



# River Currents



Tango boat landing troops 9th Inf Div

9th Inf headed to USS Benewah

A PUBLICATION OF  
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 2  
SUMMER 2013

## From the Galley

Folks, it looks like we are looking at a great turn-out. We have never filled a hotel this far out for a reunion. So make your plans ASAP if you plan on attending. Since our allotted block of rooms is sold out at the Indianapolis Marriott East, all reservations should be made at the La Quinta Inn or Fairfield Inn & Suites hotels. The staff should inform you to make your reservations either at the La Quinta Inn or Fairfield Inn & Suites hotels, but you never know. The phone numbers and more information for these hotels are on our web site and in this *River Currents*.

Let's all try and make this reunion as none of us are getting any younger and we are losing a lot of members. You never know when and if you will see an old shipmate or platoon or company member again. So let's make the best of it while we are able. *Albert*

## Veterans Day 2013 – Washington, DC

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day, Monday, November 11, 2013. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to The Wall at 9:00 a.m.

We have blocked 40 rooms at the recently renovated Arlington Court Suites in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8 to 11 (check out on 11/12). Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. These rates are good for two (2) days before the 8th and two (2) days after the 11th.

For reservations, call 1-703-524-4000 ext. "0." Please state our group name "MRFA" and give your dates of arrival and departure. If you plan to attend, you must make your reservations under our group code prior to the cutoff date of October 28, 2013.

The Arlington Court Suites, a Clarion Collection Hotel, is located at 1200 N Courthouse Rd, Arlington,



Virginia 22201. (Note: This is about 1/10th of mile from the hotel we have used for the past 6 or 7 years.) For more information on this hotel, go to <http://www.arlingtoncourthotel.com/>.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available November 8 to 11. Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2013. We look forward to seeing you in DC.

For more information, contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries, (513) 659-4974, [priesrl@att.net](mailto:priesrl@att.net).

## Make Your Reservations for the Reunion August 28–September 1, 2013

*Note: Our allotted block of rooms is sold out at the Indianapolis Marriott East so make your reservation at the La Quinta Inn or Fairfield Inn & Suites*

**Backup Hotels:** Both the La Quinta Inn and Fairfield Inn & Suites are located on the Marriott property about half a block from the Marriott. Make sure to make your reservations under the Mobile Riverine Force Association. The Indianapolis Marriott East, La Quinta Inn, and Fairfield Inn & Suites hotels are 21 miles east of the airport.



**La Quinta Inn Indianapolis East**  
7304 East 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

\$69 per night | 317-359-1021

<http://www.lq.com/lq/properties/propertyProfile.do?propId=224>

breakfast, lunch, and dinner. A bar/lounge is open for drinks. The hotel serves buffet breakfasts (surcharges apply). Recreational amenities include an indoor pool, a spa tub, and a fitness facility. Wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is available in public areas (surcharges apply). Guest parking is complimentary. Additional property amenities include gift shops/newsstands and laundry facilities. This is a smoke-free property.

### Individual Hospitality Rooms:

If a group would like a Hospitality Room, contact Brandi Ashlock,



**Fairfield Inn & Suites Indianapolis East**  
7110 E. 21st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46219

\$79 per night | 317-322-0101

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/indes-fairfield-inn-and-suites-indianapolis-east>

Sales Manager (317-322-3716 ext. 1299, [ashlockb@indymarriotteast.com](mailto:ashlockb@indymarriotteast.com)). The rate is \$125 per day.

**Discount:** The hotel will be giving us a 10% discount for all food and beverages purchased in the hotel restaurant. You have to wear your name badge when asking for this discount.

**Castleton Square Mall:** The hotel will provide complimentary transportation to and from Castleton Square Mall at a prearranged time with departure from the hotel in the morning and departure from Castleton Square Mall in the afternoon. Everyone will meet at the Indianapolis Marriott East to

partake in the shuttle service since the other hotels are so close to it. That way we can provide everyone with a set schedule to follow that weekend. Service will be offered on a first come, first serve basis.

### Handicap Home Health Depot

**Scooters:** To rent a handicap scooter, contact Kathy or Paula at Home Health Depot (317-347-6400). The requirement is a \$400 deposit and the scooter will be delivered to the hotel. If there are no damages to the scooter, the rate upon return will be \$150 for rental, delivery, and pick-up for the dates of August 28–September 1, 2013. *The MRFA is not responsible for the delivery of the scooter or the payment.*

**Buffet Lunch, Saturday, August 31, 2013, 1300-1430:**

Marriott Deli \$10.00 per Person. *Note: Payment for the buffet must be made by Wednesday, August 28.*

For more information, please contact Board Member and Reunion Coordinator Frank Jones, Rafferty Lighting Group, 2801 Breckenridge Industrial Court, St.

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**Marriott**  
INDIANAPOLIS EAST

### Location:

Indianapolis Marriott East is located in Indianapolis's East neighborhood and local attractions include Indiana State Fairgrounds and Pepsi Coliseum and Children's Museum of Indianapolis. Regional points of interest also include Indianapolis Motor Speedway and Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

**Hotel Features:** Indianapolis Marriott East's restaurant serves



# Diary of Gary McCabe, December 4, 1967, A Co. 3rd/47th Inf

*Albert, Below is my diary (in italics) with a "Situation" inserted. This is a good deal but it takes a lot of time. Woweee. Thank you*

**Gary McCabe gemccabe@hotmail.com.**

We were drafted in Seattle on May 10, 1966, and went to Fort Ord in California. We spent a week going through the Army clothes, tests, vaccinations, and a re-up for 3 years, instead of 2 years, before we went to Fort Riley, Kansas. I was assigned to the 1st Squad of the 3rd Platoon, A Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division. At Fort Riley, we went through basic training, AIT (Advance Individual Training), and unit training. Most of A Company had been together for almost 8 months, and then we were sent to Vietnam.

I started keeping a diary in January 1, 1967. I kept a good track of my time in Vietnam. Each day I had my thoughts on the war and my friends. The platoon left Fort Riley on January 9, 1967. At Oakland, California, they boarded the ship and left the US waters on January 10. They arrived on January 28 in Vung Tau, Vietnam, and went to Bear Cat, north of Saigon, and the 9th Infantry Division Headquarters. On January 17, the 3/47 Battalion staff, included the Company Officers, Platoon Officers, and the Squad Leaders, left Fort Riley, Kansas. I was a lucky guy; I was a squad leader and flew to Vietnam. On January 19, we arrived in Bien Hoa, Vietnam, and moved to Bear Cat. I went for about 12 days to Rach Kien, south of Saigon, with the 25th Division. I learned about the war. I went back to Bear Cat and joined our platoon on January 31.

On November 18, 1967, Tom (Ed) Wicker and I went on leave. We travelled from Dong Tam to Bear Cat and to Saigon and then flew jet to Camp Zama, Japan. We made it back from Japan to the Platoon on November 30. On December 1, the new Platoon Sergeant, MSgt Pollard, joined our Platoon.

I had been in the 3rd Platoon for 10½ months in Vietnam. Most of the platoon had been transferred to other parts in the 60th and 39th Battalions. A few of the original guys were still there in

A Company, 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry. The diary provided many of the problems that we lived through (the diary written is in italics).

**December 3, Sunday, USS Colleton.** Preparation for the operation. Operation order came down, the first squad has point. Jubilation! Replacements came in.

**Situation:** During the day, a bunch of "old guys" sat around and talked about getting out of the field. The group included Tom Wicker, Roy Wallheinke, Van Dell Richardson, Ivy Riley, Max Rodriguez from 3rd Platoon, and Sgt. John Juarez from the 2nd Platoon. The ship crossed

the US waters on January 10, 1967, out of Oakland, and the guys talked about Christmas (earliest time) and January 9, 1968 (latest time) to leave.

