

# River Currents



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THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

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## From the Galley

Instead of writing about the reunion and how it all turned out, I'm just posting some comments we received after the reunion. But first I want to thank each and every one of you that attended for making this one of our better reunions and we have had some good ones. I also want to thank all the Officers and Board Members, their spouses, and volunteers, in some cases, a granddaughter, who made the reunion's success possible.

One more "big thank you" needs to go to the Adam's Mark staff. They were great—anything we asked for we received. We have never received such treatment as this since we have been having reunions dating back to 1992. A special thanks to Angela Jordan, Reggie Vaughn, and Cindy Busboom.

Hey I can't forget the Pig Out and the Pig King Dean Ayers for another great and outstanding job and all the volunteers who assisted Dean. Ron Menner for the excellent wine, and Don Hughes and Tony Spradling for whatever they had in the quart jars; our two traveling Aussie's Mike and Tony Ey who made the trip all the way from Australia. Mike and Tony served with Aussie Clearance Diving Team-3 in Vietnam. Also a thank you to Georgie Ardinger for being everywhere and Brenda Needs who makes *River Currents* possible.

Albert

## We Need Your Assistance

At our wonderful reunion in Indianapolis, a number of our members commented that they believe there are errors in KIAs listed on Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Memorial and Museum trailer. (i.e., missing names, wrong unit, etc.).

Before the names were added to the trailer, Dave Argabright and a few others members of the 2nd/60th and Ralph Fries of the MRFA spent about 2 years exhaustively researching government databases to ensure a high degree of accuracy. However, it has been proven that there are some errors in the Government data.

If you noticed what you believe to be an error, please send the name of the individual you believe is missing or incorrectly listed, their unit, date KIA, etc., to Bob Pries, 9702 Friar Tuck Drive, West Chester, Ohio 45069 or [rpries@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rpries@cinci.rr.com) by February 1, 2008. Once a list is developed, we will research the names to verify accuracy and make modifications where appropriate.

In brotherhood...Bob



## From the Gun Mount

Don Blankenship

What an absolutely fantastic 2007 reunion! It all started with an opening session meeting of the Board of Directors at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, at which time the entire Adam's Mark hotel management staff assembled to introduce themselves and assure us that they were committed to pulling off a great reunion for the more than 1,200 in attendance. And with special treatment from everyone at the hotel, they kept to their word and made us all feel very welcome indeed.

After busily setting up product tables in the main ballroom, we put products on display and readied them for the throngs who would find interest and purchase them. Others were busily setting up raffle tables, coffee and snack tables, registration, golf tournament sign-ups, the MRFA museum room, the MRFA trailer, and many individual unit hospitality rooms.

The crowds started arriving Wednesday and Thursday. They were treated to one of the best gatherings of MRFA members to date. The Indiana Convention and Visitors Bureau also made us all feel welcome. Many members took side trips downtown for shopping, visiting the Civil War Museum, the Medal of Honor exhibit in Military Park, the Indiana Museum of Natural History, the State Capitol, the Zoo, the NCAA Museum, the Union-Pacific Railroad Museum, the riverwalk, and the world famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, including its Brickyard infield museum, among other great attractions in the Indianapolis area.

Meanwhile, back at the hotel, members prepared for the 1st Annual MRFA golf

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## A Riverine Force?

*Like Yogi Berra once said, "This is like déjà vu all over again."*

Well, not quite. Admittedly, Yogi's comment did not pertain to Navy's Riverine Force but it does seem like it is déjà vu. As most of you know, after Vietnam, the Navy abandoned its Riverine Force and focused instead on the big ships and fleets to oppose the former Soviet Union. Today's river squadrons differ from the Brown Water Navy we remember.

It's true, the Navy continues to probe deep into the shallows of mucky waters of rivers, canals and waterways, but this time our sailors are fighting a war against terrorists and insurgents with boats that have

no Army troops nor landing pads for dust offs. Instead each boat carries a crew of five sailors and they are able to top 40 knots, stop quickly and operate in less than a foot of water. And, in contrast to the insurgents in Vietnam, who had somewhat significant support from the locals, the insurgents in Iraq represent violent extremists who do not find many sympathizers, even among the Sunni population. The Sunni insurgency has almost no support from Shiia or Kurds. They're not religious fundamentalists or extremists. The main mission is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



## From the Gun Mount

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

tournament on Friday morning. Following the tournament was the ever-famous and ever-tasty Pig Out by member Dean Ayers and a host of volunteers who made sure the feast was fit for a king. After the feasting, we were treated to a fabulous list of speakers in the main ballroom.

It was my pleasure to co-emcee the event with Gunner Chet Stanley. Our first assignment was to recognize our dignitaries in attendance including Vice Admiral Emmett Tidd, USN (Ret), Lt. General George Crocker, USA (Ret), Major General Blackie Bolduc, USA (Ret), Rear Admiral Donald Bullard, ComNECC, Captain Mike Jordan, ComRiverineGroupOne, Riverine Group One's Command Master Chief Norman Giroux, Donut Dollies Emily Strange and Sherry Taylor, and Gold Star family members and wives, brothers, sisters, and other family members of brothers who have passed away since our last reunion.

A particularly heartwarming reunion for me was when I finally got to meet Janice Dahlke, the Gold Star mother of Randy Mueller, D Co, 2/47th. I closed Randy's eyes for the last time back in 1969 and have lived with the memory since that time. In 2004, Emily Strange found Ms. Dahlke and I ended up writing a letter to her and related my experience with her son's death. There were tears as well as a feeling of closure for both of us at our meeting after many years.

The first speaker of the evening—back by popular demand—was Donut Dollie extraordinaire Emily Strange. She has a remarkable talent for taking us back to Vietnam with both tears and laughter. The speakers who followed, Vice Admiral Tidd, Lt. Gen. Crocker, and RADM Bullard, kept us captivated with a variety of interesting topics.

At 10 a.m. on Saturday morning, we all gathered for a memorial service to our fallen comrades in Vietnam and members who have passed away since the last reunion. Chaplains Capt. Richard MacCullagh, USN (Ret.), former ComRivFlotOne, and LTC Jim Johnson, USA (Ret.), 3rd/60th, 9th ID, were exceptional in their tribute. Prior to the Chaplains' remarks, Board Member David Schoenian led us in a tribute to MIAs with a touching missing man ceremony, and Gold Star family members were introduced and flags were presented to those family members who had not previously been honored by Gunner Stan and the MRFA and 9thInfDiv.

On Saturday, night dance coordinators, Frank and Linda Jones, brought us the "From the Delta to the DMZ Dance" at which members danced the night away and had a great time. Just prior to the dance, the raffle was held and members walked away with a variety of prizes. Also, Donut Dollies, Emily Strange and Sherry Taylor, hosted an entertaining board game that pitted the Army against the Navy in a trivia question/answer session. While the Navy barely took the golf tournament, the Army took the trivia game with some excellent dice rolling. At the dance, many of us introduced ourselves and offered comfort and encouraging words to Cpl. Musselman and his wife and daughter who joined us for the dance on his last night before going to Iraq. That was a special moment for us all, seeing his family having fun at the dance.

