under him.

Member **Don H. Fellabaum** was a World War Two and a Korean War Veteran. Don passed away November, 23 2010. He served on the USS Brule AKL-28 8/52-9/53. Last known address 151 Birchaven Ln. #-325, Findlay, OH 45840.

May our World War Two and Korean War brother rest in peace. —Albert

Member **Gerald C. Robinson** passed away October 29, 2010. Gerald served on the USS Hampshire Cty. LST-819 (1966/67). You may contact the family c/o 1301 Summit St., Marshalltown, IA 50158; phone 641-753-4460.

James D. Newton passed away on October 11, 2010. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 15 - River Assault Division 152 onboard Tango-49 (T-49) in 1970-71.

James D. Newton, who served on the same boat and the same time, passed away at 2:30 today. Good-bye my friend. —Robert W. Hauser

Michael Ray Brink passed away peacefully in his sleep surrounded by his family on Friday, April 30, 2010 in the Minneapolis Veterans Medical Center. He fought a courageous battle with cancer for nearly two years. Mike proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1972. He was a Vietnam War veteran having served as a diesel mechanic/engine man on the USS Garrett County LST-786 and the USS Askari (ARL-30).

Member **Delbert Goblen** passed away October 2, 2009, from lung cancer. He served on LCM-38 TF-

115 (08/68-08/69). You may contact Jan Goblen at 2108 S. 17th Street, Saint Joseph, MO 64503; email silverwings12202@sbcglobal.net.

Member **Billy W. Olsen** passed away Monday, November 29, 2010 after a long battle with Mesothelioma. Billy served in C/CO/4th/47th 9thInf Division 3/68-3/69. You may contact the family c/o Eloise Olsen, 15799 SE 29th St., Choctaw, OK 73020; 405-390-2969; olseene@cox.net.

May our Brother Billy rest in peace after his long battle with cancer. —Albert

Member **Carl Simons** passed away December 25, 2009. He served on the USS Guide (06/71-06/72). You may contact his wife Priscilla c/o 4611 Brown Ave., Amarillo, TX 79108-5229; 806-433-6634.

James D. Guest passed away October 9, 2007 of emphysema and severe deteriorating arthritis. James served on Tango-132-2 (03/68-06/69). You may contact the family c/o Betty Guest, 2350 N. Old Bethlehem Pike, Quakertown, PA 18951-3910; phone 215-529-7159; e-mail b1guest6@comcast.net.

We always wondered if Agent Orange had anything to do with his illness... —Betty Guest

It is with great sadness that I write this note. I am in Iraq and just now found out my dad passed away the day before Thanksgiving. Below is a testament to him and his unswerving devotion to God and Country.

BMC "CPO" Kenneth Owen Sherrick, USN RET., 76, of Florence, MS passed away on November 24, 2010. He served our country proudly from 1951 to 1971. BM1/C Sherrick was the boat captain of RIVRON 9's first true Zippo.

Note of remembrance from Capt. James Eldridge US Navy, Ret.

They were in RIVDIV 92. He saved the life of me and the crew of M-91-2 and a crippled alpha boat during the big fight at the crossroads in April 1968. The Alpha was disabled by RPGs and the boat captain critically wounded and down. The boat rammed the beach with the engines still going ahead. I took M-91-2 in to get lines across, but looked back during the heavily opposed run in and saw that the entire column had been ordered by higher to reverse and clear the area. That left the alpha and monitor with no covering fire against heavy incoming. I radioed that we "were dead men unless we got some help". None was sent; then I heard "hang on Blue Swords one, I'm on the way". Without orders, Sherrick hauled the Zippo out of the retreating column and ran towards us hosing down both banks. I remember that it got very quiet, because it was the first time the VC experienced this boat in action and they were still right down on the edge of the banks. Subsequently, we were able to get lines across, drag the boat out of the kill zone, and medivac the boat captain. He survived...I saw him at a reunion about 5 years ago. Thanks BM1 Sherrick.

You may contact Eric Russell at 17200 Old Kelly Rd., Vancleave, MS 39565; 67cougart@gmail.com.

James C. Houston, BM3, passed away on May 16, 2010. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 9. We are not sure of the River Assault Division at this time.

Patrick E. Congdon, EN2, passed away on September 27, 2010. He served with River Assault Squadron 9 - River Assault Division 91.

William D. Parkman, BM3, passed away on October 9, 2010. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 9.

Ulysses S. Navey recently passed away at the VA hospital in Washington State from Agent Orange related cancer.