Early the next morning, we loaded on the boats and moved out to the area west of Vinh Long. We took a small river knowing that some VC were in there.

**December 4, Monday, West of Vinh Long.** It was a long boat ride and it ended in a small river. The head boats received fire from recoilless rifles and B-40 rocket fires, so the war was on with the VC. We finally beached (earlier than we should have). It was a quiet beach. We turned to move upstream and swept north and came to a stream. While we were there, 3 VCs tried to sneak up on us. Pierce and Mott got one. PSgt Choy, Nava, and I ran back and opened up on the other two VCs and knocked them both down.

Nava, Mosely, Mott, Pierce, and I moved out to the left to cover the open flank. As we almost reached the east dike, we came under fire from the south. The VC opened up with 79 fire and got Mott (shoulder) and Pierce (forehead). Mosely was hit in the arm and body. From then on, we could not get more than our head out of the water without getting fired on. We were covered from two sides and receiving sniper fire from a third position.

**Situation:** The five of us were pinned down but we had tall grass on the north side of us and the paddy dike running east and west covered us from the south. The north VC covered a short grass spot where we had just come through. The north VC could cover behind us. The other VC was to the south of the paddy dike. We were north of the paddy dike and south of the heavy grass. We were safe. When we looked out, we couldn't figure out where the VC were and the VC opened up on us.

The 2nd Platoon beached on the other side of the side stream and they were pinned down immediately. Each attempt to evacuate the 2nd Platoon was met with heavy arms fire. They were extracted 2 hours later, except for their point. The 2nd Point came out slowly, leaving two people behind. MSgt Pollard, Roy Wallheinke, and some other 3rd Platoon people tried to get an attempt to get them out (the 2nd Platoon), but they were hit by B-40 fragments. MSgt Pollard was killed.

**Situation:** The 2nd Platoon was extracted by the ATC boat. The boat moved down river to 1st Platoon and 3rd Platoon.

While we were pinned down, Wagner came out far enough so we could call artillery in. Mott's radio was out.

**Situation:** Calling artillery was supposed to work, but the Company Commander was a Naval Academy graduate and got artillery by the Navy way of doing it. It wasn't the Army way either. I told Wagner to stop the artillery, and told him



Roy Wallheinke, Tim Holtz, and Tom Wicker.

to tell Black 6, the Company Commander, to call the gunships in.

PSgt Choy and Wicker (radio operator) came out a ways too much and stopped. I told him to get down, he didn't, and he got shot in the chest.

**Situation:** Wicker opened up on the VC and killed two and at least wounded a third VC. Sgt. Choy was badly wounded and a couple of guys pulled him to the west dike. Sgt. Choy was hauled to the boat and was evacuated.

We finally got gunships in to cover my point withdrawal. With our point back in the group, the Platoon pulled back to the Company's perimeter.



Sgt. Choy

The gunships arrived about one hour later. I threw smoke, the gunships came in, and the five of us ran as hard as we could to get behind the west dike. No one was hurt this time. But the Platoon had both Platoon Sergeants KIA (killed in action) and WIA (wounded in action), and it was short of people.

“ All night we fired artillery, mortars, and 79s. I guess the VC kept them from firing at us. It was a very long night, but it was quiet. The battle was over. ”

We had rounds coming in all day. Sgt. Comer was hit (by our own artillery) when Black 6 (Company Commander) called artillery in too close. Wagner was hit with enemy 79 shrapnel, Wicker got the same. Mosely was later killed by the VC. Finally things slowed down a bit and we got all the wounded and their gear out.

Lt. Bartley, Truax, and others came out on resupply, a welcome sight. We made a short sweep and pulled back and then set in a perimeter. Just

# A Twisted Ankle on CCB-151

by Patrick Kelly

On 24 December, the boats of River Assault Divisions 151 and 152, with the 2nd and 3rd Battalions, Vietnamese Marine Corps, commenced a new phase of Operation Sealords, pushing into a section of southwestern Kien Giang Province where no government forces had entered in more than 5 years. The area proved particularly difficult to subdue, as the Marines were unable to maintain contact with the Viet Cong and the boats were subjected to a number of highly accurate ambushes. A total of 36 River Assault Squadron 15 and 13 personnel were wounded in the course of the 14-day operation. The squadron could claim the record for the longest sustained ambush as a result of a Viet Cong multi-company action on New Year's Eve that extended 3 km and lasted over an hour. The boats returned to the Mobile Riverine Base on 6 January after having been ambushed 10 times. The operation results included 15 Viet Cong killed in action and 16 captured, along with a large hospital complex destroyed and several hundred pounds of medical supplies captured. Commander D. R. Divilbiss

relieved Commander DEAL as Commander River Assault Squadron 15 on 29 December while in the area of operations. (RivRon 15 Command History)

A twisted ankle on CCB-151-1 Thanksgiving Day and three weeks in sick bay resulted in an unemployed RM2 in December 1968. Hearing that a 2-week operation was scheduled for the U Minh Forest and the fact that another radioman was in sick bay from Z-152-1, I volunteered to go on the op as a replacement crew member on Z-152-1. Z-152-1 2 was a newer addition to RivRon 15 and was salty as they had seen their fair share of action. We departed the MRB on the 23rd of December and RON'd (remained overnight) on Christmas Eve. We were visited by Admiral Zumwalt and all petty officers received two beers a piece.

We journey into the U Minh, and according to the scuttle butt, the first allied unit in the area since a French Parachute unit had been deployed there in 1954, never to be heard from again. Getting accustomed to the ZIPPO was a new experience, no bunks, large coxswain flat and two 20-mm turrets overhead, rather than the CCB coxswain

layout that was identical to the Tango boats. New Year's Eve day was uneventful and we prepared to re-position the operation. Z-152-1 was the last boat in the column and separated from the last USN boat by six Vietnamese LCM-8s. We backed off the beach just at twilight and someone said "We are going to get ambushed." The boat had no longer gotten itself aligned with the heading of the canal when Charlie opened fire on us. Mrs. Kelly's little boy was not scared, more like petrified, because this was my first firefight after 5 months in-country. I am not saying the canal was narrow, but you could see B-40 rockets and tracers coming from both banks through the opening in the coxswain flat.

This situation resulted in one very scared radioman trying to make contact with the unit to tell them we were under fire. All through NIOTC we were taught to listen before transmitting.

"JANGLE VICTOR ONE, THIS IS ZIPPO ONE, WE ARE RECEIVING HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND B-40 ROCKET FIRE FROM BOTH BANKS!"

My initial transmission was followed by, in a very patient voice and bored voice, "That's right TANGO THREE you beach

on the port side, TANGO TWO, you beach over there on the left."

"JANGLE VICTOR ONE, THIS IS ZIPPO ONE, WE ARE RECEIVING HEAVY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS AND B-40 ROCKET FIRE FROM BOTH BANKS!"

"Right about there, TANGO TWO."

Needless to say the pucker factor was increasing on ZIPPO ONE after about four transmissions with the same results, until someone in the middle of the column informed the Commodore that we were under attack.

CDR DEAL: "Who is under attack?"

ZIPPO ONE: "We have been receiving heavy automatic weapons fire for about the last 10 minutes."

CDR DEAL: "Keep up the fire.... BLAM! RATTARATTAT!" And the head of the column had been ambushed.