All in all, this was a very exceptional reunion and we all owe a great deal of thanks to those who worked away to provide us the experience, but most of all to Albert Moore's leadership and tireless efforts in the months and weeks prior to the event. Thanks Albert!

## The USS Sphinx ARL-24

Hello,

This is Brian Mahoney RM 2 USS Sphinx. My wife and I saw a sad site today. Our Ship tied up to a pier in Sparrows Point, Maryland. She is going to be scrapped for Her steel. I saw on the Internet that some ships have already taken parts off of Her. I guess if there is any good to come of this, it will give some other Navy people the ability to save their Ship. Also, it will give some people a few more paychecks in the shipyard. I would much rather been spending my vacation time and soon to be retirement keeping her afloat and clean for future generations of riverine sailors. I guess at this point the only way is to hit the lotto and give the shipyard the \$295 a ton for scrap steel. I think Virginia should change their quarter to a scrap yard—If the early generation thought the way they do now—there would be no Chesapeake clippers on their coin. I know I am biased but I cannot help

it. The Sphinx has been a part of my life for 39 years and will continue to be. I understand Virginia has to look out for its citizens. I cannot help the feeling of sadness over the loss of a GREAT Ship and what it could have meant to the NEW Riverine Force in Virginia. I spoke to a RADM Bullard and he told us (the old riverine Navy and Army) what new and great things the new UNIT was going to do because of what they had learned from us. It is a shame that the people in DUNKIRK worked so hard and came up not only short, but in the hole. George, I guess it will end like most other stories—MONEY TALKS.

*It is really bugging me that they had to bring it to my home to dissect HER. It would have been much better if She had been towed to sea and used for target practice for our new Mobile Riverine Unit, at least She would still been in the service of her country—Who knows if she could have earned her 26th Battle Star?*

## 25th Anniversary of the Wall on Veterans Day 2007, Washington, DC

The MRFA and 9th Infantry Division will be placing wreaths at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC on Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, 2007. 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.

Because this is the 25th Anniversary of The Wall and all the other activities (see below) that will be going on, we have asked for another date for a ceremony at the Navy Memorial.

### Schedule for Saturday, November 10, 2007

The opening ceremony will take place on the Mall at 3rd Street between Jefferson and Madison Drives, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Parade will be from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary Parade will step off, with thousands of participants, military vehicles, floats, veteran motorcyclists, and marching bands. Alongside the reviewing stand will be limited bleacher seating for those veterans and members of the general public who wish to view the parade.

Washington Monument Grounds are open from 12 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Parade participants and the general public can enjoy a variety of activities and street vendors.

**Hotel:** We have blocked 40 rooms at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza in Arlington, Virginia, for November 8-12. Room rates are \$119 (plus tax) per night. For reservations, call 1-703-528-4444 and refer to our group name "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." Reservations under these group codes must be made before the cutoff date of October 17, 2007, so make your reservations soon. A Hospitality Room will be available on November 9 and 10. The Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza is located at 1333 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201.

**Hotel Parking:** Self parking: \$10.00 (Fee effective Jan. 1, 2007). In/out privileges are available. Secured and covered parking are also available.

**Parking Information:** \$10 charge (Effective Jan. 1, 2007) Garage has 6' clearance.

We look forward to seeing you in DC. Come join us as we honor our fallen Brothers on Veterans Day 2007. For more information, contact Board Member Bob (Doc) Pries at 9702 Friar Tuck Drive, West Chester, OH 45069, (513) 755-1223, or [rpries@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rpries@cinci.rr.com).

# NAVY SQUADRAVE OUT A VICTORY OVER ARMY

## White River at near flood stage, during event

The weather was almost perfect for the 2007 Golf Tournament at our reunion, and so was the golfing. Over 60 members and guests participated in the 18-hole event at the Bluff Creek Golf Course. "The Ninth Infantry was as tuff as ever," Lee Daley was quoted as saying, "We threw everything we had at 'em, and they just kept coming." Only one stroke separated the two branches of service in the final scoring. It was U.S. Navy 64 (8 under) and the Ninth Infantry Division 65 (7 under) in the final scoring.

S. Rock, a spokesman for the Ninth Infantry Division said, "We thought there was more water out there, the score cards showed more water, that's why I had my guys play in the tree line and tall grass. We don't like all that water, was it moved or something?"

Top honors at the event go to Russ O'Dowd, T-92-7, T-131-4, and his family, Ross Jr. and wife Jennifer. They took home numerous donated gifts including \$50 gift certificates to upscale steak houses in the Indianapolis area.

Second place went to the following Ninth Infantry Foursome: Andy Conklin 3/39th, Ron McClure 2/60th, Gary Williams 3/60th, and Tom Zigorist 9th MI Det. The team re-

ceived golf towels, gloves, and hats all donated by sponsors.

Prizes were also awarded for the 18th hole, the "PBR" hole for the longest drive; two closest to the pin holes, the 9th and the 16th; and a special award went to one of our players for "Best Mom." Woman's longest drive went to Jennifer O'Dowd, Richard Scott won closest to the pin on the 16th, and, I believe, Joe Wall won the longest drive for the men? I forget who won the 9th hole, sorry.

I would like to thank our sponsors Zink's Distributing, Matt Holm, from the Indianapolis area, for their Budwiser gifts and Bluff Creek Golf Course, John Greer Golf Pro and Manager, for his numerous gifts and certainly his patience. Last but not least, Angela Jordan from the Adam's Mark Hotel, who made those shuttles run on time and made the vow, "We will leave no one behind." She did an outstanding job!

Thanks guys, Lee and I enjoyed meeting you all and helping, "Will the crew of the USS White River return those buckets to the Bluff Creek Golf Course?" At least two Navy players did not get logo balls, please contact Dave McCann.

Lee and Dave

## Riverine Force

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

stopping Iraqi insurgents who often try to escape on the waterways after attacking.

So, what did the Navy do to start up again? They reached out to the "gray beards" of the riverine forces of the past to reach into the future. It also recognized that there are maritime expeditionary capabilities that the Navy already had inherently within the Navy as well as core competencies that the Navy needed to revitalize given the landscape of the threat and this war on terrorism explained Rear Admiral Donald K. Bullard at our 2007 Reunion. He also stated that the US Navy is building a Riverine Force with operational capabilities ranging from brown water and green water combat to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. It also aims to fight piracy, stop narcotics trafficking and intercept the flow of illegal arms and weapons of mass destruction, said Rear Admiral Bullard.

In January 2006, the US Navy created the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC), bringing Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Naval Coastal Warfare, Riverine Forces, Combat Camera Atlantic, the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support functions and the Seabees under one authority; Rear Admiral Donald K. Bullard assumed his current duties as Commander of NECC.

The Navy's NECC integrates all war fighting requirements for expeditionary combat and combat support elements; its

transformation standardized training, manning and equipping of sailors who will participate in the maritime security operations and the Global War on Terrorism as part of the joint force.