Navey was a member of the recommissioning crew that sailed the Garrett County. Ulysses served on the USS Garrett Cty. LST 786 in Vietnam in support of TF-116, 1966-67. You may contact the family c/o 106 Rainier Estates Ct. SE, Rainier, WA 98576; phone 360 446-4033.

IC2 Percy L. Christian Jr. of Pasadena, TX passed away July 22, 2007. Percy served on the USS Garrett Cty. LST-786, 1969-70.

Lt. Thomas J. Driscoll of Annandale, VA served on the USS Garrett Cty. LST-786, 10/68-10/69.

YN1 Aldo F. Rossi passed away 25 May 2007. Aldo served on the USS Garrett Cty. LST-786.

Jack Pritchard passed away November 25th, 2010. Jack served on the USS White River LSMR-526, 1966-1968. You may contact the family c/o 9033 Mount Rushmore Ln., El Paso, TX 79904; phone 915-751-7522.

Joanna M. Miller, wife of member John P. Miller passed away January 6, 2011. Joanna was a very nice and gracious lady who fought a courageous battle against her cancer. May our sister rest in peace. John served in C/CO/3rd/47th 9thInfDiv, 5/66-12/67. You may contact the family c/o 33624 Pineview Ln., Fraser, MI 48026; phone 586-285-1668; or email johnpmiller2@comcast.net.

Gunnery mate **Gene Randall** passed away September 15, 2010. Gunner served on the USS Benewah APB-35 as a GMG1 1966-68. Gene was part of the recommissioning crew. He was a quiet man who was always there for his shipmates. Gene was a heck of a gunners mate and shipmate. We have no other information except his last known address: 5920 Wabash St. SW., Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Larry L. Steinmetz passed away July 16, 2006. Larry died of a heart attack he suffered while fighting cancer. Larry's mom Dorothy said that Larry was very proud of his service and always spoke fondly of his time on the rivers. Larry served in RivRon-13, 1968-69. You may contact the family c/o Dorothy Steinmetz, 4702 Stone St., Billings, MT 59109; phone 406-259-3409.

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 LT H. M. "Murk" Alexander ComRivDiv 132 (6/68-6/69)
 Jimmie J. Apel A Co. 4th/47th and 6th/31st (1969-70)
 Charlie and Georginia Ardingner T-151-11
 Walter A. Ardisson, Jr. A-153-48 and A-153-49 (1969-70)
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 Carl Ayres A-91-6 (2/68-2/69)
 Christian Bachofer ComRivDiv 92 (7/68-6/69)
 Robert T. Bak Z-132-2 (4/69-4/70)
 Col Paul Barnes HHC and B Co. 3rd/39th Inf (12/66-11/67)
 William Befort B Co. 1st Plt 4th/47th (2/66-9/67)
 Jack Benedick C Co. 4th/47th Inf
 Richard Bittle USS Nueces (6/68-4/69)
 Tom Bityk IUWG-1-Vung Tau/Ha Tein (5/69-5/70)
 Capt Peveil Blundell USN (Ret.) ComRivRon 13 (1968-69)
 Thomas Bogner A and C Cos. 2nd/39th Inf (2/68-1/69)
 MajGen Blackie Bolduc USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/47th Inf
 Tom Brady B Co 3rd/47th (11/67-1/69)
 Brothers of the 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf
 Capt Kenneth Brown A Co. 3rd/60th Inf
 C. Vic Brumley USS White River LSMR-535 (1965-1967)
 Transferred to Naval Advisory Group in Nha Trang (1967-1968 and 1970-1971)
 MGen Walter Bryde, Jr. HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (7/68-8/69)
 Ralph Burnette A Co. 4th/47th (6/67-5/68)
 John and Pamela Carlin in honor of Erol Tuzcu
 RADM William Carlson CO USS White River LSMR-536 (10/65-3/68)
 Gary Chapman USS Colleton APB-36 (8/68-8/69)
 John and Doris Chrzanowski A 4/47 and B 6/31 (3/69-3/70)
 Pasquale "Chick" Cicarelli YRBM-16 (9/67-9/68)
 Jack Collier C Co. 47th Inf/Reg WWII (1944)
 Randall Cook USS Monmouth County (1970)
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 LTC Richard Crotty HHC 3rd Bde, 9th Inf (7/67-7/68)
 William Currier HSB 3rd/34th Arty (11/68-8/69)
 William Dabel C Co. 3rd/39th (1/69-10/69)
 Orville Daley USS Askari ARL-30 (1967-68)
 Buddy Deuell, III T-132-8 (5/68-5/69)
 Dan Dodd PHC (Ret) ComRivFlot-One
 David DuHon USS Windham County LST-1170 (1968-70)
 Bruce Dunlap USS Mark AKL-12 (7/70-7/71)
 Robert B. Durrett T-112-7 (1/67-12/67)
 Virgie Eblen Associate Member

