



# River Currents



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

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## From the Galley

Hope you all are staying inside with some cool air and beating this hot weather we are having throughout the country.

The reunion is right around the corner and I hope to see and meet every one who's attending.

I thought I would give you a medical update on two of our board members:

Board Member Richard Corrick, who served on ATC (Refueler) 112-1 (1966-68), is having some health issues. Due to these issues, Rich has given up his position as the keeper, curator, and driver of our Mobile Museum.

The trailer was Rich's idea. He had help from a few members and because of your support, the trailer has become something we are all proud of. Rich ran with the idea. He put his heart and soul in the trailer from the very beginning and did an outstanding job for us.

Rich (a/k/a Big Daddy) has become a fixture at all our reunions with his white beard and big smile on his face. He sits outside the museum holding court. Rich is plank owner of the MRFA. He was the first Brown Water Sailor I had met since Vietnam when he visited Sara and me in 1991. He was instrumental in getting the Association up and running. Now it's time to thank you, Rich, for all the years of dedicated service you have given to the MRFA. You may contact Rich at 2964 Minetree Pynes, Haw River, NC 27258, 336-263-7080; orttlc@aol.com.

Rich hopes to see each and every one of you at the reunion. A great big thank you and a bigger Bravo Zulu goes out to a great friend and brother... Hang in there my brother; we are all praying for you and Miss Patty... Albert

Board Member Bob "Tango Daddy" VanDruff is turning over his position as Products Chairman. Bob, along with his wife, Nancy, have been handling the Association's products since 1996. We could not have asked for a better couple to be in charge of the products. A few years back, Bob had colon cancer, had surgery, and had been cancer-free for five years. The doctors told Bob there was only a 2% chance of the cancer coming

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## Riverine Warfare on the Rach Nui

by Shannon Hanson

The Army and Navy came together June 19, 1967, for the Mobile Riverine Force's first major operation. In early 1967, the Army's 2nd Brigade 9th Infantry Division joined forces with Navy's River Assault Flotilla One to form the Mobile Riverine Force (MRF), a joint operation in which the Navy provided the mobility and the Army provided the force.

The MRF's first major operation, code named Operation Concordia 1, was launched June 19, 1967. Its objective was to capture a large enemy redoubt that provided local forces with rest and training camps near Can Giuoc, 17 miles south of Saigon, in the Mekong Delta.

That morning the 2nd Brigade's 4th Bn 47th Inf Regt. landed north and east of the objective, while two companies of the 3rd Bn, 47th Inf. landed north and west. Both battalions were to sweep the northern area, then assemble and move south together.

During the troop movement, a call came in that the Viet Cong's 5th battalion had been sighted in the southeast section of the redoubt. C Company 4th Bn. and C Company 3rd Bn. secured the site, but found no VC.

The final phase of the operation had A Co, 4th Bn. linking up with C Company 4th Bn. several kilometers to the south. Instead of hacking through the



*Troops of the 9th Infantry Division carry the body of a comrade aboard a Mobile Riverine Force assault boat. The division's 2nd Brigade began operating with the Navy in 1967 from a base call Dong Tam near My Tho in the Mekong River Delta.*

vegetation along the banks of the Rach Nui River, A Company chose to wade across the rice paddies. Several hours of trudging through 10-inch deep water and thick mud wore on the soldiers. They let their guard down and made the fatal error of bunching up.

Unbeknownst to the soldiers, VC were hidden in well camouflaged bunkers and spider holes in the area. They had organized an L-shaped ambush within the tree line of spiny green mangrove palms. A Company neared the cluster of thatched huts that sat at the elbow on the L around noon, and the VC opened up, catching the soldiers in a vicious "nowhere to go" crossfire.

Chaplain Lt. Raymond "Padre" Johnson watching the advancing GIs from the medical aid boat, saw

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## Veterans Day - 2011 - Washington, DC

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, on Veterans Day, Friday, November 11, 2011. We will be gathering at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial at 8:30 a.m. on the 11th and proceed to The Wall at 9:00 a.m.

We have blocked 40 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8-11 (check out on 11/12). Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 1-703-528-4444 and refer to our group reservation



*Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza, Arlington, VA*

code "MRFA." Reservations may also be made online at [www.arlingtoncourthouse.gardeninn.com](http://www.arlingtoncourthouse.gardeninn.com). Be sure to enter the online reservation code "MRFA" in the booking box labeled Group/Convention code. Reservations under these group codes must be made before the cutoff date of October 18, 2011, so make

your reservations soon.

The Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza is located at 1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201.

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will have a hospitality room available on November 9, 10, and 11.

Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2011.

We look forward to seeing you in DC.

For more information, contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries  
Phone: 533-659-4974  
E-mail: [priesr1@att.net](mailto:priesr1@att.net)

**RIVERINE WARFARE**

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the ambush unfold. "Suddenly the VC opened up from an L-shaped tree line with machine guns and recoilless rifles--unbelievably accurate fire... just too unreal to grasp. I had first-hand experience with the fury of action but nothing like this."

**"We had nowhere to go. We just dove into the water. The soldiers tried to stay down, but they had to keep their heads above water to breathe. Snipers began picking them off one by one..."**

In his book, "Brown Water Black Berets," LCDR Thomas J. Cutler wrote, "In horror he {Johnson} saw men thrown down before him, lacerated by enemy fire, falling bullets, and bodies turned the usual calm pools of paddy water into miniature storm wracked seas."

PFC Frederick Haag recalled, "We had nowhere to go. We just dove into the water. The soldiers tried to stay down, but they had to keep their heads above water to breathe. Snipers began picking them off one by one."

Conditions continued to worsen. Soon as the tide came in, immersing the men in neck deep water, casualties quickly mounted. "I had approximately 50 men wounded," Capt Robert L. Reeves said "Some of them died almost instantly."

When reinforcements arrived, B Company came up behind A Company to evacuate the wounded. Medical evacuation helicopters made valiant rescue efforts, losing four choppers shot down by nightfall.

The MRF maneuvered into block enemy escape routes. They unleashed 20- and 40-mm

cannon fire as well as .30- and .50-caliber rounds into the VC positions. Handheld weapons were fired from quarters, aircraft dropped ordnance, and Army artillery pounded relentlessly.

Men of C Company attacked mid-afternoon, but were forced to back off. They joined a two company attack when the rest of the 4th Battalion arrived but failed. After nightfall, they attacked a third time, penetrating the complex, but had to pull back once again.

Chaplain Johnson watched an already wounded soldier get hit again by enemy fire. He ran out into the paddy to bring the man to safety. "Padre, they're bleeding to death," the young man panted. "Medics are all dead." So Johnson and two others grabbed stretchers and went out to bring the wounded men back to the medical aid boat.

Later after additional rescue parties were operating, Johnson tended to GIs on the paddy. Twice, the men he was helping were hit by fire.

The only thing that prevented a complete disaster was the arrival of converted WW-II landing craft the GIs called Monitors after the (Civil War vessel) then described by *Time* magazine, "As gunboats that can slither along like water moccasins in shallow inlets and stand up to direct hits from recoilless rifles. They came in behind the VC positions using 40-mm cannon and 81-mm mortars to chop the camouflaging trees down and expose the enemy."

"The monitors came right in on top of them," Reeves said. "Their firepower saved us. It was pretty bad." Navy Lt. Augustine Marana, aboard one of the monitors, recalled, "We kept laying the fire in, and chopped the trees down.

Although the battle would last into the night,



**The Army and Navy came together June 19, 1967, for the Mobile Riverine Force's first major operation. A Viet Cong (VC) ambush in a rice paddy claimed 48 American lives.**

the monitors arrival turned the tide for the Riverine Force. By morning, the remaining VC were gone, an off-site Navy decision to pull back the gunboats before nightfall allowed them to escape across the Rach Nui River. Regardless, according to Cutler, "The Viet Cong were rendered ineffective in Long An Province for more than a year."

Chaplain Johnson, who was awarded the Silver Star for his actions, described June 19 as "the longest day of my life."

He was not the only hero that day; Spec. 4 Noel T. West was posthumously awarded the Silver Star.