Now sailors have been deployed to Iraq to integrate with Marines from the II Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) to conduct maritime security operations (MSO) along inland waterways: denying the use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack; a haven for insurgent activities; or the illegal transportation of weapons, personnel or war material in Iraq.

Last March, sailors from Riverine Squadron 1 (RIVRON-1), Detachment 3 prepared to launch a small unit reconnaissance craft during an operation in Ramadi, Iraq.

RIVRON-1 and US Marines from Dam Security Unit 3 (DSU-3), 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force arrive aboard a small unit riverine craft during an operation in Taqaddum, Iraq. The operation is to familiarize the arriving RIVRON-1 with the area that DSU-3 have been covering.

The Navy's first official riverine unit since the Vietnam War took over what has been a Marine Corps mission in Western Iraq: security of Haditha Dam, which generates electricity for Iraq. The 224 members of the squadron are responsible for protecting the dam. They have also established a naval presence on the Euphrates River and other similar waterways in Al-Anbar province.

## Membership Chairman and Newsletter (Go Green) Notes

Members, sometimes it takes 4 to 6 weeks before you receive your membership card because we need 200 pieces of mail to use our bulk mail permit. Also don't forget to let me know when your address changes. Send me an e-mail if you want to receive your *River Currents* by e-mail.

Thanks

Charlie Ardinger • (563) 735-5924 or  
mrfamembership@mabeltel.coop

The rising cost of postage, increased postage amounts for oversized letters, etc., has caused us to rethink our current newsletter mailing process. There are a couple of ways we can still get you the quality newsletters that we've been providing and save money for the organization so that we can avoid a needed dues increase to keep up with the rising mailing costs. Those of you with email addresses are being asked if it would be possible for you to receive your newsletter by email or by downloading the current version each quarter on the web site in the form of a full color PDF file. This would not only cut our mailing costs but would also save on the amount of newsletters being printed. Initially, we will send out a link with the location on our web site each time we have a newsletter ready for you. Also this way we can archive the past issues so they can be downloaded at a later date.



## From POPEYE

Cookieman,

I would like to thank the following folks for their help at the registration desk: Ron and Judy Wallace, Andy and Maureen Brigante, Ralph Bigelow, and my wife Rhonda. They were all outstanding and made the process go smooth for the 2 days (8 to 5). It couldn't have happened without them. Again, it was an ARMY and NAVY team effort. Also thanks to all the folks who helped roll the MRFA posters; they did a bang-up job and reduced the weight in Bob's camper for the trip home.

Thank you all very much.

Gunner Stan (aka POPEYE)



## Royal Australian Navy Clearance Diving Team Vietnam

by Brett Mitchell

Without a doubt, one of the smallest, and unrivaled, Australian units to serve in Vietnam was Clearance Diving Team 3 (CDT3). They were an elite group of 49 officers and men; divers trained in the dangerous business of explosive ordnance disposal, who established an enviable reputation for courage and innovation in time of war in the spirit of the diver's motto, United and Undaunted.

The RAN formally established a Clearance Diving branch in 1951 and a Mobile Clearance Diving Team in 1956. In March 1966, two distinct teams were commissioned in Sydney; CDT1 and CDT2. Shortly thereafter CDT1 deployed for exercises in South East Asia, including one week in Vietnam conducting operations with their American counterparts. The Commanding Officer of CDT1 was of the view that a RAN diving team would make a worthwhile contribution to the Australian effort in Vietnam and recommended that CDT1 be deployed for a 3-to-6 month period. The RAN approved the formation of CDT3 in late 1966 as one element of a larger naval contribution to the war in Vietnam.

The first contingent of six personnel arrived in Vietnam on February 6, 1967, and were initially attached to a United States Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team based in Saigon. They then moved to Vung Tau and assumed responsibility for the defense of shipping against enemy attack, known as Operation Stable Door. The team was responsible for searching the hulls and anchor cables of shipping in the Vung Tau anchorages or alongside, for improvised explosive devices.

In one particular incident, Viet Cong sappers penetrated the Vung Tau port area and placed homemade and Russian limpet mines on the hull of the MV Heredia and a nearby wharf. The homemade device partly exploded during search operations, and team members removed the Russian mine. Additional tasks included the salvage of downed military helicopters, searching villages for ammunition caches and demolishing Viet Cong cave and tunnel complexes.

CDT3 had originally been directed not to participate in SEAL-type operations (United



States Navy Special Forces) or in operations along the Cambodian Border, however, the prohibition was lifted in January 1969 allowing team members to make full use of their unique skills. Consequently, the operational focus from 1969 shifted towards the provision of explosive

ordnance disposal support for offensive operations, with team members frequently being attached to American and South Vietnamese Special Forces.

These operations intensified in 1970 and team members were often under enemy fire while they were engaged in the destruction of bunker complexes, tunnels, trenches, observation posts, and log barricades erected by the Viet Cong in the rivers and waterways of South Vietnam.

In August 1970, CDT3 was relieved at Vung Tau by South Vietnamese Navy personnel and airlifted to Da Nang. In three and a half years on Operation Stable Door, CDT3 searched 7,441 ships.

The eighth and final contingent returned to Australia in May 1971, bringing to a close 4 years of war service in trying and hazardous circumstances. The contingents had

rotated through Vietnam at approximately 6-to-7 month intervals.

The one fatal casualty was a young sailor killed in a motor vehicle accident while on exchange with an American unit in Cam Ranh Bay.

Seven personnel were decorated while others received recognition from the United States and South Vietnamese Governments, including a United States Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation awarded to the first contingent.

CDT3 was disbanded in 1971 and did not reform again until 1991.

The traditions established by CDT3 personnel in Vietnam were carried forth in the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 campaign in Iraq.

## John Carrico Publishes the Ultimate Pictorial History of US Navy Riverine Craft in "Vietnam Ironclads"

John M. Carrico, of Brown Water Enterprises ([www.brownwater.net](http://www.brownwater.net)) releases Vietnam Ironclads, the definitive reference guide of the US Navy river assault craft used during the Vietnam War. *Vietnam Ironclads* presents a fascinating look at the specially designed armored gunboats used during the Vietnam War. This volume combines years of meticulous research with many never-before-seen photographs taken by navy combat veterans, and from official government archives. Each type of riverine combatant is explained in its own chapter. The book begins with a historical overview providing insight into the unique challenges of America's twentieth century riverine assault force. Discover the interior details of an Armored Troop Carrier, Monitor, and Assault Support Patrol Boat. Also explore the only surviving river assault craft of the Vietnam War, a Program 5 Command and Communications Boat. This book will appeal to any naval history enthusiast, scale modeler, or military veteran. 135 pages, 8.5"x11", Cost: \$39.95. Order online at <http://www.lulu.com/content/751883>.