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 Christopher Emerson CWO USA (Ret) A-112-4 (4/68-4/69)
 Edith Ethridge Associate Member
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 Col Monte G. Euler A Co. 4th/47th Inf (1/68-12/68)
 Cdr Kirk Ferguson USN (Ret.) ComStabRon-20 (11/69-11/70)
 Stephen Ferragamo B Co. 2nd/47th Inf (2/69-3/70)
 Terrance Feters HHQ 3rd/47th Inf (4/69-7/69)
 Ted Fetting B Co. 2nd/60th Inf (10/67-2/68)
 Denny Frank D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (7/68-7/69)
 Dean Fritz and Carol Campbell
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 CSM (Ret.), Homer M. Garza 1SG C Btry 3rd/34th Artillery (1/68-1/69)
 Regina Gooden Associate Member
 Ron Gorman T-91-10 (1/68-12/68)
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 Pat Haggerty River Div 111 and USS Westchester County (12/66-8/69)
 Daniel B. Hall, Jr. Staff ComRivFlot One (12/68-7/69)
 Roger Hamilton, Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (8/68-8/69)
 BMCM (Ret) Wayne Haggood RivRon 15 T-52
 John Harrison C Co. 3rd/47th Inf
 Robert Hammond HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (10/68-8/69)
 Richard Hause U.S. Army WWII and Korea
 Kent Hawley YRBM-20 (10/60-10/70)
 Leo Haynes RivDiv 594 PBR-8120 (4/69-2/70)
 Jerry Hensley T-92-13 (2/67-11/67)
 Joe Hilliard T-48 (9/69-3/70) and T-44 (3/70-7/70)
 RMC Jerry Howard USN (Ret) USS Askari ARL-30 (11/68-10/69)
 James Hoyer 197th TC (MB) 8/68-7/69)
 MajGen Ira A. Hunt Jr. HHQ 9th Inf Div
 Alan G. Hyde 9th Signal (1966-68)
 RM2 Bill Isetts USS Askari (7/67-8/69)
 David V. Jarczewski C Co 4th/47th Inf (5/66-5/68)
 Ron Jett T-92-8 (1/67-1/68)
 Gerald Johnston USS Nye County LST-167 (1/66-1/67)
 David Jones Z-111-7 (10/68-10/69)
 Everett Jones CCB-151-4 and CCB-152-5 (4/69-4/70)
 Frank B. Jones RivRon 15 T-48
 Jerry "Hollywood" Kaweckki B Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf (1968)
 Dane Keller RivDiv 532 PBR-121 (5/69-5/70)
 Tim Kelly C Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) (1968-69)
 General William A. Knowlton ADC 9th Inf Div (1/68-6/68)
 George Link USS Tutuila ARG-4 (1/70-1/71)
 Ken Locke Sr. USS White River LSMR-536 (6/66-1/68)

Richard Lorman T-152-6 (6/68-6/69)
 James and Debby Lowe APL-26 (5/68-5/69)
 Raymond L. Mans B Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf Div (9/68-9/69)
 Anthony Lee Martin USS Chesterfield County (1966-67)
 Sgt E-5 Ken McLean B Co. 4th/47th Inf 2nd Bde USS Colleton (11/68-1/69)
 Thomas L. "Mac" McLemore T-112-7 (12/66-12/67)
 Kenneth R. Marple A Fellow Vet
 Big Jim Meehan IUWG-1 Nha Trang
 Adam Metts T-111-2 (8/68-10/69)
 Alan Metzger LCLUs NSA Danang
 Cdr David Miller USN (Ret.) CO RivDiv 112 (11/67-12/68)
 Nicholas P. Miller COS RAS Div 152 (7/68-6/69)
 Paul Moody USS Pivot MSO-463 (1966-67)
 Albert and Sara Moore USS Benewah APB-35
 J. Russell and Alice Moore A-91-5 (11/68-6/69)
 Roy and Lynn Moseman 4th/47th Inf
 Co Van My TF-115.3.7 Cat Lo
 CSM Joseph M. Natividad B Co 3/60 (1967)
 CWO James T. Natividad HHC 3/60 (1966-67)
 Saul Nava A Co. 4th/47th Inf (9/68-7/69)
 MAJ Joe Nichols III CO C Co 3rd/60th Inf (1967)
 Jasper Northcutt B Co 2nd/47th Mech Inf (11/66-5/67)
 George R. O'Connell USS Terrell City LST-1157
 Christopher Olsen T-131-8 (5/68-5/69)
 Charles Ostrov HHC 2nd/47th Inf (1/68-12/68)
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 Capt Jerry L. Pape USN (Ret.) COMRIVFLOT ONE (1/68-12/68)
 Robert Pawlicki T-111-11 (3/67-12/67)
 Luis F. Peraza D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-8/69)
 John Perry T-132-11 (6/68 8/69)
 Col Pete Peterson USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-8/69)
 LTC Nathan Plotkin USA (Ret.) HQ 2nd Bde
 W. R. Posey Craft Master YTB 785 (1967-68)
 George Queen USS Benewah (4/67-11/67)
 Capt W. J. (Mick) Riedmann CO USS Tom Green County LST-1159 (1968-70)
 Donald and Marijo Robbins USS Benewah APB-35
 Gerald C. Robinson USS Hampshire County LST-819 (1/66-9/67)
 Joseph K. Rosner RivRon 15 M-6
 Bonni Rosner Associate Member
 Durwood Rosser M-91-1 (9/67-6/68)
 J. Robert Roth USS Benewah (8/68-8/69)
 Donald Sack C Co. 3rd/60th Inf (10/67-10/68)
 Billie Sanders RivRon 11 RAD 112 T-112-1 & CCB-112-1 (Vietnam 1967)