Sometime during the first portion of the firefight, our coxswain suddenly grasped his chest, said "Ahhhhhh" and fell over backwards like a pine tree cut off at the stump, landing flat on his back. I was standing slightly behind him before he fell. I went over to the Boat Captain and told him the coxswain was

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Note: USS Colleton (APB-36) TF-117 (MRF) was sold to the American Ship Dismantlers Inc., Portland, Oregon, July 1974 for \$172.626.26.



## MCCABE

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as dark set in, we set up in close positions. About 9:00 p.m., the 1st Platoon received heavy fire from the VC across the stream. They blew claymores and fired back on the VC.

**Situation:** Mott, Wicker, and I set up in the center of the perimeter and we kept the radio informed for the A Company. When the VC fired, some of the 79s on us and we could hear them fly over our position. Fortunately, that night A Company was not even injured.

All night we fired artillery, mortars, and 79s. I guess the VC kept them from firing at us. It was a very long night, but it was quiet. The battle was over.

**December 5, Tuesday, West of Vinh Long/ USS Colleton.** We swept the VC area then swept south to the big river. We didn't see anything and we were more than happy we didn't see the VC. Lt. Bartley worked with me. The A Company had 36 men left in the field, the 1st Platoon had 16 men, the 2nd Platoon had 8 men, and the 3rd Platoon had 12 men.

**Situation:** The C Company swept just north of the side stream that we had tried to cross before and then must have turned to the south to the big river.

Sgt. Juarez and Winston were the 2nd Platoon people that were left there in the field. Winston

was found on the sweep today by C Company. MIA was Sgt. Juarez. KIAs included Pollard, Mosely (3rd Platoon), Winston, and Young (2nd Platoon). WIA (wounded in action) evacuated 31 people! Bravo Company was hit badly too. Charlie Company was hit, but not that bad. There is much more to this and I hope that I never see another day like it!—I may not, I lost my glasses.

**Situation:** The original A Company was 31 extracted for WIA on December 4 and at least 36 people left on December 5. Sgt. John Juarez was missing. He had talked about getting out of the field when we had talked on December 3. His plan was to finish the December 4 battle and then get out of the field. About a week later, he was found on the big river.

When I lost my glasses, I didn't even notice they were gone. My glasses were lost in the mud around the paddies on December 4 and we searched for them on December 5. No luck at finding them.

It was great to be back on the ship!

**December 6 and 7, Wednesday and Thursday, USS Colleton.** The whole Company is in a hurt. The 1st Platoon has one NCO, the 2nd Platoon has no NCOs, and the 3rd Platoon had two NCOs. Mott, Wagner, Mease, and Nava are acting NCOs. Roy is Platoon Sgt, I'm Platoon Leader. Eight replacements were in for



Memorial Service for LTC Bland and Capt. MacDonald, Dec 4, 1967.

the 3rd Platoon. Max (Rodriguez) and Van Dell (Richardson) are going to Dong Tam for carpenter detail so that cuts us down some more (they were original people that came over by a ship).

On December 7 was a horse race. Get compartment clean, memorial service, lesson plan for formations class, and awards—all before lunch. After lunch we squared away new equipment, finished beer on pontoon, and then took it easy.

During the memorial service, the Lt. Colonel said, "Soon we will return to the battle field to bring more glory to the 'Tiger' Battalion!" I didn't care for his message. ★





## First Monitor out of RivDiv 91 1967

By Mike Eggleston T-131-3/T-151-1

I never served on a Mike boat, but we worked with one near Song Ong Doc. No offense to the fellows that served on the early monitors with the 40-mm main gun; they were a great rapid fire weapon. But, the 105-mm mount was a powerhouse weapon that would really tear up a VC emplacement. The HE rounds could tear up real estate, and the rounds with the fleshettes would make short work of enemy personnel.

The only time I actually saw one fired was one day when we were coming off patrol on the river; the base at New Song Ong Doc ordered all the boats, Tangos, Alphas, and the Monitor to make a firing run on the beach opposite the base. Apparently, sound monitors place on the beach had detected movement, and we all made the run on the beach, opening up with our 20 mm and various machine guns on the Tangos and Alphas, and then the 'Big Boy' Monitor made his run, booming away with that howitzer! It was a sight to see! No return fire, but I understand the sound monitors picked up the sound of screaming when the 105 started hitting them with fleshette rounds.

## No Golf Tournament

Some of you have asked about golf for the reunion. It was decided after last year's golf tournament debacle we would not support another MRFA golf tournament.

Before we started the golf tournaments, someone would always step forward and be the POC for folks interested in golf and would handle this. But that became an issue as well as for the POC who would have to put the fee upfront for those wanting to play golf.

Some would send their money in prior to the reunion and some would say I will catch you at the reunion. That didn't always happen and the POC was stuck for the money upfront for those who skipped paying. I asked those who have contacted me about golf for this reunion if they would step forward and take care of a golf outing; we had no takers. So there will be no golf tournament. For those who just want to go out with a few friends and play golf, there are a number of golf courses in the area listed for your convenience below. This list is provided courtesy of the Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 E 21 Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, 317-352-1231.

Sorry but we could not keep losing money on the golf tournaments or have a tournament that turned into a Chinese fire drill; an embarrassment for the association as well. **Albert**



## Area Golf Courses

**Sahm Golf Course** | 11.78 mi/16 min  
6880 E 91st St., Indianapolis, IN 46250, (317) 849-0036

1. Leaving Marriott parking lot turn **right** mi 2. Turn **right** on N Shadeland Ave 3. Take ramp onto I-465 North 4. Take exit #35/Allisonville Rd turn **right** 5. Turn **right** on E 91st St 6. Arrive at Sahm Golf Course

**The Fort Golf Course** | 5.8 mi/13 min  
6002 N. Post Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46226, (317) 543-9597

1. Leaving Marriott parking lot turn **right** 2. Turn **right** on N Shadeland Ave 3. Turn **right** on E Pendleton Pike 4. Turn **left** on Post Rd 5. Arrive at the Fort Golf Course

**Whispering Hills Golf Course** | 8.28 mi/13 min

10751 Brookville Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46239, (317) 862-9000

1. Leaving Marriott parking lot turn **right** 2. Turn **left** on N Shadeland Ave 3. Turn **left** on E 16th St 4. Turn **right** on Post Rd 5. Turn **left** on E Brookeville Rd 6. Arrive at Whispering Hills

**Pleasant Run Golf Course** | 2.61 mi/6 min

601 N. Arlington Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219, (317) 357-0829

1. Leaving Marriott parking lot turn **right** 2. Turn **left** on N Shadeland Ave 3. Turn **right** onto E 16th St. 4. Turn **left** onto N Arlington Ave. 5. Arrive at Pleasant Run Golf Course

## 2013 MRFA Reunion Flight Information Form

(NOTE: Flight info due 2 weeks prior to arrival to get on the hotel shuttle.)

*Flight Information Form: For the Indianapolis Marriott East hotel to provide complimentary transportation to and from the Indianapolis International Airport on a prearranged scheduled basis, fill out the Flight Information Form. We may have a few changes on the transportation schedules. We will keep you updated in the River Currents and our web site [www.mrfa.org](http://www.mrfa.org) prior to the reunion. The airport is about 21 miles from the hotel and the cost per taxi runs around \$45 or \$50.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Airline	Flight Number	Arrival time INTO Indianapolis Airport	Number of People Needing Ride from Indianapolis Airport
Date	Airline	Flight Number	Arrival time DEPARTING Marriott East Hotel	Number of People Needing Ride to Indianapolis Airport

Send this form back to Lindsay Smart by e-mail [smartl@indymarriotteast.com](mailto:smartl@indymarriotteast.com); fax to Lindsay Smart at 317-352-9775; or mail to Lindsay Smart, Event Manager, Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 E 21st St, Indianapolis, IN 46219, ATTN: 2013 MRFA Reunion Flight Info. If you e-mail this form, you will receive a confirmation e-mail back within 3 days of arrival as to what your pick up times will be. If flights are delayed, call 317-352-1231 when you get into Indianapolis airport and they will get you on the next shuttle.