*I just received Jack Carrico's "Vietnam Ironclads" and I wanted to personally thank him for the MRFA members, Army and Navy. So Jack thanks. This is a wonderful piece of work and a real tribute to all who served on the Ironclads.*

*Having done a lot of research myself on the Navy's role on the rivers of Vietnam, it was clear that historical record of our boats, especially during 1969-70, was meager at best. You've done us all proud with this book.*

*With sincere gratitude, Bill Patterson M-2, RAS-13, Seafloat, 69-70. Bill retired as a Captain in the USNR.*



Al,

Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of the reunion. We are all looking forward to the next one. Through your efforts, I have been able to be with my brothers again and mourn the ones who we lost. I also got some leads on some that we are looking for. Everything was great the accommodations, etc. Thank you thank you!

—Monte Marten, B Co, 2nd/39th, Apr 68-69

Al,

This year's reunion, by far, was the best one I ever have attended. Al, you and your Board Members and all of the many others that contributed to making it a success are to be commended for the great job you did. The program and speakers were super. Emily stole the show as usual!!

Thanks for making it a great reunion.

—Ed Frank

# Does This Place Still Stink?

Strangely enough, one of the choicest details a sergeant in my unit could pull was escorting GIs who were trying for a "Section 8" discharge to Saigon for their mental examinations.

Occasionally, the battalion would produce a soldier who wanted out of the infantry so badly as to claim they were becoming mentally unbalanced (Picture M\*A\*S\*H's Klinger, but without the wardrobe). In setting up their case, the GIs unfailingly had to break at least a few military rules. The patient was therefore a prisoner and the Sergeant, armed with a .45 caliber pistol, a guard. Whether the soldier had any real hope of being relieved, the trip was generally considered to be a vacation by both the prisoner and his keeper. And, since as likely as not, they had fought side-by-side during their early months in-country, not many formalities were kept—the prisoner knew the guard was enjoying his time away from base camp and the guard knew the prisoner had no place to go.

On the one occasion when I pulled this escort duty, no transport from the battalion was headed into the city, so I had to improvise. I picked up my prisoner at dawn and went down to the base camp's main gate. I knew that each morning two jeeps followed the mine-sweeping crews that checked

for any explosives set by the VC the night before on the dirt road between our compound and the main highway. Banking in on the fraternity of sergeants, I was able to get the patrol's leader to give us the two seats in the back of one of the vehicles.

At the understandably slow walking pace of troops with mine detectors, we gradually traversed the distance to the highway without incident. This leg of the trip took quite some time, but it was a beautiful day and I was happy for the chance to soak up the view. Vietnam is actually quite a lovely place. On fair weather days, I remember the Mekong Delta as being a place of verdant fields and jungles topped by a crystal clear azure sky.

There was always a knot of peddlers at the junction of the battalion road and the highway. Had the war ended differently, I'm sure there would be a 7-11 there today (remember the three rules of real estate: location, location, location). This was the turnaround point for the road sweepers, who were now free to bounce back to headquarters at top speed to catch their lunches in the Mess Hall. The junction was also a natural stopping point for truck convoys using the highway as well. Attracted by the peddlers, they stopped to pick up Cokes, pineapple slices dipped in salt (the Viet-

namese love it that way, but we never could convince them that we didn't), and whatever contraband the individual favored.

We were able to get a lift with the first set of trucks headed in the right direction. By evening, the convoy had reached its destination, the huge Bien Hoa Replacement Depot on the outskirts of Saigon. On the next day, they'd be carrying a nice big bunch of FNGs to their assigned units. Since travel at night was dangerous and because I was familiar with the Repo Depot from my own initial in-country processing, I requested and was granted billeting for the night for my prisoner and myself. Like any other US military encampment, the Repo Depot was fortified and guarded. Since once evening fell you were effectively locked in, I told my prisoner where to meet me in the morning and headed off to the NCO Club.

Here, quite unexpectedly, I ran into three other Sergeants from my own company who were going to be rotated home the next day. To say they were in a party mood is just a bit of an understatement. Of course I joined them, vicariously enjoying their impending freedom while mentally going over the number of days I still had left. Every GI I ever met in Vietnam knew exactly how many days he had before DEROS—his Date of Estimated Rotation from Over Seas. Those who had completed most of their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

## Water Mine Warfare in South Vietnam

by Edward J. Marolda

The Vietnamese Communists employed thousands of mines against US and allied Naval Forces throughout the conflict in Vietnam, much as they had against the French during the First Indochina War. Between 1959 and 1964, Viet Cong mines, often homemade devices, took an increasing toll of naval vessels and civilian craft on the many rivers and canals of South Vietnam. This threat ended commercial traffic on some of the country's primary waterways.

As US Naval Forces deployed to South Vietnam in the mid-1960s, moving into the watery environment of the Mekong Delta west and south of Saigon, they took steps to counter the enemy's mine threat. The danger was especially acute on the waterways near Saigon, South Vietnam's most important port. Viet Cong closure of the Long Tau River, which followed a meandering, 45-mile course through the Rung Sat swamp on its way to the capital, would have put an enormous strain on allied logistic resources in the southern regions of South Vietnam.

As a result, on 20 May 1966, the Navy established Mine Squadron 11, Detachment Alpha (Mine Division 112 after May 1968) at Nha Be. The minesweeping detachment operated 12 or 13 57-foot, fiberglass-hulled minesweeping boats (MSB). The MSBs

fought with machine guns and grenade launchers and carried surface radars and minesweeping gear for clearing explosives from the rivers. The Navy also set up three-boat sections at Danang and Cam Ranh Bay. Detachment Alpha's strength increased in July 1967 when the first of six mechanized landing craft, minesweeping (LCM[M]) reached Nha Be.

Despite the presence on the Long Tau of Mine Squadron 11 and other river warfare forces, in the second half of 1966 and early 1967 the Communists mounted a serious effort to interdict the waterway. The Viet Cong employed mines, 122-mm rockets, rocket-propelled grenades, recoilless rifles, machine guns, and small arms against American and Vietnamese Naval Forces and merchantmen. In August 1966, Viet Cong mines severely damaged SS Baton Rouge Victory, a Vietnamese Navy vessel, and MSB 54. Then that November, the enemy sank MSB-54. In February 1967, Communist direct-fire weapons and mines destroyed MSB-45 and heavily damaged MSB-49.

By the spring of 1967, however, the tide began to turn. Allied naval units moved in force into the Rung Sat area, refined their mine countermeasures tactics, and brought better weapons and equipment into play against the enemy sappers. Vietnamese Regional Force, US Army 9th Division troops, and Navy SEAL commandoes, working with helicopter, river patrol boat, MSB, and LCM(M) units, scoured the shorelines. Dur-

ing the next year, Communist guerrillas periodically ambushed ships on the Long Tau, but the fast and devastating reaction by Allied Forces kept casualties and damage to vessels relatively light. Often, the minesweeping force swept up mines before they could do damage or river patrol boat



and SEAL patrols disrupted enemy attack plans. The upshot was that the Viet Cong were unable to cut or even seriously slow logistic traffic on the Long Tau, even when their comrades were fighting for their lives in Saigon during the Tet Offensive of early 1968.