The medic with A Company according to his citation completely disregarded his own safety. "Bullets pounded the ground and filled the air around him. West dashed from casualty to casualty, rendering aid that in several cases proved to be of a life-saving nature. Hostile machine gun fire sprayed the rice paddy, and West, while aiding yet another wounded soldier, was hit and mortally wounded. West gave his life so that others may live."♦



**Monitors Saved the Day**

# Padre Ray Johnson

by River Currents Staff

What I recorded in my book and I am not sure where I got all this info but believe I located their citations and both men were given Bronze Stars later, is that Navy Chaplain Raymond "Padre" Johnson asked for volunteers and Boatswain's Mate Third Class C. O. "Swede" Johnson (no relation to Padre) and Engineman Second Class M. W. "Red" Dolezal from Tango 92-7 both stepped forward and the three dashed off into the valley of death and a fourth man, who was slightly wounded and in the mist of wounded, volunteered to help carry the two stretchers out with two critically wounded onboard. Padre was WIA in his legs the first trip and they found a group of WIA huddle up together. After they returned to the medical aid station set up at the Tango boat, Padre looked over and both Swede and Red were shaking from the fear of surviving the ordeal and Padre seeing this comforted both men and said, "It's alright, you guys stay here," and Padre went back alone and was wounded in the chest on the second trip but after returning another wounded man, he ran back again. We are not sure how many times he went into the valley of death, but it was multiple times and nobody could believe he was still walking and not killed by the tremendous amount of fire going both ways. There were several gunners on the Tango trying to lay down cover fire for the Padre and they were stunned watching the Padre and what seemed to be a suicide mission. Commanding Officer Ray Riesco of RivDiv 111, who was taking continuous bunker fire to his own boat, said that each time he watched Padre Johnson move back to the field, he felt for sure that he would not make it. Yet each time, Padre did and stayed at the Tango only long enough to help care for the wounded before returning to the rice paddy again. It seemed impossible to Riesco that Johnson survived the ordeal, "He must have had two Angels protecting and guiding him," said Riesco. BM3 C. O. "Swede" Hanson and EN2 M. W. "Red" Dolezal were awarded Bronze Stars for their actions that day. ♦

## FROM THE GALLEY

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back. Last week at his checkup, Bob was told that the cancer had returned.

Bob will be having surgery shortly. He was planning to turn over the Products Chairman position at the reunion. He and Nancy love to travel in their RV, and they were planning on more time on the road. That's now on hold until he recuperates from his surgery.

The Products Chairman position is one of the most difficult positions to hold in the Association. Bob and Nancy, with some help from their daughter, Carrie, have done a great job for us. They have always been appreciated.

Its members like Rich and Bob that have made our Association what it is today. A big THANK YOU and a Bigger Bravo Zulu go out to a great friend and brother. You may contact Bob at 2906 SE Starlite Dr., Topeka, KS 66605; 785-267-1526; bvdmrfa@cox.net. Bob served on Tango boats 91-5 and 92-4 (1968-69). Hang in there, my brother; we are all praying for you and Miss Nancy. We will miss Bob and Nancy at this year's reunion.

The new Products Chairman will be Chet "Gunner" Stanley.

The Mobile Museum driver is Bruce Graff. Bruce served as an MM3 on USS Passumpsic AO-107 (07/65-10/68).



# Operation Concordia

## View Point of Delta Troop (Air Calvary), 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Calvary, 9th Infantry Division

By Evans "Sonny" Kayser  
(Huey Gunship Pilot)--July 7, 2011

### Brief History of Delta Troop

Delta Troop was the Air Cavalry Unit of the 3/5 Armored Calvary. The Troop's makeup was Headquarters, Gunship Platoon (Crusaders), Air Lift Platoon (Long Knives), Aero Scout Platoon (Spooks), and a Maintenance Platoon (Scavengers), plus an in-house Infantry Platoon (Doughboys). When Delta Troop became activated and ready to involve itself in the war, the Commanding General of the 9th Infantry Division separated D Troop from the Armored Calvary Squadron and made it a ready reaction force, to fly counter mortar for the Brigades stationed at Tan An and Dong Tam, work in tandem with the Infantry Brigades on major assaults, and other chosen missions G2 decided were necessary. Since our Aero Scout Platoon consisted of Korean vintage OH-23G aircraft that were not armed with fixed weapons, they were utilized as Division taxis for the most part. Thus was the role of D Troop 3/5 Armored Calvary.

### Involvement in Operation Concordia I

On 19 June 1967, at approximately 1400-1500 hours, a Crusader Fire team led by then Captain Sam Slaughter departed Bear Cat base camp in route to Tan An to fly counter mortar for that evening. Our fire team consisted of two UH-1C gunships armed with the M-21 system (2 mini-guns and 2 7 round 2.75 rocket pods plus 2 M-60 machine guns in the doors). I, 1st Lt. Sonny Kayser, was flying as Capt. Slaughter's pilot and Capt. Paul Osterlin was aircraft commander of our second gunship. As we departed Bear Cat, our flight was routine. Approximately 30 minutes into our flight, Capt. Slaughter received a radio call from the 3rd Brigade S-3 advising that units from the 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division had been ambushed<sup>1</sup> by enemy units and were taking extreme heavy fire. He was

further advised that the American troops had sustained heavy casualties and needed immediate assistance. Capt. Slaughter was given radio frequencies of the units as well as the coordinates of their location to which we immediately proceeded.

As we headed towards the area, Capt. Slaughter made radio contact with one of the units on the ground and could tell immediately from the background noise on the radio that there was one hell of a battle going on by the screaming, the ground fire, and chaos, plus the difficulty of trying to get someone to



Captain Bob Groff, 1st Lt. Wayne Lovell, and their Maint Sgt. Tan An, South Vietnam

talk to him. It was apparent to Capt. Slaughter from his listening to the chatter on the radio, that some of the officers had been killed or severely wounded. To quote Capt. Slaughter, "I think the person that initially spoke with me was not an officer but a non-commissioned officer. He did a great job while clearly under tremendous pressure." Capt. Slaughter added, "After some time and difficulty, someone got us



1st Lt. Evans "Sonny" Kayser, Captain Sam Slaughter, and 1st Lt. Al Orgain (whose tour of duty ended prior to June 19, 1967).

oriented on the friendly and enemy locations, and we rolled in firing our weapon systems. We were stunned by the volume and the different locations from which we received enemy ground fire and also by the heavy caliber of the machine gun fire. Some of it was probably 50 caliber. My God, My God ..... were my thoughts as I said aloud (I will never forget).... the troops are in awful trouble!"

As we were about to make our next gun run, we saw a Med-Evac helicopter that was loaded with wounded, attempt to take off. As the Med-Evac lifted, he took significant enemy fire, turned upward at an 80-90 degree angle, climbed to an estimated 150 feet, rolled to his right, and crashed with all onboard. As we were making our second run, one of our lift aircraft commanded by Capt. Jerry Brown and WO Ron Ferguson, landed and immediately had wounded troops loaded onboard and barely made it out of the LZ. Capt. Brown's aircraft sustained numerous hits.

After our fire team made several firing passes, during which we took several hits to our aircraft, we climbed south of the area to regroup and take stock of the situation. Capt. Slaughter then made an emergency blanket call on the UHF emergency guard radio frequency, declared a tactical emergency, troops in contact and requested fire support from any capable aircraft with the appropriate weapons systems. Just prior to Capt. Slaughter making this emergency radio call, he instructed me to contact our operations back at Bear Cat and have a minimum of two more fire teams scrambled to our location.

The response from other combat aircraft was remarkable. Helicopter gunships and Air Force tactical aircraft were calling in and coming from everywhere. At one point, there must have been a dozen aircraft waiting to attack. Capt. Slaughter set up a line of aircraft that extended several miles to the south and set up what we call a "Daisy Chain," directing their fire as they rolled in to the north firing on the enemy positions. The aircraft were instructed to break right to the east after they made their firing run, then circle to the south and then back toward

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<sup>1</sup> After action reports reveal that Alpha Company, 4th/47th was indeed ambushed. However, the primary objective by means of an infantry battalion size search and destroy mission was to make contact and eliminate elements of the 5th Nha Be Viet Cong force. At the battle's conclusion, approximately 250 Viet Cong lay dead while U.S. Infantry units suffered 47 soldiers "killed in action" and numerous others wounded.

## Slain Ex-Tacoma GI Awarded Silver Star

Noel T. West, a former resident of Tacoma who was killed in action in Vietnam last June, has been posthumously awarded the Silver Star, headquarters of the 9th Inf Div in San Francisco, reported Saturday. West served with the 4th Battalion, 47th Inf of the 9th Div. Before he entered the Army, he was employed as a funeral director by the Mountain View Funeral Home. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. James West, former Tacoma residents, now live in Wendell, Idaho. A brother, Kurt, lives in Tacoma. The official document announcing the posthumous award included the following statement:

"Spec. 4 Noel T. West distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions 19 June 1967, while serving as a medical corpsman with his unit on a search-and-destroy mission near the village of Can Giouc, Vietnam. As the allied force was traversing a muddy rice paddy, they were met by a hail of automatic and semi-automatic fire from a well-entrenched Viet Cong force concealed in a clump of trees. Immediately upon receiving fire, West, in complete disregard for his own safety, began to treat the wounded. As bullets pounded the ground and filled the air around him, West dashed from casualty to casualty, rendering aid that in several cases proved to be of a life-saving nature. Hostile machine gun fire sprayed the rice paddy, and West, while aiding yet another wounded soldier, was hit and mortally wounded. West gave his life in order that others might live; he was an inspiration to the men around him. West's heroic actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflected great credit upon himself, the 9th Infantry Div., and the United States Army."