### REUNION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Louis, MO 63144, cell 314-303-2730, work phone 314-918-8144, ext. 108, fax 314-918-7160, or home e-mail [popsaroni@sbcglobal.net](mailto:popsaroni@sbcglobal.net) or work e-mail [frank@raffertylighting.com](mailto:frank@raffertylighting.com).

Hello Everyone,

I just got the information for the backup hotels added to the web site. You may have to refresh your browsers to see the additions (<http://mrfa.org/2013.Reunion.htm>).

Warm regards,

Mike Harris Board Member/Web Master/  
Unit Historian

## Plan of the Day for the 2013 Reunion

Opening and closing of the individual hospitality rooms will be up to the different units. Liberty Hall Hospitality Room will be open 7 a.m. daily and is open to all hands. Beverages and snacks will be available. Closing time will vary. Be sure to wear your name tag at all times to receive a 10% discount on all meals eaten in the hotel's restaurant. The hotel will furnish a shuttle service to the Castleton Square Mall. Check with the main desk for the schedule.

### Thursday, August 29, 2013

7:00 a.m. Liberty Hall Hospitality Room open  
 9:30 a.m. Registration hosted by George Duke Marthenze and his staff (setup outside Liberty Hall)  
 9:30 a.m. Product sales hosted by Chet Gunner Stanley and staff  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room hosted by Bob Pries and his staff (Salons A and B)  
 Raffle tickets available from Mable Springer (Raffle Queen) and her staff

### Friday, August 30, 2013

7:00 a.m. Liberty Hall Hospitality Room open  
 9:30 a.m. Registration  
 9:30 a.m. Product sales  
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. MRF and 9th Inf Division Museum Room  
 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Delta to DMZ dance with a DJ playing your favorites of the '60s and '70s music held in the Grand Ballroom. Board Member Frank Jones and wife Linda will be hosting the dance. No dress code.

### Saturday, August 31, 2013

7:00 a.m. Liberty Hall Hospitality Room open  
 10:00 a.m. Liberty Hall  
 Speakers with Master of Ceremonies Gunners Chet Stanley and Don Blankenship  
 Major Robert Bischoff US Army (Ret.) Company Commander A Co 4th/47th (07/67-07/68)  
 Padre Ray Johnson CDR USNR ComRivFlot-One (01/67-01/68)  
 Memorial services conducted by Chaplain LtCol Jim Johnson U.S. Army (Ret) 3rd/60th and Captain Richard MacCullagh U.S. Navy (Ret) ComRivFlot One Staff  
 Flags and certificates will be presented to widows and sons and daughters who attend the reunion of our fallen Brothers from Vietnam and those who have passed on since Vietnam. Gunner Chet Stanley assisted by Don Blankenship will do the honors.  
 Missing Man Ceremony by Dave Schoenian C Co 4th/47th  
 Roy Moseman will render the playing of Taps.  
 Noon to 2 p.m. Product sales  
 1:00-2:30 p.m. MRFA Deli Buffet Lunch (Atrium)  
 3:00 p.m. Raffle  
 3:30 to ? Visiting with shipmates, family, and friends

### Sunday, September 1, 2013

Check out

## 2013 Reunion Registration Form

Indianapolis Marriott East, 7202 East 21st Street

La Quinta Inn Indianapolis East, 7304 East 21st Street

Fairfield Inn & Suites Indianapolis East, 7110 East 21st Street

**August 28 to September 1, 2013**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit in Vietnam \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ or Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

☐ No spouse/girlfriend or guests

☐ **Send my registration form to me by e-mail**

Name(s): Spouse/Guest(s) City State

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE** \$50.00

*Cost includes member and spouse/girlfriend  
 (Does not cover lodging, food, bus trips, or shuttles)*

Total number of other guest(s) (\_\_\_\_ x \$15 each) \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee for Nonmember (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Saturday afternoon buffet (number of people \_\_\_\_ x \$10)** \_\_\_\_\_

Late registration fee (\$65) \_\_\_\_\_

Grand total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send this form with your check or money order (payable to MRFA or Mobile Riverine Force Association) before August 16, 2013, to MRFA 2013 Reunion, 1857 County Road A14, Decorah, IA 52101.*

*Cancellations prior to the reunion will be charged a \$25 processing fee.*

**\*Note: Payment for the buffet must be made by Wednesday, August 28 because the hotel needs a head count.**

*When filling out the Reunion Registration form, please be as accurate and clear as possible. Please use one unit and one date, even if you have served in more than one unit.*

*To provide the complimentary transportation to and from the airport on a prearranged scheduled basis, fill out the 2013 MRFA Reunion Flight Information Form and send to Lindsay Smart as indicated on the form.*

**Note: You will still have to check in at the registration desk to receive your name tag.**

*If you wait and pay your registration fee at the reunion, the*

*late registration fee will be \$65. Register early and help the MRFA as we use your fees to purchase food, beverages, and other items.*

*To those few who always try and get by without paying the Registration Fee and want a free ride, this is not honoring your fellow members and their spouses.*

*If you have any questions, contact Albert at mrfa@bellsouth.net, Charlie Ardinger at mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop, or Gunner Stanley at gunnerstan@aol.com.*

*Thanks for your support in our great association. Albert Moore, MRFA President*

## First U.S. Troops Depart Vietnam

*A battalion of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division leaves Saigon in the initial withdrawal of U.S. troops. The 814 soldiers were the first of 25,000 troops that were withdrawn in the first stage of the U.S. disengagement from the war. There would be 14 more increments in the withdrawal, but the last U.S. troops did not leave until after the Paris Peace Accords were signed in January 1973.*

**DATELINE:  
JULY 7, 1969**

## TWISTED ANKLE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

wounded. He reached in his flak vest and handed me a package of morphine syrettes, without even looking down at me.

A GMG2, whose name I do not recall, and I hope some of the Z-152-1 crew members will supply their comments to this account, and I got on each side of the coxswain who was lying on his back, totally without any response. We quickly got a red-lensed battle lantern and went through the first aid procedures we had been taught a NIOTC, checking for wounds, fractures, and bleeding. Nothing.

As we finished our examination, the coxswain rolled his head from side to side and moaned, "I'm hit."

Now the reader must understand that we have two 20-mm cannon and a .30 cal machine gun firing, we are in an enclosed space, the engine noise at full throttle, and the gunfire from the beach creating somewhat of a racket, it's dark as pitch, and no one was driving the boat while all of this occurred.

We frantically searched the coxswain again trying to find his wound. Suddenly, the GMG2 reached down and rubbed something on the Coxswain's flak vest, rubbed his finger and

thumb together, held it up to his nose, and said, "Hell, that's mud."

The coxswain: "But I'm hit."

GMG2: "You are not hit, that's mud on your chest."

Coxswain: "Blood on my chest!"

GMG2: "No, mud!"

At which point, we reached beneath him, grabbed him by the shirt collar and waist and stood him up in front of the boat wheel, and told him to drive the boat.

"But I'm hit!" He said and kept rubbing his chest.

"It's not blood, it's mud," I shouted to him. "Blood!" He responded. "No," I said. "It's mud not blood, you are OK." He looked at me, rather disbelieving me, and grabbed the boat wheel, occasionally rubbing his chest and smelling the mud that had impacted his chest from the canal bank.