During 1968 and 1969, the Navy also deployed strong mine countermeasures forces to the Cua Viet River, just south of the Demilitarized Zone, and defeated the North Vietnamese Army's attempt to cut the vital waterway.



## As always, our speakers were wonderful!



Emily gave another fantastic speech this year!

Vice Admiral Emmit Tidd, USN (Ret.)



Lt. General George Crocker USA (Ret.)

Rear Admiral Donald Bullard U S Navy Active



Chaplains Jim Johnson and Richard MacCallagh, reading the names of the departed since our 2005 reunion.



Dave Schoenian



Ralph Bigelow



Rich Corrick



Gold Star Mother Janice Dahlke, receiving a flag for her son Randy R. Muller, D Co. 2/47th.



Anna Catanzariti, who received a flag for her brother, Ronnie Catanzariti, 2/39th.



Stella "Candy" Minor, receiving a flag for her brother, Clark Walker, 2nd/39th.

The guys did a great job with the missing man ceremony. A big thanks to all who had a part!



Don Howell received a flag for his brother, Adrian Howell RivDiv-111.



Charlotte Gladden received a flag for her father BM1 Pat Stauber.

Chet Stanley, presents Mary Gordon with a flag for her brother QMC Jim Hunt RivDiv-153.



Sandra Howard received a flag for husband Wesley Howard USS White River.



Linda and Billy Magnuson received a flag for husband Dave Magnuson, 3/39th.



Rear Admiral Bullard, Al Moore, and Maj. Gen Blackie Bolduc.

## Lost and Found

I have a group of pictures from the 1998 San Diego reunion. On the back they say, Seattle Filmworks. I also have a George Jones CD that was left at the dance. Someone was given another CD by mistake and didn't get their George Jones CD. If they will send the wrong CD to me, I'll get it sent to the right person and send them their George Jones CD.

Frank Jones  
141 West Sarah, Kirkwood, MO 63122  
(h) 314-822-1230 • (c) 314-303-2730





# Thanks to All Who Volunteered, We Couldn't Do It Without Your Help!



Gunner Chet Stanley with his wife, Rhonda. Thanks for a great job at the registration table.



Chet and Rhonda kept their crew busy. We had a great turnout!



As always, Thelma Springer, Debbie and Paul Jefferson made the raffle table a big success. Thanks team!



Thank you once again to Bob "Doc" Pries and his crew for a great display in the museum room.



Mike & Tony Ey, present a plaque to Al Moore from the Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers Association.

Rich Corrick (center) and the crew at the MREA Memorial trailer.



Members of E Co. 3rd/60th, Mrs. Bobby Lisko and Gold Star Wife Kathryn Goudelock.

## A Great Job by Pig King Dean Ayers and Crew! Thanks to all who helped!



Randall McComas, Dave Schoenian, Roy Moseman, Pig King Dean Ayres and our King of All, Al Moore.



## Everyone had a great time with old friends & new!





## Does This Place Still Stink?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

year-long tour were called Short Timers, but there were plenty of so-called Short Timer Calendars hung on bunker walls that still had nearly all of their 365 little boxes to be slowly colored in.

Anyway, the four of us were sitting on benches at one end of a long trestle table. Four "Sudden Sergeants" sat down at the other end. You could tell without asking. Hell, you could tell without even being much interested. They were so clean! Their uniforms were still stiff and unfaded. The blacking on the toes of their boots hadn't been scoured off yet. And their eyes were so wide! They needed a drink a good deal more than we did.

Let me explain. As the result of the attrition rate in infantry units, there was always a high premium placed on experienced NCOs. Additionally, since the infantry was largely made up of draftees with a 2-year service requirement, with only a year of that in Vietnam, it was common for a soldier to come up through the ranks to Sergeant only a month or two before his DE-ROS. As soon as he got his stripes he was gone. So the Army instituted a stateside training program that pulled individuals out of the normal training cycle just after their Advanced Individual Training. Then, following an additional 6 weeks of classes, they were shipped to Vietnam as Sergeants...having never led anyone, anywhere. Called Sudden Sergeants or Shake 'n' Bakes, they didn't receive a great deal of respect from those of us who had earned our stripes in months of fighting. But, given enough time, they either made the grade or fell by the wayside at about the normal rate of success.

It isn't surprising that at moments of great transition, like leaving Vietnam for home, folks tend to reminisce. That's exactly what my buddies and I were doing. Among veteran infantry Sergeants reminiscences tend to be somewhat gory, especially if the amount of liquor consumed is appropriate to the importance of the occasion. The FNGs were trying to be unobtrusive, as they had damn well better be, but were hanging on every word. I was sitting closest to them and after a few drinks one of them screwed up enough guts to ask me a question.

They were all going to be assigned to their units the next day and were eager for any information about what difference it might make to their futures between going to the delta, the DMZ, the highlands, or wherever. He had seen by our insignia that we were from the 9th Infantry Division. We were delta soldiers and he wanted to know how tough it was in our Area of Operations. I'm pretty sure I ruined his evening when I told him, quite truthfully, that between myself and my buddy across the table we had a total of six Purple Hearts. I have to say that I think my partner went a bit over the top when he chimed in, "Hell boy, we use 'em

for poker chips!"

For just a moment there, I thought I could hear the sound of our little audience's bowels loosening in response. But I did have one question for him. Nine months before it had been at the airfield adjacent to this same Bien Hoa Repo Depot where I had first touched down. My earliest remembrance, even before I got out of the plane door, was of the stink. As a new guy I couldn't figure it out. What was that awful smell? The jungle? Napalm? Nothing in my military or civilian lives smelled anything like it. Of course the simple fact was that in Vietnam, the US forces burned their shit. Fifty-five gallon drums were cut in half and shoved under each hole in every latrine. Each morning across the country details would go out, flip up the back skirting from the latrines, pull out those big buckets, throw in a gallon or so of diesel fuel, and set it afire.

After 9 months, I guess I had grown ac-



customed to the smell, because the only question I could think of asking him was, "Does this place still stink?"

His jaw dropped and he just stared at me. He had been struck speechless. The guy was actually more impressed that I had acclimated to such a point as to be completely unaware of the stench around us than he was by any of the war stories he'd heard that evening.

The next morning, I met my prisoner, we had a little breakfast, then headed into Saigon.

**Edward G. Sanicki, SGT, E-5  
1st Plt., D Company-March '69-January '70**

Albert,

Can't make it! I am now a short-timer due to lung cancer, stage 4. It happens. I'm glad I met every shipmate on the USS Guide from Capt. Lowell on down! A great bunch of people who set a standard for excellence that apparently lasted long after the plankowners had departed. Fair winds and following seas!!!

Tom O'Neil served as Lt/Jg on the Commissioning crew for the USS Guide MSO-447 in 1955. Contact me at 137 N. Orange Ave. #207, Brea, CA 92821. 714-990-0013 or e-mail tomoneill@adelphia.net.

## A Sea Story

by Ray Longaker (BMCM US Navy Ret.)