Tacoma News Tribune, Tacoma, Washington, 11 Nov 1967

# About the 60th Infantry Battalion

The colors black, white, and red represent engagements against Germany.

The wavy pale represents the Meuse River, the crossing of which near Dun in November 1918 was a notable operation of the regiment.

The red diamond is the insignia of the 5th Infantry Division, with whom the regiment participated in World War I.

**Shield:** Sable with pale wavy argent charged with fusil gules: on a canton embattled of the second, a field gun on the third on a mount vert.

**Crest:** On a wreath of the colors argent and sable, a clenched dexter arm proper.

The Canon represents the 7th Infantry Regiment who provided personnel for the original constitution of the regiment.

The crest and motto symbolize the spirit of the regiment during the Meuse crossing and guides for the future conduct of the regiment.

**Motto:** To the Utmost Extent of Our Power.



Coat of Arms

## Lineage of the 60th infantry

- Constituted 15 May 1917 in the Regular Army as the 60th Infantry
- Organized 10 June 1917 at Gettysburg National Park, Pennsylvania
- Assigned 17 November 1917 to

- the 5th Division
- Inactivated 2 September 1921 at Camp Jackson, South Carolina
- Relieved 15 August 1927 from assignment to the 5th Division and assigned to the 8th Division
- Relieved 1 October 1933 from assignment to the 8th Division and assigned to the 5th Division
- Relieved 16 October 1939 from assignment to the 5th Division
- Assigned 1 August 1940 to the 9th Division (later redesignated as the 9th Infantry Division)
- Activated 10 August 1940 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina
- Inactivated 30 November - 28 December 1946 in Germany
- Activated 15 July 1947 at Fort Dix, New Jersey
- Relieved 1 December 1957 from assignment to the 9th Infantry Division and reorganized as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System

- Withdrawn 16 June 1986 from the Combat Arms Regimental System and reorganized under the United States Army Regimental System
- Transferred 15 April 1996 to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

## Campaign Participation Credit World War I

- St. Mihiel
- Meuse-Argonne
- Alsace 1918
- Lorraine 1918

## World War II

- Algeria-French Morocco (with arrowhead)
- Tunisia
- Sicily
- Normandy
- Northern France
- Rhineland
- Ardennes-Alsace
- Central Europe

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## MRFA Summary Report: April 1967

### Mobile Riverine Force Summary ComRivFlot One/ComRivSuppron - Seven Command History April 1967

During April, ComRivFlot One with units of RivRon Nine and Eleven continued to support the 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 2nd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division in combat riverine operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone, RVN.

Embarked as follows:

**1-26 April** – USS Montrose (APA-212)

**26-30 April** – USS Benewah (APB-35)

A RivFlotOne detachment headed by CDR C. H. Black, USN, RivFlot Operations/Plans Officer, proceeded to Dong Tam on 10 and 11 April. CDR Black was designated Task Group Commander (CTG-117.2) for river assault operations staging from Dong Tam. Elements of River Assault Squadron Nine also deployed to Dong Tam in two increments on 10 and 11 April 1967. One CCB and four ATCs made transit from Vung Tau to Dong Tam on 10 April, and nine ATCs and one VNN Monitor escorted APL-26 and YFNB-24, which were towed by commercial tugs, on 11 April. Initial operations from Dong Tam commenced on 12 April in support of 3rd Battalion, 47th Infantry and 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry. Task Group 117.2 operations to date have been primarily of the quick reaction type. Taking advantage of hard intelligence gained from agent reports, elements of TG-117.2 have embarked company-sized reaction forces at Dong Tam and transported them to various locations along the Mekong River. River Assault Craft conducting these operations normally remain in support of ground forces until they are extracted. This type of operation has proved highly successful to date.

On Sunday, 2 April, the Vietnamese Commandant suffered a near miss from mining.

The resulting violent vibration caused considerable structural deterioration, including some main strength members and void bulkheads. This damage was not immediately apparent, but was discovered upon its return to APA-212.

USS Kemper County (LST-854) arrived in Vung Tau 14 April and reported for duty as the first Mobile Riverine Support Ship.

USS Benewah (APB-35) arrived at 1315, 22 April 1967. Transfer of the staff, RAS-11, and Army units were completed by 26 April 1967.

A conference regarding the medical support for the Mobile Riverine Base was held aboard the USS Benewah on 26 April with the following commands being represented:

44th Medical Brigade  
68th Medical Brigade  
9th Medical Battalion, 9th Infantry  
River Assault Flotilla One

After inspection of the helicopter landing facilities and the medical spaces of the ship, the Army representatives concluded that the facilities were inadequate for the functioning of a KA-type surgical team. They further concluded that the present available medical staff in each APB would be augmented by one partly trained surgeon. Cases requiring definitive surgery as a result of injuries should be evacuated by helicopter to shore-based medical facilities. ComRivFlot One does not concur completely with this position. These recommendations are to be submitted to higher authority for resolution.

USS Benewah (APB-35) conducted its first helicopter operations when a U.S. Army HU-1D, piloted by a USN LTJG (considered fitting), landed onboard on 26 April. Benewah was assisted in its initial operations by the helicopter detail of USS Jennings County (LST-846). ComRivFlot One was a confident passenger on

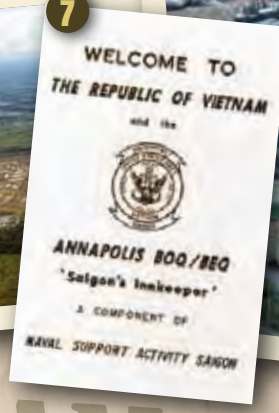
the first helicopter take off from the Benewah when he departed to attend ComNavForV change of command ceremonies in Saigon. On 27 April, eight operational landings and take-offs were accomplished and on 28 April an additional six landings and take-offs were completed. A steady stream, day and night since.

On 29 April, helicopter MEDEVAC procedures were tested in Vung Tau harbor utilizing two RivRon Eleven ATCs and an HU-1D MEDEVAC helo from the 436th Air Ambulance Company, Long Binh. Trials were conducted lifting stokes stretchers from the ATC utilizing winch-lifting device installed in the helo. Results indicate that MEDEVAC from an ATC in this manner is entirely feasible. Both day and night tests were conducted.

*The following is a summarized list of  
U.S. designed LCM conversions in-country  
as of 30 April 1967*

RivRon Nine	RivRon Nine	RivRon Eleven
C-91-1	T-92-1	T-111-1
M-91-1	T-92-2	T-111-3
M-92-2	T-92-3	T-111-4
T-91-1	T-92-4	T-112-2
T-91-2	T-92-5	T-112-3
T-91-3	T-92-6	T-112-4
T-91-5	T-92-9	T-112-5
T-91-7	T-92-10	T-112-6
T-91-8	T-92-11	
T-91-9	T-92-12	
	T-92-13	





from Don Blankenship's Web Site

- 1 Annapolis BOQ/BEQ, every sailor's first stop in Saigon after arrival at Tan Son Nhut Air Base (photo courtesy of Kent Hawley) A gung-ho class of 37 sailors arrives in Vietnam on February 14, 1969. Only 364 days and a wake up to go. On the way over on the plane, the class broke out in song to cut the ice of flying into the unknown. The song was "Proud Mary" by Credence Clearwater Revival. The "Rolling on the River" lyric made it an appropriate theme song.
- 2 Near the Annapolis BOQ/BEQ (photo courtesy of Doug Lindsey YRBM-17 [March 1967])
- 3 Bombing of Annapolis Hotel
- 4 On July 10, 1969, the Annapolis Hotel survived a bombing attempt. Above are some pictures (courtesy of Joe Rosner) of that bombing. If you remember the incident, please e-mail me at rivervet@cox.net.
- 5 Cholon Exchange (photo courtesy of Doug Lindsey YRBM-17) Occasionally, while in Saigon there was the visit to the Cholon Exchange. I think many a Sansui, Pioneer, or other brand music systems, cameras, etc., were purchased here at great prices and forwarded home.