About this time, a flame of napalm (napalm is good thing), from our port flame gunner shot through the door of a hooch on the canal bank. The flame ball inside the hooch curled over the tops of the walls, underneath and then over the roof eaves, curling over the peak of the roof from both ends of the hooch. As the two curls of flame met over the center of the roof, the hooch exploded in a bigger fire ball with a huge roar.

CDR Deal: "What was that?"

ZIPPO ONE: "Secondary explosion on the beach."

RIVRON 15: "Keep up the good work."

Our .30-cal. Gunner was in a scuttle hatch on the port side of the ZIPPO. He later said that the explosion illuminated six VC in holes on the beach and that he got all six of them with his machine gun.

The remainder of the firefight was more of the same, returning fire until we got out of the kill zone. The unit beached, and CH-47s began bringing in 105-mm howitzers and ammo for those guns over our head and landing off of the port beach. Bottles of adult beverages suddenly made their appearance, crews began to visit each other to toast in the New Year. There was a series of transmission on the radios after LT Tobolski wished a Happy New Year on the net that became more humorous as time went on. The only one I can remember is "This is the Easter Bunny, where do I beach my eggs?"

As we went back to our boats, from visiting other boat crews and congratulating ourselves on being alive, looking down the canal, both sides were lit by flames of burning hooches and four AC-47s were circling far down the canal, firing red tracers down on both sides of the canal. Thus, ended 1968.

As significant as this ambush was, it would be nice to access the after action reports to find out more of this battle. Who were the AC-47s that supported us, what was their AAR? Was there a RivRon 15 AAR or narrative (classified or unclassified) published on this ambush and this 2-week operation?

Some days later, we departed the AO to go down to Twin Rivers to refuel and resupply. It was day time, and the VC gave us a little sendoff ambush. (I believe we averaged an

ambush every other day on this operation.) Being the hard charging sailor that I was, I grabbed an M-16 and began firing it over the side of the coxswain flat bulk head, but was not tall enough to see where I was firing. Our boat captain took issue with this, and told me to stop.

After being initiated into the joys of hand pumping napalm into the ZIPPO, we began our return trip to the Operations Area (AO), when the boat captain handed me an M-79 and a .50 cal. box of M-79 rounds and was told to fire from beside the .30 cal. gunner on the port side.

Now friends, there is no protection for me here. The .30-cal. gunner has a pintle with a shield. I have nothing between me and the enemy and I am sort of squatting into a corner of the roof of the coxswain flat. As I remember, the .30-cal. gunner looked at me with an "It's been nice to know you" look. As we approached the location of the morning ambush, everyone disappeared to their general quarters GQ station on the boat except me. I tried to shrink myself into as small a ball as possible in my corner and nervously check the contents of my .50 box—eight rounds? Thinking to myself, "The upcoming ambush is going to be an experience." We faintly began to hear the noise of helicopters coming down the canal toward us at tree top level. Four LOACHES and two Huey gunships fly over us, the gunners leaning out and giving us the "Thumbs up" sign. I looked back down the column behind our boat, sailors are waving back, cheering, and throwing helmets up in the air. When we approached the morning's ambush site, we see why the helos were flying toward us—trees blown over, burning hooches blown apart, and holes blown in the ground and in bunkers. No ambush.

A couple of days later, we are in a small column looking for the VC. This is the ambush where LT Tobolski received his Silver Star. As I remember the event, the column was a howitzer monitor, three ATCs, our ZIPPO, and an ATC. The B-40 rocket came from the port bank and struck and ricocheted off the howitzer turret, and caromed off the corner of the coxswain flat. The monitor then lurched to the right and began crabbing sideway down the bank of the canal for approximately 25-50 yards until it came back into the canal.

The TANGO behind us (last boat in the column) urged us to move faster as the gap between our ZIPPO and the TANGO in front of us was increasing.

TANGO: "MOVE OUT, ZIPPO ONE, MOVE OUT!"

ZIPPO ONE: "WE CANT MOVE FASTER, WE ONLY HAVE ONE PROP!"

TANGO: "OH MY GOD!"

Looking back on this, it was an honor to serve with these guys and to fight beneath our battle colors. No units in Vietnam except the brown water boats (Navy and Army) flew the Flag of the United States while in combat. Riverine sailors fought under the Flag just as when gun decks were painted red, and spread with sand before naval engagements. ★

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# Medical Support of the Mobile Riverine Force

The mission of America's first Mobile Riverine Force was to penetrate the Delta stronghold of a determined enemy. The U.S. Navy's first hospital ship, USS Red Rover, was a part of that historical Mississippi River squadron. That vessel was refitted to provide the medical support required by the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. In the next century, a similar situation came about. Our nation's second Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) was encountering an enemy seeking shelter in the extensive waterways of the Mekong River Delta. Once more, close medical support was provided by men who faced the task and developed their own special vessels. From the first MRF in 1863 to the second in 1967, many changes have occurred in the conduct of warfare. The Army Medical Department has kept pace and continues its mission to preserve the fighting strength of its units.

## Force Composition

The Mobile Riverine Force in Southeast Asia was a joint operation comprised of the U.S. Army's 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division and the U.S. Navy's River Assault Flotilla One Task-Force 117. The transportation of this joint force was accomplished by using two principal types of vessels: the barracks type ship for housing troops for long moves on the rivers and the smaller craft for assault landings and security missions. The larger ships were designated Self-propelled Barracks Ships (APBs). These were reconstructed Landing Ship Tank (LST) class ships. The assault craft were reconstructed Mechanized Landing Craft (LCM-6) boats. After the addition of armor plate and various weapons, one of the boat types was referred to as an Armored Troop Carrier (ATC). Several of the ATCs were fitted with Helicopter Landing pads. The ATC(H)s with the landing pads were used by the medical platoons of the force infantry battalions as medical aid boats. One ATC(H) was also used by an element of the medical company of the division medical battalion as a medical

aid boat which was used in support of the joint Army/Navy operations.

## Configuration of the Aid Boat

The medical aid boat used the bunks that were attached to the inside cargo deck hull. This allowed for the management of five litter cases. Because of the small working area, it was necessary to revolve patients in and out in the shortest time possible. Ambulatory patients had to climb up and out of the cargo deck or, in the case of litter patients, be handed up in the space between the end of the flight deck and the landing ramp of the boat. The vertical distance from the cargo deck to the flight deck was 10 feet. The flight deck was constructed from steel runway matting welded over a framework of pipe. The primary drawbacks in using a boat of this type for close medical support was the lack of illumination for night operations and the small size of the pad, which always required the pilot's great skill to effect a safe landing. Some of the medical equipment present on the aid boat included a basic field medical and surgical set, and a whole blood mechanical refrigerator. The medical personnel consisted of one medical Corps officer, seven enlisted medics, and a radio operator. A 3-day level of supplies was maintained.

## Initial Medical Support Concept

Unit level medical service was furnished by the medical aid boat, manned by the medical platoon from the infantry battalion. This aid boat would accompany the ATCs carrying the assault troops. Under the direction of the battalion surgeon, the aid station was operated at the point where the troops disembarked to start the sweep. It would remain there until the ATCs began to move to the predestinated troop pickup point. At this time, the aid station would close up and return, unless the tactical situation required it to reopen at some other spot.

Division Level medical service was provided by a medical aid boat manned with medical

personnel from Co D, 9th Medical Battalion. This medical company aid boat was normally positioned in the vicinity of the barge-mounted artillery fire support base. This location provided security, a central location with regard to the area of operation, access to communications, and close liaison with the brigade operations center.