I've been working on scanning all of my Navy pictures before they all deteriorate away into dust. As you've probably experienced, slides are the worst as they turn into dust at the mere act of breathing around them. Anyway, thought this might be of interest to you, for no other reason than relating a "Sea Story."

In the latter part of December 1969, I was assigned to the PBR River Division 511 at Muc Hoa just down from the Cambodian Border at Muc Hoa. My primary mission for RIVDIV-511 was to search out and destroy all the NVA/VC fighting positions that I could find—that is a whole other story. Without going into a lot of detail, there were hundreds of yards of Spider Holes, Fighting Trenches and Bunkers up near the Cambodian Border mostly along the eastern bank of the Song Vam Co Tay.

The Spider Holes and Fighting Trenches that the NVA/VC built were quite ingenious to say the least. Simply speaking, in the bottom of the holes or trenches, there was a length of hollowed-out bamboo that allowed the fighting position to drain out during an ebb tide. Not to mention that some of the berms in front of some of the trenches had 24 inches of mud backed by 6- to 8-inch diameter logs sandwiched between another 12 inches of mud. Fifty-caliber APTs wouldn't even penetrate more than 10 inches or so, if that. Anyway, my boat, a converted ATC, had twin water cannons that put out 2,700 gallons of water a minute at 250 pounds of pressure at the nozzle. Those fighting positions were no match for concentrated water power! Point being—Douche Boat!

Late one night in mid-December 1969, I was just outside of the PBR base and was monitoring the working circuit, when the AN/PRC-46 came alive with calls between Lima-1 and Lima-2 along with Mike-1 and Mike-2, two PBR patrols up river. Seems an NVA/VC unit was setting up an ambush and allowed both patrols to go up river and around a bend in the Song Vam Co Tay River up towards the Cambodian Border.

Neither patrol, of course, ran into anything on the way in, but coming out was another story. There were at least 100 yards of NVA/VC fighting positions set up and as you know the first "Welcome to my ambush" rounds were B-40s followed by intense automatic weapons fire. Lima-1 and Lima-2 managed to evade the B-40s and Lima-1 called back to Mike-1 who acknowledged. All four PBRs were heavily engaged and returning fire. Mike-1 called Mike-2 and told Mike-2 to, "...watch out. They're directing fire at you..." Mike-2 replied, "...those clowns can't hit me..." and a few seconds later Mike-2 was calling, "...help! Help! I'm on the beach." Seems "Charlie" had reloaded his B-40 by this time and took a bead on Mike-2.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



# In Memory Of

*This section is for the members who wish to sponsor the MRFA by placing a notice in memory of one 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.*

Lloyd W. Austin for Arthur M. Day KIA 5/8/69 D Co 4th/47th Inf  
 Jack Benedick for C Co 4th/47th 66-68, C Co 3rd/60th 69, and E Co 3rd/60th Inf KIA 4/7/68  
 Ellen Bergman for Henry Bergman C Co 3rd/34th and 3rd/60th Inf (09/68-05/69)  
 Jerry Bogart for Jack Bogart USS Tom Green Cty LST 1159 12/22/06  
 Bill Brennan for Tom Swanick GMG3 USS White River LSMR-536  
 Brothers of the 2nd/47th Inf for all Army and Navy KIA's  
 Frank T. Buck, FN USN for son, ENFN Frank H. Buck T-92-10 KIA 12/28/67  
 James J. Byrnes for members of the Junk Force, Dung Island  
 Gene Cooper for Steve Brichford FT2-68/69 and Jerry Roleofs 67/68 USS White River LSMR-536  
 Janice Dahkle for son Randy Muller D Co 2nd/47th KIA 03/03/69  
 Ted Fetting B Co 2nd/60th Inf. 10/67-2/68 for all from B Co. 2nd/60th and KIA 2/2/68 Fred Janzonivs (ND), Elroy "Stevie" Le Blanc (CA), and Roy Phillips (IL)  
 Nan Fulton for Lt/Gen Bill Fulton Cdr 2nd/Bde/Ast/Div Cdr 9th Inf Div (1966-68)  
 John W. Gerbing for Noel T. West A Co 4th/47th KIA 6/19/67  
 Regina Gooden for Sgt Lloyd Earl Valentine B Co 3rd/47th (9/5/68)  
 Fred Gottwald for Sgt. Walter J. Garstkiwicz C Co 3rd/60th and C Co 6th/31st KIA 01/09/70  
 Dave Hammond for Lt Willie Kitchen C Co 3rd/47th 67/69 killed in an automobile accident in 1992  
 Gerald Johnston USS Nye Cty for James "Willie" Willeford Nye Cty LST-1067 11/28/66, friend, and sailor 19-year-old (RIP Buddy)  
 James Long Sr. ComRivFlot-One Staff 11/67-11/68 for Carol Ann, beloved wife  
 David Lynn for Howard Burns (QM2), Robert Bouchet (SM2), and Herman Miller (GM3) 08/11/68 IUWG-1-3 Qui Nhon  
 Adam Metts for Donald L. Bruckart T-111-2 KIA 03/31/69  
 James A. Morse for Mark W. Weachter CTO-3  
 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, and SGT William D. Mize B-2 2nd/47th 5th/60th KIA 10/28/67  
 John Philp for LTC William B. Cronin 2nd/47th KIA 04/27/67 and for Colonel Arthur D. Moreland USA (Ret.) 2nd/47th (4/67-12/67)  
 USS Guide MSO-447 for Shipmate and Brother Harold Foster  
 Tom Sanborn 4th/47th Inf. for Spec4 David Thorton KIA 10/68 on Toi Son (VC) and 1st Lt James L. Tarte KIA 8/24/68 near Kai Lay  
 Robert Thacker for Earl T. Pelhan Jr. SSG KIA 15th Combat Engineers  
 Steven Totcoff for brother CPL Dennis S. Totcoff B Co 3rd/47th KIA 5/2/68  
 Robert Vargas for Gene Dirit 2nd/60th Inf KIA 12/10/67  
 Gary Williams for Dale Winkel C Co 3rd/60th Inf (01/68-01/69)

## A Sea Story

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

The reflexes of the Boat Captain of Mike-2 were such that even at that close range, damn near point blank, he dodged the B-40 with a hard right turn. Going somewhere near 30+ knots, the PBR hit the riverbank, went airborne, and skidded to a stop about 75 yards inland from the river. The PBR had effectively been converted from a fast boat to a stationary Plexiglas fort!

The other three PBRs continued to prosecute the NVA/VCs and were able to beat them back enough to rescue the crew of Mike-2. Combat patrols were maintained to keep the NVA/VCs at bay and from getting to Mike-2. Then in the morning, the patrols were able to extract all the weapons and radios off of Mike-2.

I was tasked with picking up a First Class Diver off of one of the Baby Giant units and took him upriver to Mike-2. When we arrived at Mike-2's location, I beached my boat so that my stern 20 mm and all my .50 calibers would provide the Diver and I cover fire. The Diver and I got into the water that was chest deep and slogged 75 yards inland to Mike-2 where she sat in about 12 inches of water. What amazed both of us is that she had skidded to a stop in-between dozens of tree stumps that were about 18 inches above the water and Mike-2 didn't have a scratch on her!