- 6 Dong Tam (photo courtesy of Howard Kramer) A night or so in Saigon and we are transported by helicopter to Dong Tam, about five miles west of My Tho along the north bank of the My Tho River. In the above photo of Dong Tam, the Navy portion of the base is near the bay and closest to the river. The balance and larger portion of the base, the area to the right of the bay, was occupied by the Army's 9th Infantry. Most of the ground on which the base was built was dredged from the small bay adjacent to the river. Several dredges were sunk in getting this base constructed. Note the ships in the river. That's the MRB (mobile riverine base), made up of a number of support ships (<http://www.rivervet.com/mrfhisto.htm>). See the map of the Dong Tam area (<http://www.rivervet.com/mapmytho.htm>) for our transit route up the Cho Gao Canal to the Vam Co River and to our rendezvous with our first boat (A-111-3) along side the LST Harnett County just south

of the village of Ben Luc along the right arm of a fork of the Vam Co called the Song Vam Co Dong River. This right fork along with the left fork, the Song Vam Co Tay River, formed the image of a slingshot, hence the name, Operation Giant Slingshot, our first in which we participated in Vietnam. During the transit up the Cho Gao Canal, we were introduced to the war in short order. Our first fire fight commenced as the convoy was ambushed while passing the village of Cho Gao. As I recall, the site of the old church was where most of the fire was coming. After returning fire for only a short time, we moved on. It generally was not our policy to shoot up (mostly) friendly villages. Five were wounded in the fire fight and dusted off (taken away by helicopter). We became quickly indoctrinated into the war of No Fire and Free Fire Zones, only the enemy wasn't always playing with the same rules. One thing we learned quickly was that someone was definitely trying to kill us. When we obtained our Black Berets, we were now able adhere to the tradition of cutting the tale ribbon loop since we now had been involved in our first fire fight.

- 7 Brochure from the Annapolis BOQ/BEQ (photo courtesy of Doug Lindsey YRBM-17 [March 1967])

## OPERATION CONCORDIA CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the target area again firing to the north. Our fire team directed the other aircraft fire by attacking and marking the enemy positions with our own weapons system and then by marking enemy positions with smoke grenades after our ammunition was expended. As our fuel was getting to a point that we needed to refuel and rearm, Capt. Slaughter turned over control to another Crusader fire team and we departed to the airstrip at Tan An. Once rearmed and refueled, we

returned and Capt. Slaughter reassumed command. In a report that Capt. Slaughter wrote, he stated the following:

*"You fear shooting friendlies more than death itself. I can say now after having flown helicopters two full tours in Vietnam combat with the Air Cavalry doing this same kind of stuff, this was one of the most complicated and difficult combat operations I have ever supported while under fire. We had been thrown into a large battle, and we had become an aerial operations center."*

The friendlies were in several

different ground locations, and their positions changed as the battle progressed, making safe fire support scary as hell and difficult with which to stay oriented. (Later when nightfall came this was an absolute gut-wrenching nightmare.) We were marking enemy targets for the air support that we had generated including tactical air and were constantly focused upon keeping their fire on the enemy positions and away from the friendlies on the ground. We were adjusting artillery and at the same time keeping supporting aircraft clear of all this friendly fire

support, tactical air, and the artillery. The ground troops were also firing artillery making our contact and coordination with the artillery support vital to ensure all the aircraft remained clear of friendly fire. We were communicating on FM, UHF, and VHF radio frequencies at the same time and constantly changing frequencies to coordinate activities on the ground and in the air. Our fire was effective. Lt. Kayser's rocket fire was routing many enemy positions from their bunkers, and we killed dozens when they ran in the open as well.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**OPERATION CONCORDIA**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Our firing had generated numerous secondary explosions that continued to burn. We stretched our fuel each trip (marking targets) until we later lost most all of our air support which started leaving us as it became dark.

At the same time, we had wounded friendlies on the ground, and we were constantly escorting medical evacuation helicopters in and out of the area under tremendous ground fire and trying to keep them clear of all the friendly fire too. We already had four helicopters shot down and many other aircraft leave the area with serious battle damage. We knew that we also had sustained aircraft hits and damage to our own aircraft, but all our instruments were staying in the green. So we continued on station because of the troop's dire situation. Our whole crew was well aware of this situation.

In the meantime, our lift platoon, "Long Knives," made runs bringing much needed ammunition and taking out the wounded. 1st Lt. Wayne Lovell wrote, "I had made several trips into them (in several different helicopters) carrying ammo in and WIAs out. Bob, Capt. Robert Groff, brought the maintenance officer's helicopter out to wherever we were flying in and out of (I think it was the last thing flyable we had left at Bear Cat) and we went back in and lost the tail rotor on takeoff. A Dust-off crashed on landing right after we did and they quit trying to fly in until things settled down some. The door gunner took a bullet in the hand and was sent home. We spent a few hours (seemed like days) on the ground and when they got us out they dumped us off at Hotel 3." What 1st Lt. Lovell did not say was that while he and Capt. Groff were on the ground, they distributed ammo, moved the wounded to secure locations for possible extraction, and on occasion, picked up an M-16 and fired at enemy positions. Capt. Bob Groff (killed on his second tour) was awarded the DSC for his actions on

the ground and the CIB. 1st Lt. Lovell received a Purple Heart and DFC I believe. ♦

**Final Note:** Impressed upon all helicopter pilots was the fact that our sole mission was to support, assist, and defend our brothers on the ground. It is said, "War is Hell" and only those who have experienced combat can truly understand that very short phrase. We, the pilots of Delta Troop, 3rd Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry

*In Capt. Slaughter's report, he wrote:*

"As night fall came, we lost most all of our aerial fire support. The battlefield smoke and haze that covered the area was now much worse, and the onset of darkness made fire support almost impossible. We no longer had to direct other aircraft toward the targets. We were essentially alone with the artillery and the troops (a disappointing situation), but we now had a better sense of the enemy and friendly locations. So we began to speed up our flights to and from Tan An air strip, fortunately just a short few minutes away, where we rearmed and refueled. We did "hot rearming and refueling," that is without shutting down the aircraft to rearm and refuel to expedite the return trip. We did this all night long, flying to and from the battle sight. As most gunship pilots realize, you run out of ammunition before you run out of fuel unless you conserve. There was not much need for ammunition conservation because we were so close (just a few minutes) to our well stocked ammunition supplies at Tan An. We rapidly fired loads of ammunition on the enemy going back and forth to rearm as quickly as possible. In those 2 days of constant battle, we logged 11.4 hours of flight time mostly during darkness (I later realized we actually flew much longer.) Our flight time while directly engaged in actual combat was estimated to be 10 hours. We only shut our aircraft down a few times during the entire battle because of the urgency to rearm, refuel, and get back to help the troops, and then, we shutdown only to check for battle damage. Inspecting for damage was not very effective because at night at the unlit dirt strip we could only see what damage the numerous bullet holes might have done under the aircraft cowlings using flashlights. We over flew required timed aircraft maintenance checks and inspections that, if not completed by aircraft maintenance, would normally ground the aircraft. Aware of the extreme emergency, the whole crew, pilots included, constantly rushing helped with physical reloading and rearming of the aircraft weapons systems each time we landed.

Soon after daylight on 20 June 1967, our gun team was replaced and we went back to Bear Cat."

*Regiment, and 9th Infantry Division know firsthand the price that our brothers on the ground paid. If we in any way saved a brother's life, then everything we did was absolutely worth it! And, MOST OF US WOULD DO IT AGAIN!!*

*It should also be noted that Capt. Sam Slaughter was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during Operation Concordia and it was justly deserved.*

*Your Brother in Arms,  
Elmore Evans (Sonny) Kayser*

**Veterans' Benefits: Part I**

by Member MRFA Board Member and Unit Historian Mike Harris, VSR/VVA

**Checklist for Widows/  
Widowers/Children  
Following a Veteran's Death  
DD-214**

Besides the veteran's death certificate, this is the most important document to have available following the passing of a veteran. Make sure you have a copy in your file. The Veterans Administration will also have a copy (800-827-1000).

If you cannot locate the document, request a copy at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

**Burial Allowance**

## ♦ How Much Does VA Pay?

You may be eligible for a VA burial allowance if you paid for a veteran's burial or funeral, AND you have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other

source, such as the deceased veteran's employer, AND the veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

## ♦ Service-Related Death

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

## ♦ Nonservice-Related Death

VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001. The plot-interment allowance is \$150 for deaths prior to December 1, 2001. If the death happened while the veteran was in

Throughout the years I have composed a list of the following that VA often does not make clear:

1. Benefits that come into play when a veteran is rated 100% Schedular or via Individual Unemployability.
2. Benefits and guidance for Widows and Widowers of Veterans. It is very wise to prepare a file for a spouse so that he/she will be able to maneuver through the VA process and other benefits, following the death of a Veteran. Print these (2) documents and place them in it along with other key information. Also place the name and contact information of a trusted Veteran Service Officer who will be able to assist.

Feel free to share this list with as many folks as possible. The more knowledge we have the better off we will be.

Warm Regards,  
Mike Harris

Personal: [www.riverinesailor.com](http://www.riverinesailor.com) | Webmaster: [www.mrfa.org](http://www.mrfa.org)  
Webmaster: [www.pointman101.org](http://www.pointman101.org) | [mekong152@charter.net](mailto:mekong152@charter.net)

a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

There are other stipulations and criteria. Usually a funeral home will assist with this benefit. The VA Form 21-530 is found here <http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/>

VBA-21-530-ARE.pdf.