The casualties from the operation could be evacuated to the aid boats or other medical facility by either water or air. The vast majority were handled by air ambulance. The pilot had the choice of taking the casualty to one of three facilities. These were (1) the forward element of the medical company located at the fire support base; (2) the medical company itself; or (3) the surgical hospital. The latter two were located at Dong Tam, the MRF base camp. The evacuation decision was made by the helicopter pilot after consideration of casualty condition and the distance to be flown.

## Improvement of Facilities and Support

As riverine operations moved farther into the Delta, time and distance pointed out the need for changes in the concept of medical support from all levels. If a curved line had been drawn connecting Dong Tam, Saigon, Long Binh, and Vung Tau late in 1967, five American hospitals would have been on or near that line. When the MRF operated east of Dong Tam, inside the area created by the curved line just mentioned, evacuation time to a hospital was very short, the main reason being the location of several helicopter ambulance units at Long Binh. Conversely, when operations were conducted west of Dong Tam toward the Cambodian border, or southward toward the U Minh Forest, the line of air evacuation was stretched to the limit. The only American ambulance unit located in the Delta was at Soc Trang. To offset the complete lack of military hospitals and limited air ambulance capabilities deep in the Delta, there was a

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

## Educational Documentary Captures Red Cross "Donut Dollies" of Vietnam

*During the Vietnam War, 627 adventurous young women threw off society's expectations and headed out to learn what they could do for their country. The American Red Cross "Donut Dollies" were airmobile to the front lines, dropping into dusty firebases and sweaty base camps to bring a listening ear, a silly game, and a friendly smile to combat soldiers. Their year at war armed only with a smile would affect each of them forever. Now, for the first time, their words, home movies, and photographs tell the captivating, extraordinary story of women who made a difference by bringing A Touch of Home to the Combat Zone (<http://www.arrowheadfilms.com/documentary/a-touch-of-home>). GI Film Festival winner. Available on DVD.*



L-R Ray Jones, Bob Coombs, Tom Matyn, Everett Jones, Ben Cueva, David Beckman, and Mike Caughan

## CCB-18 Working Party

The CCB Working Party meets once a month. They do a great job with the CCB. The CCB also is used by the Graduating Class of some of the Spec Warfare Groups. Some of the active sailors have even re-enlisted onboard her. They also have a cook out after each working party for some of the chow hounds interested. Bravo-Zulu to the CCB-18 Working Party. We all appreciate everything you do for the association and have done. *Albert*

*If you would like to be a part of the working party, contact Tom Matyn, [tmatyn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tmatyn@sbcglobal.net).*

## MEDICAL SUPPORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

variety of air ambulance shuttle systems, utilizing air ambulance from the units at Long Binh.

The decision that the MRF should have an enlarged medical treatment and holding capacity was the beginning of the solution. Another aspect of the solution was the deployment of an evacuation hospital at Can Tho. To affect the increased medical mission, many types of boats and ships were considered and, in the end, it was decided to use an APB rather than add another vessel. In December 1967, the APB-36 USS Colleton was sent to Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines to have her sick bay enlarged. The ship was back with the Flotilla in January 1968. Also in January of that year, the medical brigade assigned three personnel to D Co, 9th Medical Battalion. This consisted of one general surgeon and two male nurses.

### Configuration of the USS Colleton Medical Facility

The Colleton now filled an additional role of being an afloat medical facility. The sick bay consisted of three separate areas on three levels of the ship. To allow for easy movement of personnel and material from one level to another, they were interconnected by ramps.

Level one was the flight deck of the ship. It was large enough to allow the landing of any type of helicopter. All approaches were controlled by Navy radio operators, and the landings were made under the direction of the Navy. This, plus the white or red illumination for night landings, provided the helicopter pilots with visual controls and contributed to safer operations. The materials necessary for the direct exchange of litters and blankets were stored on the flight deck.

The triage area was next and immediately below the flight deck. It was reached by way of a two section ramp. This ramp was wide enough for two-way traffic. The ramp's halfway point was large enough to allow litters to be rotated completely, without any stopping or shifting. Outside of the entrance to triage was slightly lower and wounded soldiers were stripped and washed off with warm water at this point. This prevented debris from collecting in the triage room. It also contributed to easier determination of the extent of the injuries. Near the shower on the weather deck was an electric winch. It was rigged to swing out over the side of the ship. This was used to hoist up casualties that arrived by boat (ATCs) shipside or any other type of vessel. The winch and litter combination made it unnecessary to move casualties through narrow passageways and up steep ladder wells. Inside the triage room, there were six treatment positions always set up. More could be easily erected if needed by using litter stands. Liquids, dressings, and other materials were distributed at each treatment point. Medics or corpsman circulated and replenished supplies as they were consumed.

To assist in the rapid diagnosis and treatment of casualties, a 50-mil x-ray unit in a fully shielded enclosure was located in triage. The wide double doors allowed easy entry of litters, and

the automatic plate developer provided rapid evaluations. A blood bank and an autoclave were also located here.

The third area was on the second covered deck of the ship. This air-conditioned area was reached by using a wide single stage ramp, which was attached to the port side of the hull. On this level and grouped about a common passageway, was a two-table surgery, the central material section, storage area, recovery area, ward, pharmacy, and a one-chair dental clinic. Surgery was provided with its own ventilation system to reduce the chances of cross contamination and infection. Central materials section had an autoclave that was operated from

the ship's steam system. When the patient load exceeded the 18 beds available in the primary ward area, additional bed space was obtained by using a portion of the petty officers quarters. This area was just aft of the ward. In addition, some patients were sent to convalesce in their own bunks, located in the troop compartments.

In essence, the entire bed capacity of the Colleton could have been used, which could have been up to 900 beds or bunks if needed. The only limitation were those regarding the ability of the assigned medical personnel to provide the high level of care expected of the Army and Navy medical departments on the Colleton. Any patients sent to the troop compartments were cared for by the battalion medics and returned to sick bay for outpatient treatment and follow-up.

### Joint Force Cooperation

Medical personnel representing unit, division, and army-level medical service, plus the normal medical complement of the ship were quartered on the Colleton. When the infantry battalion troops were not engaged in combat operations, the battalion surgeon and his medics conducted a daily sick call in the troop compartments. If necessary, a man would be referred to sick bay for more extensive treatment. The Navy doctor did the same for the ship's company and boat crews. During any period when casualties were being received from an area of operations, all medical personnel worked as one team. No distinction was made as to branch of service or unit. In these situations, the required professional guidance was provided by the general surgeon, who was an Army Medical Corps Officer. For each operation, a medical evacuation helicopter was placed in support of the 82nd Medical Detachment. The crew stayed on the ship and responded to missions that were handled by the

communication section from D Co. Table I gives a breakdown of all the regularly assigned medical personnel on the Colleton. Not included are the personnel of the infantry battalion medical platoon or the air ambulance crew.

### Measure of Success

The USS Colleton, with her enlarged sick bay, was back in operation only a few days prior to the 1968 TET offensive. The capability of its medical facility can be seen in the following statistics. During the 94-day period between 29 January 1968 and May 1969, the Colleton handled a total of 890 casualties. This represents only the casualties evacuated to the ship and is exclusive of

the daily sick call. Of 890 casualties received, 690 were classified as having received injuries due to hostile action (IRHA). Three hundred forty-five of this group was returned to duty after initial treatment. One hundred thirty-four men were admitted to the ship's ward and completed their

entire course of treatment without leaving the MRF. The remaining 411 casualties were evacuated to the next higher level of medical treatment, after receiving emergency lifesaving treatment and stabilization had been achieved. The evacuation hospital at Long Binh was the usual destination for personnel from the Colleton.