We slogged back to my boat and I told the Diver that I could use the water cannons to cut a canal wide enough and deep enough from me to get into and I'd keep cutting in towards Mike-2, which is what I did. My crew and I, some at GQ manning their weapons because we were in heavy duty "Indian Country," with one crew member running the water cannon, we cut a canal as we proceeded up to within about 25 feet of Mike-2.



That's me directing the water cannon in undercutting Mike-2.

The Diver rigged a salvage bridle from what lines I had and we backed out of the canal we'd dug and Mike-2 slid off the mud

## MRFA

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Charlie Ardinger

1857 County Rd. A-14 • Decorah, IA 52101

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Donation  
☐ Sponsor ☐ **CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Note Below!**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please Note: This form may be used for New Memberships, Renewals and Changes of Address. Be sure to check the appropriate box.*

bank she was on, as we had undercut where she was sitting and she effortlessly slid off her resting place and floated out of our canal following my bow ramp at the end of the salvage bridle.

Just prior, while the Diver was finishing rigging the salvage bridle, I called the RIVDIV-511 Ops and told them I'd have their boat back in the river in about 30 minutes. Their response was words to the effect of, "...no way...", which I of course said, "...your boat will be ready by the time you get here." "Roger, out."

So, just as Mike-2 was sliding out of the "New Canal" we had just dug, two PBRs from Muc Hoa came roaring up the river. Before we could even get Mike-2 alongside, the PBR sailors jumped onto Mike-2, threw off the salvage bridle, chewed my ass out for "...getting mud all over their boat...", put on their towing bridle, and roared off with Mike-2 leaving the Baby Giant Diver and myself looking at each other wondering what was all that about?

"...you're welcome?..."

P.S. This sea story is intended to be funny, but still can't figure out PBR sailors.

**PLEASE NOTE: YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE is printed on the front of your issue of River Currents.**

# TAPS

*Those gone, but not forgotten...*

**BG Gen Frank L. Gunn US Army (Ret)** HAMP-  
TON, [VA]—Brig Gen (Ret.) Frank L. Gunn, 87, died  
Thursday, May 17, 2007. Born in Crawfordville,  
GA, March 21, 1920, he graduated in 1941 as  
President of his class from the University of Georgia  
with a BSA degree in Plant Pathology and was  
commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry.

General Gunn served in the US Army for 30 years,  
beginning in 1941 and ending with his retirement  
in 1971. He served in World War II for eight cam-  
paigns in the 9th Infantry Division as a Platoon  
Leader, Company Commander, Battalion Com-  
mander and as a Regimental Commander. He  
rose in rank from 2nd Lieutenant, 1st Lieutenant,  
Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel during the  
3 years of war in Africa, Sicily, England, France,  
Belgium and Germany. His battalion captured the  
first German General and Admiral in Europe during  
WWII.

After attending the Command and General Staff  
College, the Armed Forces Staff College and the  
Army War College, and a tour in the Pentagon, he  
became Chief of Staff of the 1st Cavalry Division  
in Korea. He then returned to the Army War Col-  
lege where he headed the Army Strategic Studies  
Group in the Institute of Advanced Studies. He then  
attended and graduated from the Management for  
the Executive Course at the University of Pittsburgh  
Graduate School of Business.

He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1964 and  
assigned as Deputy Commanding General of the  
Training Center at Fort Ord, California, for 2 years.  
His next assignment was as Commanding General  
of the US Army Recruiting Command from 1966  
to 1968. During this time, the Command recruited  
200,000 non-prior service recruits in 1 year and  
simultaneously ran 72 Armed Forces Induction  
Centers.

His next assignment was to the 9th Infantry Divi-  
sion in the Delta of Vietnam where he was the As-  
sistant Division Commander and, in the absence  
of the Division Commander, he commanded the  
division, the same division he served with in WWII.  
Thus, he commanded at every level in the same  
division in battle. After 1 year, he served at the The-  
ater Headquarters as Assistant Chief of Staff for  
Military Assistance.

General Gunn's decorations include two Distin-  
guished Service Medals, three Silver Stars, Legion  
of Merit, two Purple Hearts, Distinguished Flying  
Cross, 19 Air Medals, Joint Commendation Medal,  
two Army Commendation Medals, Combat Infan-  
try Badge, Distinguished Unit Citations, numerous  
service medals and awards and numerous foreign  
decorations from France, Belgium, and Vietnam.

Listed in Who's Who in America in 1972-1975 and  
Who's Who in the World in 1978-1979, he was  
also selected and served as "Honorary Colonel of  
his WWII Regiment" the 39th Infantry Regiment.

Burial with Full Military Honors was in Arlington  
National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, June  
19, 2007. Memorials may be in the form of con-  
tributions to the American Cancer Society, 11835  
Canon Blvd., Suite A102, Newport News, VA  
23606.

*Submitted by Jim Stone*

It my sad duty to report to you that **RADM Arthur  
W. Price, Jr.** has passed away. RADM Price served  
as Commander River Patrol Force in 1968-1969. I  
have received permission from his family to pro-  
vide his mailing address if you want to provide per-  
sonal remembrances or condolences. I personally  
visited with RADM Price in July of this year during  
a trip to San Diego. We talked about TF 116, the  
River Patrol Force and Gamewardens. He asked  
me to pass on his remembrances of that era. Our  
conversation lasted about 45 minutes. Please  
send your thoughts and condolences to the Family  
of RADM Arthur M. Price, Jr., 1101 First Street,  
#109, Coronado, CA 92118.

For shipmates and members who live in the San  
Diego area, there was a memorial service for  
RADM Price on September 18 at 11:00 a.m. at St.  
Paul's Memorial Church, Coronado, CA. Please  
wear your beret in his remembrance. He once told  
me that all he needed was his beret.

*Submitted by Capt. John Woody USNR (Ret.)*

**Howard E. Green** passed away on May 13, 2007,  
from a drowning accident at Lake Conroe near  
Houston, Texas. It is believed that he drowned  
trying to save a friend who had apparently fallen  
out of their fishing boat. Howard was an original  
member of Jack Benedict's 2nd Platoon, C/4/47,  
9th I.D. out of Fort Riley, Kansas. Contact his  
son at Howard Green, Jr., 11515 Sleepy Hol-  
low Trail Lane, Houston, Texas 77089. E-mail:  
hegreen@mdanderson.org.

Member **Robert "Bob" E. Foley** passed away July  
6th 2007. Bob had a number of health issues and  
passed away from complications of a bad heart  
and diabetes. Bob served on PBRs with the 458th  
Army PBR Boat Company 1969-70. Member Jerry  
Weston, a friend of Bob's, said Bob was a great  
person to be around, he loved to swap tales about  
Vietnam and his time on the rivers and life in gen-  
eral. Bob will be missed by all who knew him. You  
may contact the family at 1138 Mason St., Myrtle  
Creek, OR 97457.