**Full Military Honors**

Discuss this matter with the funeral home director (<http://www.militaryfuneralhonors.osd.mil/intro.html>).

**Death Pension**

Application for "Dependency

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

**VETERANS INFORMATION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

and Indemnity Compensation" (DIC), "Death Pension" and "Accrued Benefits" by a Surviving Spouse and/or Child is on the VA Form 21-534 (<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-534-ARE.pdf>). The eligibility and explanation of benefits are detailed on this form. When it is filed, all three facets will be considered and adjudicated by VA.

♦ If a veteran was rated Permanently and Totally (P&T) disabled by the VA and passed away of a "service-connected" (SC) disability or disabilities, or a SC disability or disabilities contributed substantially to his/her death, then the spouse/children may be eligible for "Dependency and Indemnity Compensation"

(DIC). The DIC Compensation rate is found at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/comp03.htm#BM07>.

♦ If a veteran was P&T for at least 10 years at the time of his death, then he/she can pass off any disability/disease and the spouse/children will receive DIC.

Currently this DIC benefit pays approximately \$1,400 per month.

A "Death Pension" is based on a veteran having "wartime service" and it is determined by non-service connected disabilities. The widow or widower must meet the income limitations (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/rates/pen02.htm>).

A Death Pension will automatically be adjudicated, along with DIC, when the applicant files the VA Form 21-534.

A veteran may have pending VA claims or other compensable claims before VA when he/she passes. "Accrued Benefits" will also be adjudicated when the applicant files the VA Form 21-534.

*Note: It is not a pleasant subject, but often a detailed autopsy will assist in proving the cause of death. A Death Certificate does not always assess all disabilities. It may behoove you to know what "service-connected" disabilities your spouse suffered from and have someone discuss the matter with the coroner's office.*

**Service-Disabled Life Insurance (S-DVI)**

While living, a veteran is offered this insurance when he/she is rated at a higher percentage. VA will "waive" the premiums on a \$10,000 policy. A veteran must have filed for the insurance within (2) years of being awarded a new service-connected disability. Upon death the veteran will have filed for the insurance. You can check to see if you are eligible by contacting the VA Insurance Agency in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at 800-669-8477 (<http://www.insurance.va.gov>).

**ChampVA Health Insurance**

<http://www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp>

**♦ Remarriage**

Eligibility for CHAMPVA ends at midnight on the date of your remarriage if you remarry prior to age 55. If you remarry on or after your 55th birthday, the Veterans Benefit Act of 2002, Public Law 107-330, allows you to keep your CHAMPVA

benefits.

**♦ Termination of Remarriage**

If you are a widow(er) of a qualifying sponsor and you remarry and the remarriage is later terminated by death, divorce, or annulment you may reestablish CHAMPVA eligibility. The beginning date of your re-eligibility is the first day of the month after termination of the remarriage or December 1, 1999, whichever date is later. To reestablish CHAMPVA eligibility, copies of the marriage certificate and death, divorce, or annulment documents (as appropriate) must be provided.

**Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance**

If the veteran was 100% Permanently and Totally disabled, then he/she may have filed an application for S-DVI some time during the claims process. To check to see if he/she filed for the "waived" \$10,000 policy or any other policies, call this number: 800-669-8477.

Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance ([http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other\\_programs/dea.html](http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/other_programs/dea.html))

**Uniformed Services ID Card**

The ID card for the veteran is "Indefinite." The spouse's card must be renewed every 5 years.

**VA List of Links/Forms for Dependent Benefits**

- Spouse (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/spouse.htm>)
- Children (<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/dependents/child.htm>)

**Agencies to Contact following the Death of a Veteran (Note: This list targets Oregon widows/widowers. Please adjust for your State.)**

- Portland, Oregon VA Regional Office (800-827-1000) - Notification of the veteran's death and any future change of address
- ChampVA (800-733-8387) - Notification of the veteran's death and any future change of address
- County Assessors Office - Notification of the veteran's death and updating the Veteran's Property Tax Relief. Coos County Assessors Office: 541-396-3121, ext. 796
- Social Security Administration (800-772-1213)
- Auto, Home, Health, Supplemental, and other Insurances
- Home Mortgage Company  
(This is by no means all inclusive). ♦

**Mobile Riverine Force Association Membership Application Form**

- ☐ New Member ☐ Associate Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Sponsor  
☐ Donation ☐ CCB-18 ☐ Mobile Museum  
☐ Change of address below.

**NEWSLETTER DELIVERY**

- ☐ Postal Delivery ☐ Go Green with Email

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ WW-II ☐ Korea ☐ Vietnam

**☐ Army Member**

Unit (Division, Brigade, Battalion, Company, Platoon, Battery)

**☐ Navy Member**

Unit (Ship, Boat Hull Numbers, Navy Activity/Detachment, etc.)

Dates Served in Unit (mm/yr - mm/yr) \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP RATES**

- ☐ 1 Year \$20 ☐ 3 Years \$50

To become a member, mail your check or money order (payable To MRFA) to Charlie Ardinger, MRFA Membership Chairman, 1857 County Road, A14, Decorah, IA 52101-7448.

**From the Membership****Seeking**

As a school teacher at the Small Boat School in Saigon, I left all my friends without saying goodbye, and now that I turned 70 years old, I think of them all the time.

Our Officer in Charge was Lt Donahue.

In 1969 we had 4 gun jeeps pull up to our school and not knowing at that time we were being visited by Adm Zumwalt. He was so impressed with our students who broke down the weapons blind folded.

I would really like to hear from any school teacher who

remembers a Third Class John Paul Nowak. At the school, we took a picture in 1969 of all the teachers. BM1 Todd Johnson was right next to me, also Tony Curtis from Roanoke, Virginia.

BM1 Todd Johnson passed away in 1996.

While stationed in Little Creek, Virginia, I met Charles Beaver MA1 and two other teachers, Tettow and in Great Lakes, Illinois, I met BM1 Smith.

Adm Zumwalt Commander Naval Forces Vietnam awarded all school teachers at the small boat school a Navy Achievement

Medal with Device "V" for Valor.

Please accept this article and I belong to the MRFA, DAV life member, VFW life member, VVA life member, American Legion, and Gamewardens Vietnam.

I would really like to hear from some of my shipmates.

My e-mail is [mjnorwack@verizon.net](mailto:mjnorwack@verizon.net), 31 Sunrise Bay Blvd, Little Egg Harbor, NJ 08087; 609-812-9788.

God Bless Our Troops

"Welcome Home"

John Paul Nowak

Commander VFW Post 316

Leh, NJ 08087



*Table honoring BM1 Charles "Boats" Campbell at the Vietnam Veterans Unit Memorial in Coronado, California. The insert in the table honoring Chuck Campbell is a brass plaque that is nicely done.*





**Armored Troop Carrier  
(ATC)**



**Monitors**



**Command and  
Communications Boat (CCB)**



**Assault Support Patrol  
Boat (ASPB)**



**Refueler Boat**

(MRF boat type photos courtesy of the MRFA)



**Zippo**

## Boats & Ships of the MRF

### from Don Blankenship's Web Site

The Mobile Riverine Force (MRF) principally operated with five types of boats. Most, except the ASPB, were converted LCM designs with 1/4 inch armored plating and added re-bar in many areas to blow a rocket before it hit a critical part of the superstructure. The MRF started with three basic boat types: (1) the Armored Troop Carrier (ATC), also known as the Tango boat, served as the real workhorse of the MRF and was by far the most prevalent; (2) the Monitor was the floating tank of the MRF with either 40-mm turret or a 105-howitzer mount, 20-mm mounts, a few 50 cal's and mortar mounts of various sizes;

and, (3) the Command and Communications Boat (CCB) or Charlie Boat. This boat is where the Officer in Charge was riding and communicating. The CCB was also referred to as the Command and Control Boat. The CCB was a converted Monitor with a command center in lieu of a mortar pit. The boats of the Mobile Riverine Force were commanded by enlisted personnel (usually a Chief, 1st or 2nd class Boatswains Mate, although there were several other rates as well as boat captain). Two additional boat types were added to the force because of special conditions in Vietnam. The Assault Support Patrol

Boat (ASPB), or Alpha Boat, was made to be faster and more maneuverable. Fast is a relative term, since 13 to 15 knots wasn't fast except when compared to the average 8 knots of the rest of the boats. The Alpha was equipped with mine-sweeping gear to run in close to the bank and clip any command detonated wires. Two Alphas generally headed a column of boats streaming mine-sweeping gear and another Alpha was usually at the back of the column (for those of you who are duck hunters, you'll understand why that was called the "coffin" position). Previous to the Alphas, the Tangos were generally used as the

minesweepers. That didn't make sense although since putting an 8-man crew and a platoon of Army troops at risk wasn't a great idea. So along came the Alpha with a 6-man crew to take up the riskier duty assignments. Also, specifically designed to burn foliage along the river bank was the addition of the flamethrower-equipped Monitor, known as the Zippo Boat. Each squadron of boats also had a Tango Boat that had been converted as a Refueler Boat. Design specifications are provided in the NavShip Publication 250-452, published in May 1967 (<http://www.river-vet.com/designs.htm>). For information about boat specs and radio equipment see <http://www.river-vet.com/miscboatinfo.htm>.