### Discussion

From the beginning of MRF operations in the Delta, several medical support ideas existed. These ideas overlapped not only a number of command lines but also normal boundaries of the levels of medical service. All were aimed at overcoming a distance factor that was reducing the medical support of the MRF. In the final conclusion, the mission stayed with the division medical battalion, a logical selection. By augmentation with the medical brigade personnel and in the presence of the Navy medical complement, the basic deficiency was corrected; there was immediately available for the combat troops a facility capable of performing definitive lifesaving procedures.

In the evolution of the medical support to the MRF, we can see that there was no easy solution and that the measures applied were subject to change. The skill with which the changes were conceived and executed served to point out the close and meaningful communications that existed between all levels of the Medical Departments. In the end, the time honored and proven level of medical service saw the creation of a facility that overlapped the normal parameters in terms of personnel, equipment, and missions. The workable solution, in the form of the USS Colleton medical facility, was important in and of itself, but it also depicts flexibility on the part of the medical support planners in both the Army and Navy Medical Departments. ★

**Table 1.** Medical personnel listed by Army MOS and parent organization

Med Battalion	MOS	9th Med Bn	USN	44th Med Bn
General Surgeon	3150			1
General Medical Officer	3100	1	1	
Dental Officer	3170		1	
Nurse Anesthetist	3438			1
Operating Room Nurse	3445			1
Medical Operating Asst	3506	1		
NCOIC	91Z	1	1	
X-Ray Technician	91P	2	1	
Laboratory Technician	92B	1	1	
Operating Room Tech	91D	2		
Clinical Technician	91C	3		
Pharmacy Specialist	91Q		1	
Senior Medic	91B	9	3	
Dental Assistant	91E		1	
Medical Records Clerk	71G	1		
Radio Operator	05B	3		
Totals		24	10	3







P001 MRF



P002 9th Inf Div



P003 RAD 91



P004 RAD 92

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John LeBorgne for Luis Mora KIA 02/02/67; Roy Littlehales, Gary Richards, Robert Vernes, Charles Lewis KIAs 02/16/67; Gerald Novak KIA 03/02/67; James Novotny, Oscar Nicewander, and Dennis Morrell KIAs 03/20/67; all from Co A 3rd/39th 9th Inf Div  
Willie B. Lloyd for Capt Walter J. Riedemann USN (Ret.)  
Richard MacCullagh for John (Doc) Phillips, HMC, USN (Ret) RivRon 15  
Richard MacCullagh for Chaplain Rene L. Petit, LT, CC, RC, RivRon 13 and 15  
Men of C Co. 4th/47th 1967 for our Brothers KIA 03/19/67 Benito Alaniz; MIA 04/09/67 Ronald P. Schworer; KIA 04/13/67 Charles "Duffy" Black; KIA 05/15/67 Donald M. Peterson; KIA 06/19/67 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 07/11/67 Marion "Butch" Eakins, Elmer F. Kenney, Harold W. King, Philip A. Ferro, George E. Smith; KIA 07/29/67 Cecil B. Bridges; KIA 09/29/67 James M. Sunday; KIA 10/06/67 Gale A. Allridge, Danny D. Burkhead, Charles W. Davis; KIA 11/10/67 Charles W. Grizzle; and KIA 05/06/68 John T. Hoskins  
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A R "Monti" Montillo for William "Bulldog" McLaughlin B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/03/68 and Barry "Butch" Copp B Co 3rd/60th KIA 10/28/68  
Albert Moore for Ralph Tresser CS3 USS Benewah APB-35 (1966-67)  
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Jasper Northcutt for SSGT Henry T. Aragon B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/23/67, SGT James E. Boorman B-2 2nd/47th KIA 08/27/67, SP4 James D. Bronakoski B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, SP4 Michael G. Hartnett B-2 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67, SGT William D. Mize B-2 2nd/47th and 5th/60th KIA 10/28/67, CPL Harold K. Southwick B-2 2nd/47th Inf KIA 03/02/67 (first KIA in B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam), and PFC Robert C. Voltz B-1 2nd/47th Inf (Mech) KIA 03/11/67 (first KIA 1st Platoon B Co. 2nd/47th in Vietnam)  
Roy Spivey for my squad leader Charles "Chuck" Cataldo who fought the good fight in Vietnam, but lost the battle to cancer in November 2010  
Chet "Gunner" Stanley for all the USN and USA KIAs of the MRF (1967-70)  
Ken Sundberg for Michael David Sheahan 5th/60th KIA 02/25/68, Robert L. Conley 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68, and Glenn Dean Taylor 5th/60th KIA 02/01/68  
Robert Sutton for LT James F. Rost Jr. Vin Te Canal Chau Duc KIA 11/69  
Maureen Swenson for James Swenson YFU 76 (Danang, 11/69-08/70) and YTB 785 (Danang and Saigon; 01/71-01/72)  
Robert Thacker for SFC Earl T. Pelhan, Jr., 15th Eng, 9th Inf Div KIA in Delta Lo  
Steven Totcoff for my brother CPL Dennis S. Totcoff B Co 3rd/47th 9th Inf Div KIA 5/2/68  
USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster  
USS Westchester County sailors and soldiers killed and wounded in the mining on November 1, 1968  
Ron and Judy Wallace for all those lost from 3rd/47th Inf  
Gary Williams for Dale Winkler C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (01/68-01/69)  
David Wilson 2nd/60th KIA 08/05/69, Timothy Shelton 4th/39th KIA 06/25/69, Steven Murray 4th/39th KIA 05/26/69, Harvey Crabtree 2nd/4th Arty KIA 06/19/69, and Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn KIA 08/23/69

## TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

Member **James Washington Jr.** passed away October 2, 2012. James served on the USS Fort Marion LSD-22 (1966-68). You may contact the family at 7304 Middlebury Cv, Austin, TX 78723-1532.



**Scharpnick**



**Scharpnick**

Member **Robert (Bobby) Scharpnick** passed away from esophageal cancer February 17, 2013. Bobby was drafted into the Army and served as a squad leader in the 2nd Platoon A Co. 3rd/60th (02/66-11/67) in Vietnam. After military service, he had a career working as an air-conditioning/refrigeration serviceman in New Jersey. Bobby was an avid fisherman and member of the Shark River Yacht Club.



**Hildreth**

Member **Ronald O. Hildreth** passed away January 18, 2013. He served in C Battery 3rd/34th Arty (02/68-02/69). You may contact the family c/o Patricia Hildreth, 2679 Cherrybark Ln, Corona, CA 92881-3531, 951-279-7699.

Member **Richard E. Grambo** passed away January 1, 2013. Richard served in A Co. 4th/47th Inf in 1967. You may contact the family c/o Angela Grambo, 8501 Appaloosa Trl, Kirtland, OH 44094-5147, glitzzy1127@yahoo.com.

Member **Art Streeper** passed away January 22, 2013. Art served on T-91-2 (01/68-02/69). You may contact the family c/o Marcia Streeper, 5020 E North Regency Cir, Tucson, AZ 85711-3037, 520-747-1091.



**Larson**

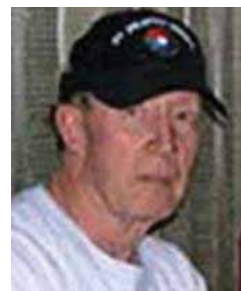
Captain **Rollo R. Larson** passed away from heart problems March 12, 2013. Captain Larson was Charlie Company's first CO of the 4th/47th Infantry when it was formed at Fort Riley. He was transferred 1 year later, May 1967, after we were in-country Vietnam. He was known as an outstanding training officer and a very capable combat commander. I think it's fair to say that all Charlie Company troopers were very fond of Captain Larson. You may contact the family c/o his son Darren Larson, 5510 S Rice Ave Apt 1522, Houston, TX 77081-2150, darren.larson@gmail.com. May Captain Larson rest in peace.