**HMC Larry (Doc) A. Lail, US Navy (Ret)** passed  
away July 11, 2007, after a long illness with can-  
cer. Chief Lail served aboard the Minesweeper USS  
Acme MSO-508 in 1968 during her time on Mar-  
ket Time Operations in Vietnam. Chief LAIL was a  
excellent Corpsman and Sailor and will be missed  
greatly by those whom he served with and those  
he knew later in civilian life. (Doc Lail was a good  
man and may he rest in peace). You may contact  
the family at 1475 Welsh Tract Rd., Charlotte Court  
House, VA 23923. 434-542-4369.

**Frank "L-T" (George F.) Humphreys II** went to  
his Eternal Home July 30, 2007, as a result of  
Agent Orange related cancer. Frank served hon-  
orably in the E Co. 3rd/39th 9th Inf. Div. in Viet-  
nam, 1967-68, where he was awarded the Bronze  
Star, Army Commenda-  
tion Medal, and several  
Presidential Unit Citations.  
George was President of  
the 9thInfDiv Association  
and past MRFA Board  
Member. Interment with



full military honors was held at 12:45 p.m. Friday,  
August 3, 2007, at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.  
You may contact George's next of kin, sister Marcia  
Johns, at 4709 W Meadow, Stillwater, OK 74074.  
405-372-5591 or e-mail smartblondes2329@aol.  
com.

**Pete Ball** passed away July, 26, 2007, from a mas-  
sive heart attack. Pete was a Platoon Leader in B  
Co 3rd/60th in 1967-68. You may contact the fam-  
ily at Jeannette Ball 4933 193rd Pl SE, Issaquah,  
WA 98207. 425-392-6752 or e-mail Daughter  
Kimberly Ristedt chanjeup@msn.com.

**Frederick K. (Ken) Fausel, ENC (USN Ret.),**  
passed away Monday, May 28, 2007, in Pas-  
cagoula, Mississippi, after a long illness. While in  
Vietnam, he served with River Assault Squadron  
11, River Assault Division 112 December 1967 to  
January 1969. At the time, he was an EN2 serv-  
ing on the monitor M-112-2 as diesel mechanic  
and 20-MM gunner. He received several military  
medals including the Purple Heart with two bronze  
stars. My family and I are hoping to hear from  
fellow river vets of Ken. You are all a group to be  
admired and have barely received the recognition  
you have earned. Thanks for your help and con-  
dolences. Jerry Fausel GWFausel@aol.com. Al, Ken  
was my brother, and my Mom is his closest next  
of kin. Her mailing address is Agnes M. Fausel, 5B  
Spenser Blvd., Coxsackie, NY 12051. Thank you  
for your condolences and God bless your organi-  
zation and service to the country.

**Al Wolfe** passed away August 13, 2007, from kid-  
ney failure Albert was one of the founding mem-  
bers of the MRFA. Albert served on the USS Askari  
ARL-30 during the Korean War (1952-56). You  
may contact the family at Susie Wolfe, 148 5th St,  
LaSalle, IL 61301. 815-223-1823.

**BM2 Robert Long** recently passed away. Robert  
served on ASPB-91-1 (11/67-12/67). At this time,  
we're not sure what Boats passed away from.  
You may contact the family at 5125 Wickett Ter,  
Bethesda, MD 20814. 703-560-5760 or e-mail  
PHdawg@att.net.

**David Saylor**, honorary member of the Mobile  
Riverine Force Association, passed away June 23,  
2007. David was the brother of Scott Edward Say-  
lor who was KIA 6/26/69 in Kien Hoa province  
while serving with D Co 3rd/60th 9thInfDiv. You  
may contact the family at 1572 Clayton Rd., West  
Chester, PA 19382.

**Ardell Meyer**, wife of member Walter "Wally"  
Meyer, passed away the Sunday before Labor  
Day weekend 2006. Some of you may remember  
Ardell, she attended the last couple reunions. She  
was a real nice lady and great to be around she  
was always in high spirits even though she had  
been fighting cancer. The crew of the Benewah and  
spouses as well as the Association have lost a real  
special lady. Wally served on the USS Benewah  
APB-35 as a 2nd Class Storekeeper (1966-67).  
You may contact Wally Meyer at 23905 N. High  
Ridge Rd., Lake Zurich, IL 60047. 847-438-3338  
or e-mail aw5171@earthlink.net.

Thomas Salzer wrote: **Jane Salzer**, my mother  
and long-serving Navy Relief volunteer and wife  
of VADM. Robert S. Salzer, and member of MRFA,  
died on May 28, 2007, Memorial Day, at the  
Bethesda Naval Hospital from chronic lymphatic  
leukemia.





# MRFA Catalog Products



## T-Shirts All shirts \$22.50 (includes S/H)

✓	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY	SZ
<b>SCREEN PRINTED LOGOS</b>			
	Army and Navy River Rat (Tan)		
	Army Navy Teamwork		
	River Rat Vietnam <b>NEW!</b> (Rat Five Colors on White)		
	Vietnam Combatant Craft Crew (VCCC) (Silver Insignia on White) <b>NEW!</b>		
<b>FULLY EMBROIDERED LOGOS</b>			
	2nd/47th (Mech) Infantry (Ash)		
	9th Infantry Div. Logo (Dk. Blue)		
	Brown Water Navy Vietnam (Brown Logo; Dark Blue)		
	Combat Action Ribbon (Tan)		
	Combat Infantry Badge (Ash)		
	MRFA Army and Navy (Ash)		
	River Assault Force TF 117 (Ash)		
<b>BOATS (Ash Color)</b>			
	ASPB		
	Monitor		
	Tango		
	<b>TOTAL T-SHIRTS x \$22.50 EACH</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>	

## High Quality Decals \$5.00 (includes S/H)

✓	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
	9th Infantry Div Octofoil (Five Colors)	
	MRFA Logo	
	<b>TOTAL DECALS x \$5.00 EACH</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>

## MRFA Bumper Sticker \$7.50 (includes S/H)

HIGH QUALITY VINYL, FULL COLOR, 12" x 3"

✓	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QTY
	MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Logos	
	<b>TOTAL BUMPER STICKERS x \$7.50 EA.</b>	<b>TOTAL \$</b>

## Embroidered Patches \$5.00 (includes S/H)

✓	ITEM	QTY	✓	ITEM	QTY
<b>Boat Hats (Off White Blue Bill)</b>					
	9th Infantry Div.			Brown Wtr Navy	
	IUWG			MRFA	
	MRFA Mekong Delta			River Raiders	
	River Rat			TF 117	
	39th Infantry <b>NEW!</b>				
	47th Infantry <b>NEW!</b>				
	60th Infantry <b>NEW!</b>				
	VCCC Brown Water				
	VCCC Patch In Five Colors <b>NEW!</b>				
	VCCC MRF Silver <b>NEW!</b>				
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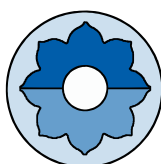
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