The MRF (Task Force 117) also had mother ships for berthing, supplies, and repair that made up the Mobile Riverine Base (MRB), as well as other specialized boat types such as the Patrol Air Cushion Vehicle (PACV) that operated up the rivers. While I got several pictures of the PACVs, I know little of their

There are four Tangos in the second row, the out-board of which is equipped with a helicopter deck, which makes it an ATC(H), while the others in the row are ATCs. In the last row, from left to right, are a Monitor, a CCB, a Monitor, and a Zippo. No ASPBs appear in this photo. They may have occupied the front row when rafted to this particular MRB pontoon.

operations. Other boats also served the MRF such as YRBMs (Yard, Repair, Berthing and Mess boats).

The MRF was made up of two assault boat squadrons initially (RivRons 9 and 11) and later expanded to four with the addition of RivRons 13 and 15. Squadrons were technically called River Assault Squadron and sometimes referred to as RAS 9 or RAS 11, but usually retained the "RivRon" title. Each squadron contained two divisions, RivDiv 91, 92, 111, 112, 131, 132, etc. Within each division there were generally 8 ASPBs, 13 ATCs, 3 Monitors, 1 CCB, and perhaps only one Zippo and a Refueler attached to a Squadron. ♦

**MRF ship types (photo courtesy of the MRFA)**



**Support Ships**



**APLs 30 and 21**



**USS Mark AKL-12**



**YRBM-16**

## 60TH INFANTRY

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

#### Vietnam

- Counteroffensive, Phase II
- Counteroffensive, Phase III
- Tet Counteroffensive
- Counteroffensive, Phase IV
- Counteroffensive, Phase V
- Counteroffensive, Phase VI
- Tet 69/Counteroffensive
- Summer-Fall 1969
- Winter-Spring 1970
- Sanctuary Counteroffensive
- Counteroffensive, Phase VII

#### Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered SEDJENANE VALLEY

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered STE. COLOMBE

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered GERMANY

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered SCHWAMMANUEL DAMS

Presidential Unit Citation (Army), Streamer embroidered DINH TUONG PROVINCE

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered COTENTIN PENINSULA

\*Belgian Fourageré 1940  
\*Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action at the MEUSE RIVER

\*Cited in the Order of the Day of the Belgian Army for action in the ARDENNES

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1968

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer

embroidered VIETNAM 1968

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969

Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970

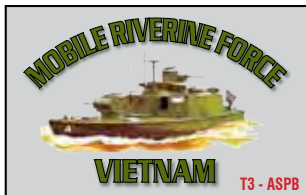
Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1966-1969

Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal, First Class, Streamer embroidered VIETNAM 1969-1970



# T-Shirts

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## GEAR ORDER FORM

Visit our web site [www.mrfa.org](http://www.mrfa.org) to download our product catalog from the MRFA Gear Locker!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

### Ordering is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Indicate your choice of item number (be sure to include color and size, if applicable), with quantity, and total amount. Add amounts for grand total to enclose.
2. Make your check or money order payable to the MRFA.
3. Mail Gear Order Form and check to Products Chairman, Chet Stanley Jr., 205 Carolina Ave., Easley, SC 29640-1409; 864-306-8400; gunnerstan@aol.com.

Item No./Description	Size	Quantity	Amount
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
NOTES:			
Total items ordered _____			
Grand Total			\$

**NOTE: There will be a delay in ordering and receiving your products due to a change in the Product Chairman. We appreciate your patience and support at this time.**

# The Irma-La-Douche

## Information on MRF vessel markings

Regarding your request, "...can any of you assist in where on the ATC would be any markings, signs, numbers on the exterior, so I can finish the model..."

*Unsolicited comment: In my experience, the markings depended on many variables such as what year; which squadron, and what was a particular squadron commander's directions. Additionally, who was the boat captain and what was his requirement. I know my statement doesn't help; however, if you narrowed down your project to a specific period such as 1968 to late 1969 or 1969 to late 1970. Those seem to be the dividing lines. Additionally, with those years, there were Program IV boats and later Program V boats. To my knowledge, I never heard of or seen any written directive. As far as paint went, the Navy Olive Drab and the Army Olive Drab were two different colors.*

*I needed paint, for example and was at a U.S. Army supply base and bummed fifteen gallons of Army Olive Drab. My personal preference was I liked the Army Olive Drab much better than the Navy Olive Drab.*

① Photographs of my ATC which when I was assigned to her, she was a newly converted Program V Armored Troop Carrier - Water Cannon in late 1969.

A side note: The squadron and repair officers called her a douche boat. Being a hardheaded Boatswains Mate First Class, I said, "...okay. Douche boat, you got it..." and went down and painted 10-inch letters on both sides of the well deck canvas cover: "Irma-La-Douche."

Most sincerely hope this will assist you with your project. Ray F. Longaker BMCM USN (Ret.), then BM1 RivRon-13 RivDiv 131, longaker@wave-cable.com



② Irma-La-Douche lifted onto an Ammie barge for repairs outboard the USS Satyr ARL-23 December 1969. As you can see, I painted the Vietnamese style "Bow Eyes" and included the "Sharks Teeth."

③ Model of Irma: As you can see, the "markings" are personalized and stylized. I had a strong need to have a model of the boat built and paid a considerable amount of money for the project. I say project because it became a healing project and helped me get past some memories and put others in proper perspective.

Please note that the model is mounted on "rough timbers" on an "Ammie Barge. I instructed the modeler that "Irma" was a working combat boat, and it would be an insult to have her sitting on brass pedestals. Also, you'll note the mounting is fashioned after the actual photograph of "Irma" outboard the Satyr.



## Vietnam: by the numbers

Submitted by Pat Davis CCB-132-1 (1968-69) | pdavis@cmharch.com

# 58,267

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. Beginning at the apex on panel 1E and going out to the end of the East wall, appearing to recede into the earth (numbered 70E - May 25, 1968), then resuming at the end of the West wall, as The Wall emerges from the earth (numbered 70W - continuing May 25, 1968) and ending with a date in 1975. Thus, the war's beginning and end meet. The war is complete, coming full circle, yet broken by the earth that bounds the angle's open side and contained within the earth itself. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

# 997

soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.

# 8

women on The Wall were nursing the wounded.

# 244

soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on The Wall.

# 245

The most casualty deaths for a single day was January 31, 1968: 245 deaths; The most casualty deaths for a single month were May 1968: 2,415 casualties were incurred. That's 2,415 dead in a single month.

# 1956

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Massachusetts, listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956; His name is listed on The Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon Illinois, who was killed on September 7, 1965.

# 31

There are three sets of fathers and sons on The Wall. 31 sets of brothers are on The Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

# 9

The Marines of Morenci: They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned.

# 3

The Buddies of Midvale--LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, and Tom Gonzales--were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah, on Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field and they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, November 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on December 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

# 54

soldiers on The Wall attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school. Beallsville, Ohio, with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

# 711

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on The Wall.

# 39,996

on The Wall were just 22 or younger. The largest age group, 8,283, were just 19 years old; 3,103 were 18 years old; 12 soldiers on The Wall were 17 years old; 5 soldiers on The Wall were 16 years old; One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock, was 15.



## TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One

## In Memory Of

This section is for members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one of their fallen comrades. In some instances, the name of the sponsor will precede the name of the person who was KIA, or has passed on since Vietnam. It's \$25 for four issues.