**Senical**

Member **Michael Senical** passed away February 2, 2013. He served in E Co. 4th/47th Inf (1967-68).

You may contact the family c/o Patricia Senical, 13135 Marlstone LN, Charlotte, NC 28215-7032, 704-545-4388.



**Benedick**

Member **Jack Benedick** passed away unexpectedly from an apparent heart failure March 19, 2013. While in Vietnam, Lt. Jack served as an outstanding Infantry Platoon Leader with Charlie and Bravo Companies, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from 1966 to 1968. He also served with 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry. Before retiring, Jack was the only active double amputee infantry officer in the U. S. Army. You may contact the family c/o Nancy Benedick, 651 Golden Eagle Cir, Golden, CA 80401-0909, 303-526-9451.

*All who served under Jack in Charlie Company, as well as Bravo Company, 4th/47th knew that because of his excellent leadership far fewer of his troopers fell in battle. While rehabbing after losing both legs in Vietnam, Lt. Jack went on to learn snow skiing and due to his excellent athleticism and leadership skills he went on to be a major force in establishing USA Paralympics Skiing. Jack received many awards including induction into the US Ski Hall of Fame. Although Lt. Jack lost both legs in Vietnam and suffered mightily from Parkinson's disease in his later years, he never complained, thereby setting the standard for all Vietnam Veterans to live by. Fellow 4/47th Trooper Bill Reynolds*

**Joe Wadlow** passed away from a heart attack in 1999. He served in TF-116 (07/66-07/67). He was residing in Smithville, Missouri, at the time of his passing.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## TAPS Continued from previous page



Hayes

**Thomas L. "Tommy" Hayes** passed away after a hard fought battle with cancer January 24, 2013. Tommy was drafted May 1966 and was one of the "originals" when the 9th Division was activated! He was a great friend, an exceptional soldier, and a wonderful father and husband. Tommy has passed away, but will never be forgotten by his RECON Platoon brothers of the 3rd/47th Inf. You may contact the family c/o Mary Ann Hayes, 707 Daly, Jacksonville, IL 62650.



Nelson

Command Sergeant Major **Rolf Nelson** USA (Ret.) passed away at his home in Germany, January 9, 2013. He served as a trainer for the activation of the 9th Infantry Division and later became the Recon Platoon Sergeant for the 3rd/47th Inf 9th Inf Div. After Vietnam, he became the European US Army Command Sergeant Major. You may contact

the family c/o his daughter Sigrid Owen, 2942 Raymond Road, Twin Lake, MI 49457.

Member **Steven L. Pysher** passed away after battling lung cancer March 7, 2013. Steve served in E Co 2nd Platoon of the 3rd/47th Infantry. You may contact the family c/o Martha Pysher, 5028 Coyote Way NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144-0862, 505-867-2018, mrf60@msn.com.

*He was a good friend of mine. I know he served in the Delta and was at Dong Tam. Anyone who knows him and wishes to contact me via e-mail, please feel free to do so and I will give them any info I can. George Leshner LST-1073 (67-69) snowsnake48@yahoo.com.*

Member **Lester Schneider** passed away March 24, 2013. Lester served on Tango-112-13 on the original crew (04/67-03/68). You may contact the family c/o Mary E. Schneider, 3344 S 69th St., Milwaukee, WI 52319, 414-545-4944, jajoman@sbcglobal.net.

*Tango 13 pulled my boat Tango 3 back to Dong Tam June 6, 1967, when we were blown up on the Xang Canal. Thank you Lester and RIP. Michael Hoks*



Ray

Member **Kenneth S. Ray** GMCM USN (Ret) passed away March 29,

2012. Kenneth served on the USS Vernon County LST-1161 (06/65-09/69). You may contact the family c/o Hisako Ray, 614 N Wyomissing Blvd, Wyomissing, PA 19610-1760, 610-376-2189.



Marling

Member **Charles F. Marling** passed away February 28, 2013. Charlie served on the YRBM-16 (NSA Det Ben Tre, 08/67-08/68) during most of his tour in Vietnam until they were bombed from under the water on Thanksgiving night in 1967. You may contact the family c/o Beverly Diane Marling, 7658 W Surrey Ct, New Palestine, IN 46163-9196, 317-861-4773, scomdm@yahoo.com.



Booth

SFC **Jimmy Lane Booth Sr** USA (Ret) passed away April 21, 2013. He was the sergeant for the 2nd Platoon, C Co. 3rd/47th, when I was its platoon leader from Dec. 1967 to Jan. 1968. Our company Cmdr was Cpt. Matz. Booth finished that first tour as

an MP. Later, after he had completed Ranger training, he returned for a second tour—his time as the leader of a LRRP unit. At one time, he was recognized as one of the most highly decorated NCOs in the 9th Infantry. He cared most about his Ranger tab and his CIB. *John Harrison*



Neary

Member **Timothy J. Neary** passed away April 25, 2012. Tim served on the USS Jamestown AGTR-3 (01/69-12/69). You may contact the family c/o Stella Gayle Malone, 720 Bayshore Dr Apt 403, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304-3903, 954-868-4075.

Member **James "Doc" Parker** passed away May 15, 2012. Doc Parker served in B Co. 3rd platoon of the 3rd/60th Inf (02/68-02/69). You may contact the family c/o Jan Parker, 925 11th St, Huntington, WV 25701-3318, 304-529-4721.

**Max Delacruz** passed away April 22, 2013. Max was in C Co. 3rd/47th Inf (10/66-06/67). You may contact the family c/o Diane Delacruz, 12430 Avondale Rd NE, Redmond, WA 98052-2204, 206-885-1823. Max was a great guy and he will be missed by all who knew him.

**Henry (Hank) Dahm** passed away in 2008. Hank served in RivRon T-131

(1968-69). At the time of his passing he lived in Escanaba, Michigan.



Pujat

Member **Gerard "Jerry" Pujat** passed away April 13, 2011. Jerry served in C Co. 3rd/47th Inf (06/67-06/68). You may contact the family c/o Kathy Pujat, 3991 N 14th St, Phoenix, AZ 85014-5114.



Bryant

SMC **Jimmy Bryant** USN (Ret) passed away March 26, 2013. Jimmy served on PBR's Task Force 116. You may contact the family c/o Dorothy Bryant, 6289 Memphis-Arlington Rd, Bartlett, TN 38135-2484. Jimmy was the author of the book *Man on The River* on his time on the PBRs.

Member **James Swenson** USN (Ret.) passed away November 23, 2010. James served on YFU 76 (Danang, 11/69-08/70) and YTB 785 (Danang and Saigon, 01/71-01/72). You may contact the family c/o Maureen Swenson, 96 Maple St, Lynn, MA 01904-2426, 781-592-9174.

## From the Membership

## Seeking Info

My dad was Herman David Robinson of A Co. 4th/47th Inf, 9th Inf Div KIA, August 24, 1968, from LaGrange, Georgia. My dad lost his life 7 days after my 1st birthday, so I never knew him or much about his life.

I am interested in hearing from anyone that knew him that wouldn't mind sharing some memories they have of him.

Thank you. Jeff Robinson, 2164 Forrest Place NW, Atlanta, GA 30318, 404-805-4632, jrobinson@actiontireco.com.

*The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave... -Patrick Henry*

Your membership expiration date is printed on your **River Currents** just above your name and address.

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