Norman Saunders B Co 3rd/39th Inf (1/69-8/69)
 Harry David Schoenian C Co 4th/47th Inf (7/68-7/69)
 Jerry (Doc) Schuebel B Co. 3rd/60th Inf
 Col Sam L. Schutte USA (Ret.) B Co 4th/47th Inf (VN)
 Mark Seymour YW-118 NSA Danang (1/70-9/70)
 Jerry Shearer C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (4/67-4/68)
 Edward Sicilia 9th MP Co (12/67-12/68)
 Richard Simpson C Co. 3rd/47th Inf 9th Div (5/67-6/68)
 William Sinclair CDR USS White River (4/65-2/68)
 Terry Sloat River Assault Squadron 11 (12/68-4/69)
 BrGen Douglas Smith USA (Ret.) Cdr 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf
 Thomas Smith 9th S and T Battalion (3/67-6/68)
 Chet "Gunner" Stanley C-111-1 and M-111-3 (1966-68)
 John Stone USS Harnett County LST-821 (8/68-5/70)
 Norman Stone, Jr. HQ 4th/47th Inf (1/66-8/68)
 Art Streepier Boat Captain T-91-2 (1/68-2/69)
 Alan Strickland A Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf
 John P. Sturgill USS Colleton APB-36
 Robert Sutton RivRon 9 M-92-2, Z-92-11, and R-92-1 (11/68-5/69)
 John Swart T-132-1 (4/68-4/69)
 Bryan Swisher B Co. 3rd/47th Inf (10/68-6/69)
 Jack Terry USS Colleton APB-36 (8/66-2/68)
 Charles Thompson 9th Admin Co (2/66-11/67)
 Milton W. Turnage BMCM (Ret.) Boat Captain M-151-1 (7/68-6/69)
 LCDR Lewis Turner CO USS Nueces (6/68-6/69)
 Wayne Turney USS Guide MSO-447 (4/62-6/66)
 Erol Tuzco A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (1968-69)
 USS Terrell City LST-1157
 Roger C. Valentine CS1 US Navy (Ret) USS Askari (7/67-5/68)
 Bob and Nancy VanDruff T-91-5 and T-92-4
 Henry Velez MD B Co. 2nd/39th Inf (7/68-7/69)
 Terry Volz USS Luzerne County LST-92 (3/69-3/70)
 Henry Washburn USS Colleton APB-36 (1/67-9/68)
 Connie and Jack Watson 3rd/60th 9th Inf (12/68-9/69)
 Gary Weisz A-91-4 (10/67-7/68)
 Trentwell White USS Whitfield County LST-1169
 Edward Whitmarsh A Co. 2nd/60th Inf (3/68-3/69)
 Stephen G. Wieting USS Benewah APB-35 (11/66-2/68)
 Norm Wilkinson B. Co. 4th/47th Inf (3/67-3/68)
 Col Bruce Williams CO 3rd/47th (1969-70)
 Jeffrey L. Withers RivRon 11 A-112-8 and M-112-12 (6/68-6/69)
 William Ziebarth 9th Signal Batt/39th Ant (1966-1967)
 Robert Zimmer XO USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69)
 Admiral Elmo Zumwalt ComNavForV

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