Larry (Doc) Austin for Arthur M. Day D Co. 4th/47th KIA 05/08/69  
 MajGeneral Lucien Bolduc, Jr. USA (Ret) for Guy Tutwiler  
 Bill Brennan for Tom Swanick GMG3 USS White River LSMR-536  
 Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIAs  
 Frank Buck for son Frank H. Buck ENFM USN T-92-10 KIA 12/28/67  
 Elizabeth Deal for Walter C. Deal RivRon 15 (05/68-04/69)  
 Col Monte G. Euler for Cecil R. Hobbs, Jr. A Co. 4th/47th Inf KIA 04/04/68  
 Nan Fulton for LtGen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd Bde Asst Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)  
 Ted Fetting for Roy Phillips, Fred Jansonius, and Eloy "Stevie" LeBlanc B Co. 2nd/60th and KIA 02/02/68  
 Tony Garvey for Billy Olsen, Wes Sade, and SSgt James Williams C Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf  
 Regina Gooden for Sgt Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co. 3rd/47th KIA 09/05/68  
 James Henke, Tony Spradling, Dave Nelson, and the Band of Brothers for Sgt Gerald Thurman A Co. 4th/47th 9th Inf (1967-68)  
 Joe Hilliard for Joe Benack from Florida and Donald Hartzell from Pennsylvania  
 John and Barbara Iannucci for Mitchell Perdue B Co. 3rd/60th (01/68-09/68)  
 Alexander Kaufbusch for John B. Titus and Steve Mirick A Co. 3/60 Inf Harry Kawamura for CPL Terry T. Kawamura MOH 173rd Airborne Bde KIA 03/19/69  
 David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) IUWG 1-3 Qui Nlon KIA 08/11/68  
 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. Alldridge, Danny D. Burkhead, Charles W. Davis; KIA 11/10/67 Charles W. Grizzle; and KIA 05/06/68 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 05/11/68  
 Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69  
 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)  
 Albert Moore for Tom Bityk CS3 IUWG-1 VC-Hill/Ha Tien (1969-70)  
 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 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)  
 Dave Remore for Paco 3rd/60th Inf KIA 05/02/67 and Bandido Charlie 5th/60th Inf KIA 07/30/67  
 Dennis Sawlsville 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 (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  
 Robert Thacker for SFC Earl T. Pelhan Jr. 15th Eng, 9th Inf Div, KIA in Delta Lo  
 USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster  
 Ronald Wallace for all those lost from 3rd/47th Inf  
 Tom White for my brother Mackroy White T-151-4 and A-152-4 (04/68-01/70)  
 Grant Wieler for LTC Mercer (Monk) Doty, Battalion Commander, 3rd/60th Inf 1967 and SSG Lowell Holden A Co. 3rd/60th Inf KIA 09/15/67  
 Gary Williams for Dale Winkel C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (01/68-01/69)  
 CPT Steve Williams in memory of 2LT David George Williams Co. A 4th/47th KIA 09/21/67

*It is with great sorrow that I send this email. I am Angie Frank's step-daughter. I hope that I have not left anyone out but if so please pass this information along. Pa (Frank) passed away at his home on August 4, 2011. Pa had gotten worse and was in the hospital for about a month. All he wanted was to go home so we brought him home about 2 weeks ago. He spent his last weeks with his family and his dogs. He had a beautiful funeral with the Military Service that I know made him very proud. He was very special and very loved. I hope that God will watch over you all and take care. Member Quartermaster Chief Frank H. Rawl passed away August 4, 2011. Frank served on MSBs out of Nah Be (1967-1968) MineRon 11 Det AMSB-18. Chief passed away after a long and gallant fight with cancer Agent Orange-related. Chief was a good man, an excellent shipmate and sailor; he will be missed by all who knew him. You may contact the family c/o Judith Rawl, 504 Roland Ave, Johnson, SC 29832; 803-275-9219; rawlsan@bellsouth.net. May our brother rest in peace.*

**John Taylor Terry** died of cancer AO-related on April 14, 2011. He served in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He served on the USS Nueces APB-40 (1968-69) in the AC&R Gang. He was living in Ormond Beach, Florida, at the time of his passing. Burial will be at the Bushnell National Cemetery. May our Brother John rest in peace.

Member **Fred Kopatch** passed away in 2008. Fred served in B Co. 2nd Platoon 3rd/60th Inf (01/69-05/69). You may contact Grace at 515 Sheridan Dr., Gibbstown, NJ 08027-1643; 609-423-1947.

Member **Douglas Meeks** passed away June 29, 2011, during heart surgery. While in Vietnam, he served with River Assault Squadron 11 River Assault Division 112 onboard A-112-6 and T-112-5 from April 1968 to October 1968. Then he was chosen to serve as a Staff Engineman until his tour ended in April 1969. May he rest in peace. *Doug was a faithful CCB work party volunteer in keeping CCB-18 shipshape at the Memorial at Coronado, CA. One of his hobbies was building model trains. He also scratch built an Armored Troop Carrier model of T-112-5 and later repaired a CCB model that was built by an anonymous hobbyist. Our brother will be dearly missed.*



Douglas Meeks

*Dear Albert, My name is Margaret Falda. My husband was Richard Falda. He passed away October 2010. I just read about Doug Meek. After Richard's death, Doug sent me a photo of Rich's boat, Alpha 112-6. Doug had been holding on to this photo for thirty some years, as he did not have a picture of his boat. He graciously offered it to my family, saying we needed it more than he did. I am very saddened by his untimely death, as I was hoping to meet him and personally thank him for his generosity. We had e-mailed a few times, and I knew of his upcoming surgery. He gave my family a true gift, straight from*

*the heart. Please add my condolence to what I am sure is a long list, and send this along to his family. I will never forget his act of kindness to a total stranger. He surely was a fine man. Sincerely, Margaret Falda and family of Richard*

Member **Leonard "Mick" Reynolds** passed away July 2, 2011, after a long battle with prostate cancer Agent Orange-related. Mick enjoyed shooting darts and playing pool, making many friends in the various dart and pool leagues. Mick was extremely proud of his time in the Army where he served in Vietnam with the 9th Infantry Division Mobile Riverine Assault Force. Mick served in B Company 4th/47th (11/68-11/69). You may contact the family at 505 3rd Ave S, Cordova, IL 61242; 309-654-2126.



Leonard Reynolds

Member **Kenneth Kirkland** passed away June 25, 2011. While in Vietnam, he served as a BT3 on the USS Askari (ARL-30) from October 1967 to January 1969. You may contact the family c/o Carol A. Kirkland, 425 Barcus Rd., Ruidoso, NM 83345; kencarol@windstream.net.

**Harry Oosterbroek** passed away May 8, 2011. Harry served on T-151-3 as an EN3 (1968-69). You may contact the family c/o Carol J. Oosterbroek, 34799 Avenue E, Yucaipa, CA 92399; 909-790-3188.

**Charles M. Baxter** passed away January 1, 2010. Charles served on CCB 131-2 as an EN3.

**David Bobby Lee** passed away November 7, 2010. Bobby served on A-131-4 as a BM2.

**Leonard Bassett** passed away September 23, 1991, from colon cancer.

**George Field** passed away May 22, 2008.

**Marjorie Westling**, wife of Chaplain Lester, passed away July 31, 2011. You may contact the family at 573 Royal Oaks Dr., Redding, CA 96001-0133; 530-244-4868; inasmuch@digitalpath.net. May our sister rest in peace.



Marjorie Westling

In memory of **Brenda Needs** (deceased 03/04/11) from the MRFA.

**Terry L. Clarke** passed away April 15, 2011, from a heart attack after having a trucking accident. Terry served on Monitor-111-1 TF-117 (10/66-12/67). You may contact the family c/o La Vade Clark, PO Box 28, Sun River, MT 59483; 406-264-5114; tclarke@3rivers.net.

**BMC Andrew J. Hart** passed away May 2, 2011. Boats served as boat captain on Tango-152-6 (1968-90). You may contact the family c/o 309 Main, West Union, WV 26456; 304-873-1147.

*Sponsors...*

Dallas Abbott A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (06/67-06/68)  
Anthony Aiken Pilot Caution WPB-82301 (04/68-05/69)  
LT H. M. "Muke" Alexander ComRivDiv 132 (06/68-06/69)  
Jimmie J. Apel A Co. 4th/47th and 6th/31st (1969-70)  
Charlie and Georginia Ardingier T-151-11  
Walter A. Ardison, Jr. A-153-48 and A-153-49 (1969-70)  
John Armstrong HMC 3rd/47th Inf (04/66-01/68)  
Larry (Doc) Austin D Co. 4th/47th Inf (12/68-07/69)  
Carl Ayres A-91-6 (02/68-02/69)  
Christian Bachofer ComRivDiv 92 (07/68-06/69)  
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Richard Bittle USS Nueces (06/68-04/69)  
Tom Bityk IUWG-1-Vung Tau/Ha Hein (05/69-05/70)  
Thomas Bogner A and C Cos. 2nd/39th Inf (02/68-01/69)  
MaJGen Blackie Bolduc USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/47th Inf  
Tom Brady B Co. 3rd/47th (11/67-01/69)  
Brothers of the 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf  
Capt Kenneth Brown A Co. 3rd/60th Inf  
C. Vic Brumley USS White River LSMR-535 (1965-67)  
    transferred to Naval Advisory Group in Nha Trang  
    (1967-68 and 1970-71)  
MGen Walter Bryde, Jr. HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (07/68-08/69)  
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Pasquale "Chick" Cicarelli YRBM-16 (09/67-09/68)  
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Randall Cook USS Monmouth County (1970)  
LTJG Robert Conaty XO RivDiv 131 (05/68-04/69)  
Joe Cortinaz B Co. 5th/60th Inf (10/67-03/68)  
LTC Richard Coryth HMC 3rd Bde, 9th Inf (07/67-07/68)  
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William Dabel C Co. 3rd/39th (01/69-10/69)  
Orville Daley USS Asklari ARL-30 (1967-68)  
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Virgie Elben Associate Member  
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Christopher Emerson CWO USA (Ret) A-112-4 (04/68-04/69)  
Edith Ethridge Associate Member  
Larry Gurner Ethridge USS Askari ARL-30  
Col Monte G. Euler A Co. 4th/47th Inf (01/68-12/68)  
Cdr Kirk Ferguson USN (Ret.) ComStabRon-20 (11/69-11/70)  
Stephen Ferragamo B Co. 2nd/47th Inf (02/69-03/70)  
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Denny Frank D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
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Guardemasters of Vietnam Mid-Atlantic Chapter  
Tony Garvey C Co. 4th/47th Inf (1968)  
CSM (Ret.), Homer M. Garza 1SG C Btry 3rd/34th Artillery (01/68-01/69)  
Regina Gooden Associate Member  
Ron Gorman T-91-10 (11/68-12/68)  
James (Jim) Grooms NSA Danang (1966-68)  
Roger "Grossie" Grossinger D Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf (1968-69)  
Pat Haggerty River Div 111 and USS Westchester County (12/66-08/69)  
Daniel B. Hall, Jr. Staff ComRivFlot One (12/68-07/69)  
Roger Hamilton, Jr. USS Mark AKL-12 (08/68-08/69)  
Robert Hammond HQ 3rd/34th Artillery (10/68-08/69)  
Jeffie Hanks USS Benewah APB-35 (01/70-01/71)  
BMCN (Ret) Wayne Haggood RivRon 15 T-52  
John Harrison C Co. 3rd/47th Inf  
Richard Hause U.S. Army WWII and Korea  
Loe Haynes RivDiv 594 PBR-8120 (04/69-02/70)  
Jerry Hensley T-92-13 (02/67-11/67)  
Joe Hillard T-48 (09/69-03/70) and T-44 (03/70-07/70)  
RMC Jerry Howard USN (Ret) USS Askari ARL-30 (11/68-10/69)  
James Hoyer 1097th TC (MB) (08/68-07/69)  
MaGen Ira A. Hunt Jr. HHQ 9th Inf Div  
Alan G. Hyde 9th Signal (1966-68)  
RM2 Bill Issets USS Askari (07/66-08/67)  
David V. Jarczewski C Co. 4th/47th Inf (05/66-05/68)  
Bruce Jensen T-111-3 (1967-68)  
Ron Jett T-92-8 (01/67-01/68)  
Gerald Johnston USS Nye County LST-1067 (01/66-01/67)  
David Jones Z-11-7 (10/68-10/69)  
Everett Jones CCB-151-4 and CCB-152-5 (04/69-04/70)  
Frank B. Jones RivRon 15 T-48  
Mackey Joyner USS Krishna ARL-38 (1946-49)  
Jerry "Kellerwood" Kawecki B Co. 3rd/47th 9th Inf (1968)  
Dan Hall RivDiv 322 PBR-121 (05/69-05/70)  
Tim Kelly C Co. 52nd PzBn (Mech) (1968-69)  
General William A Knowlton 49th Inf Div (01/68-06/68)  
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Bill McMullen C Co. 6th/31st 9th Inf (04/68-04/69)  
Big Jim Meehan UWG-1 Nha Trang  
Adam Metts T-111-2 (08/68-10/69)  
Terry Metzzen C-4 3rd/60th Inf (01/66-11/67)  
Alan Metzger LCU's NSA Danang  
Cdr David Miller USS (Ret.) CO RivDiv 112 (11/67-12/68)  
Nicholas P. Miller COS RAS Div 152 (07/68-06/69)  
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Roy and Lynn Moseman 4th/47th Inf  
Co Van My TF-115.37 Cat Lo  
CSM Joseph M. Natvidad B Co. 3rd/60th (1967)  
CWO James T. Natvidad HHC 3rd/60th (1966-67)  
Jasper Northcutt B Co. 2nd/47th Mech Inf (11/66-05/67)  
George R. O'Connell USS Terrell City LT-1157  
Christopher Olsen T-131-8 (05/68-05/69)  
John Oxley E Co. 3rd/47th Inf (01/65-11/67)  
Dwayne Parsons M-111-1 (Zippo 1) (11/67-11/68)  
Robert Pawlicki T-111-11 (03/67-12/67)  
Louis F. Peraza D Co. 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69)  
John Perry T-132-11 (06/68-06/69)  
Col Pete Peterson USA (Ret.) Cdr 3rd/60th Inf (11/68-08/69)  
LTC Nathan Plotkin USA (Ret.) HQ 2nd Bde  
W. R. Posey Craft Master YTB 785 (1967-68)  
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Paul Ray M-151-5 (06/69-07/70)  
Capt W. J. (Mick) Riedmann CO USS Tom Green County  
LT-1159 (1968-70)  
Donald and Marjio Robbins USS Benewah (APB-35)  
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J. Robert Roth USS Benewah (08/68-08/69)  
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Steve Ryan M-112-2 (05/68-06/69)  
James Saboe C Co. 3rd/47th Inf (02/69-07/69)  
Donald Sack C Co. 3rd/60th Inf (10/67-10/68)  
Billie Sanders RivRov 11 RAD 112 T-112-1 & CCB-112-1  
(Vietnam 1967)  
Norman Saunders B Co. 3rd/39th Inf (01/69-08/69)  
Dave Schell RivRov 15 Tango 49 (07/69-07/70)  
Duane Schinn Z-111-7 and M-111-2 (12/67-06/68)  
Harry David Schoenian C Co. 4th/47th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
Jerry (Doc) Schuebel B Co. 3rd/60th Inf

Col Sam L. Schutte USA (Ret.) B Co. 4th/47th Inf (VN)  
Mark Seymour YW-118 NASA Danang (01/70-09/70)  
Jerry Shearer C Co. 3rd/60th 9th Inf (04/67-04/68)  
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Jim Silva D Co. 3rd Platoon 44th/39th Inf (Vietnam)  
Richard Simpson C Co. 3rd/47th 9th Div (05/67-06/68)  
William Sinclair CDR Assault White River (04/65-02/68)  
Terry Sloat River Assault Squadron 11 (12/68-04/69)  
BrGen Douglas Smith USA (Ret.) Cdr 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf.  
Thomas Smith 9th S and B Battalion (03/67-06/68)  
Chet "Gunner" Stanley C-111-1 and M-111-3 (1966-68)  
John Stone USS Harriet County LST-821 (08/68-05/70)  
Norman Stone, Jr. HQ 44th/47th Inf (01/66-08/68)  
Art Streepier Boat Captain T-91-2 (01/68-02/69)  
Alan Strickland A Co. 2nd/47th (Mech) Inf  
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(11/68-05/69)  
John Swart T-132-1 (04/68-04/69)  
Bryan Swisher B Co. 3rd/47th Inf (12/68-06/69)  
William Tamboer T-151-9 (05/68-06/69)  
Jack Terry USS Colleton APB-36 (08/66-02/68)  
Charles Thompson 9th Admin Co. (02/66-11/67)  
Milton W. Turnage BMCM (Ret.) Boat Captain M-151-1  
(07/68-06/69)  
LCDR Lewis Turner CO USS Nueces (06/68-06/69)  
Wayne Turney USS Guide MSO-447 (04/62-06/66)  
Erol Tuzco A Co. 3rd/60th Inf (1968-69)  
USS Terrell City LST-1157  
Roger Valentine USS Askari ARL-30 (07/67-05/68)  
Bob and Nancy VanDruff T-91-5 and T-92-4  
Henry Velez MB D B Co. 2nd/39th Inf (07/68-07/69)  
GMG Ricky Vise T-131-7 (1968/69)  
Terry Volz USS Luzerne County LST-902 (03/69-03/70)  
Ronald Wallace B Co. 3rd Plat 3rd/47th Inf (05/66-08/67)  
Henry Washburn USS Colleton APB-36 (01/67-09/68)  
Connie and Jack Watson 3rd/60th 9th Inf (12/68-09/69)  
Bill Weidman T-111-12 (02/67-02/68)  
Gary Weisz A-91-4 (10/67/07/68)  
David H. White USS (Ret) USS Satyr ARL-23 (08/69-08/70)  
Trentwell White USS Whittfield County (LST-1169)  
Edward Whitmarsh A Co. 2nd/60th Inf (03/68-03/69)  
Stephen G. Wieting USS Benewah APB-35 (11/66-02/68)  
Norm Wilkinson B Co. 4th/47th Inf (03/67-03/68)  
Col Bruce Williams CO 3rd/47th (1969-70)  
Jeffrey L. Withers RivRon 11 A-112-8 and M-112-12  
(06/68-06/69)  
William Ziebarth 9th Signal Batt/39th Ant (1966-1967)  
Robert Zimmer XO USS Mercer APB-39 (1968-69)  
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